



*You Are Why We Are Here*

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 2, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

- Present:** Chairman Jason K. Macomson  
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin  
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster  
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails  
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester
- Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen  
MJ Kneiser, *WLHR* via Zoom
- Staff:** County Manager, Derrick Turner  
County Clerk, Kayla Finger  
Planning & Zoning Director, Scott DeLozier
- Guest:** County Attorney, Bubba Samuels
- Item 1:** **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Macomson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.
- Item 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag:**  
Commissioner Foster gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item 3:** **Approval of the Agenda:** Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- Item 4:** **Personnel Report:** None.
- Item 5:** **Approval of Minutes:**
- A. 07/12/21 Public Hearing
  - B. 07/12/21 Regular Board Meeting
  - C. 07/29/21 Public Hearing

Commissioner Wester made a motion to accept all the minutes as presented. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. No discussion.



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All were in favor, 4-0.

**Item 6:     *Public Comment:***

Mr. Dave Dorsa, 95 Stillwater Road spoke in favor of the proposed alcohol ordinance.

**Item 7:     Items for discussion:**

- A. Joey Gilbert, 205 Williams Bridge Rd, Toccoa, Ga, has filed an application to rezone from Agriculture Intensive (AI) to Residential Single Family (RS) on a +/- 34.69 acre tract. The property is located at the intersection of Cedar Ridge Road and Westbrook Rd and is further identified as tax parcel B75-017. Director DeLozier presented the proposed application

Commissioner Wester asked if all homes would be stick built? Director DeLozier stated they would.

Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the rezoning application with the added condition of no driveways off of the west side of Westbrook Road/Banks County side. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor. 4-0.

- B. Ridgeline Land Planning, Inc, 196 Belaire Court, Winder, Ga, has filed an application to rezone from Agriculture Intensive (AI) to Residential Single Family (RS) on a +/- 33.00 acre tract. The property is located at the intersection of Hwy 59 and May Lane and is further identified as tax parcel 028-047. Commissioner Foster motioned to approve the rezoning application. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

- C. Ridgeline Land Planning, Inc, 196 Belaire Court, Winder, Ga, has filed an application for preliminary plat approval on a +/- 33.00 acre tract. The property is located at the intersection of Hwy 59 and May Lane and is further identified as tax parcel 028-047. Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the preliminary plat as presented. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

- D. George Coker, 1075 Holbrook Rd, Carnesville, Ga has filed an application for a Conditional Use Permit to develop a Church/Event venue on +/- 392.28 acres. The property is located on Dr. Smith Rd and is further identified as tax parcel 022-036.



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Commissioner Franklin motioned to approve the conditional use permit as presented. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

- E. Millage Rate: The board engaged in open discussion regarding the proposed options for the millage rate.
- F. Alcohol Ordinance: The board instructed county attorney, Bubba Samuels to update the verbiage regarding the new zoning districts Director DeLozier recently presented.

After much discussion, Commissioner Foster motioned to approve the alcohol ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Franklin County with the stipulation that alcohol sales are only permitted in the commercial industrial updated districts where it is not otherwise prohibited by the zoning ordinance. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Swails and Commissioner Foster voted in favor of, Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Franklin voted against. Chairman Macomson voted in favor of the ordinance and broke the tie, resulting in the motion carrying 3-2.

Resolution for Sales by the Drink: Commissioner Foster motioned to approve. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Swails, Wester, & Foster voted in favor of. Commissioner Franklin voted against. Motion carried, 3-1.

Resolution for Package Sales: Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Commissioner Swails, Foster, and Wester voted in favor of. Commissioner Franklin voted against. Motion carried, 3-1.

Resolution for Sunday Package Sales: Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Commissioner Foster, & Commissioner Swails voted in favor of. Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Franklin voted against. Chairman Macomson broke the tie and voted in favor of. Motion carried 3-2.

Resolution for Sunday Sales by the Drink: Commissioner Foster motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Foster, & Commissioner Swails voted in favor of. Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Franklin voted against. Chairman Macomson broke the tie and voted in favor of. Motion carried 3-2.



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G. Road Issue – Mr. Larry Ray Brown spoke to the board again about getting his road paved and asked for an update on options. He stated that the county spent \$396,000.00 on gravel in February, March, April, and May of this year. He thanked Commissioner Franklin for publicly acknowledging the need for paving roads. He asked specifically about the concrete and sand option for roads that was previously mentioned to Mr. Brown in his discussions with the Manager and Manager Turner explained there aren't currently any in Franklin County and this is something new that our engineer is looking at that would have to be tested. Mr. Brown inquired about federal funding he heard from Representative Powell that the county would be receiving for infrastructure and he stated he did not want the funding going to Windstream or AT&T towards internet services. He had heard that this was what the money would be used for. He also implored the county to apply for available state grants; he did not know the exact name of the grant.

Manager Turner provided the board with the expenditures for gravel that the county spent on roads. In 2018 the budgeted amount was \$224,000 and we actually spent \$285,000, in 2019 budgeted: \$253,000, actual: \$328,000, in 2020 budgeted: \$225,000, actual: \$204,000, in 2021 we have budgeted: \$250,000 and are still under that amount for spending.

Manager Turner clarified that the county is not currently under contract with any of the forementioned internet services. Half of this funding was received back in May of 2021 and the other half will come in later this year. Unfortunately, road infrastructure is not one of the eligible expenditures for this funding.

H. ARP Funds – Mr. Terry Roberson addressed the board regarding the use of the American Rescue Plan Funds. He asked the board to not use the money on Windstream, but rather put the money towards water infrastructure. He also noted he had spoken with Representative Powell who stated he would be more than happy to sit down with the board about funding.

I. County Managers' Report:

- a. Credit Rating: Manager Turner reported that the county's bond rating from Moody's is classified as an A2. This designation indicates there is low risk, and continued growth in the tax base. This also demonstrates that the county is financially responsible. He said the county will



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work on strengthening financial policies to improve the county's bond rating over time.

b. Miscellaneous: none.

**Item 8: Announcements:**

Manager Turner noted that the county is still searching for the county's oldest living veteran to serve as the Grand Marshal for the parade held at the Franklin County Hometown Heroes event planned for Saturday, November 13, 2021. A dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza is planned for 9:00 am - 10:00 am. A community event will be held from 11:00 am - 7:30 pm, with fireworks starting at 6:00 pm. The county is still searching for business partners to help fund the event.

Chairman:

The Board has an upcoming public hearing on the tax millage rate this Thursday, August 5, 2021, and again on next Thursday, August 12, 2021, both at 6:00 pm. A special called meeting will also be held on August 12 after the last public hearing, at which we will set the millage rate.

There has been a lot of new information in the media lately about coronavirus. Nationwide, a new strain of coronavirus is sweeping across the country. Based on current research, the Delta strain seems to spread much more easily than the original coronavirus and can cause more severe disease. Ongoing research is attempting to determine how effective the vaccines are at protecting against this new strain. What seems to be true is that the vaccines at least decrease severity of disease, if they don't outright prevent it, and the more people who are vaccinated, the slower the spread of the virus. The vaccines are safe and have proven to be very effective at preventing disease thus far. If you haven't been vaccinated, I encourage you to talk to your doctor and discuss your concerns. Rely on your doctor for the most accurate up-to-date information and let them guide your decision on whether or not to be vaccinated.

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Commissioner Wester made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Swails seconded the motion.

All were in favor, 4-0.

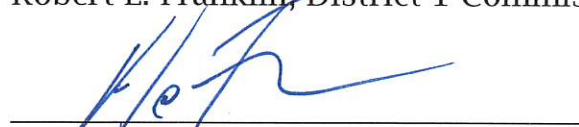
Signed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021



  
Chairman Jason K. Macomson

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Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

  
Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner

  
Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

  
Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

  
Kayla Finger, Clerk