



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 26, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

BOC: *Commission Chairman Dr. 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 Leader
MJ Kneiser, WLHR via Zoom*

Staff: *County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Kayla Finger
County Attorney Bubba Samuels via Zoom*

Item 1: **Call meeting to order** – Chairman Macomson called the January work session to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Item 2: **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Wester led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: **Approval of the Agenda** – Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Item 4: **Public Comment** – None.

Item 5: **Items for discussion**

A. Mayfield Resolution: Chairman Macomson introduced the resolution to dedicate and rename the Rocky Ford Gymnasium in memoriam to Mr. Michael Mayfield, Sr. Spencer Risner & Michelle Whitworth from the Franklin County Recreation Department spoke highly of the type of man Mr. Mayfield was and how he impacted the lives of so many of Franklin County's youth. Commissioner Wester read the resolution aloud to the audience and also spoke of Mr. Mayfield's legacy and what an honor it was to know him and be his friend. The entire board stepped down to present the framed resolution to Mr. Mayfield's daughter,



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Rashonda Mayfield.

- B. First Responders Memorial-** Interim Manager Terry Harris proposed to the board a First Responders Memorial for the new Veteran's Plaza Memorial currently under construction. This additional memorial would be located where the current war memorial is located, and the addition will honor all first responders who have lost their lives in service to Franklin County. The original Veteran's Memorial project was estimated to cost between \$75,000 and \$105,000. Currently, the project is well below that, at about \$65,000. Mr. Harris believes that when completed, the final cost would be in the neighborhood of \$85,000. He noted that the additional first responders memorial would cost approximately \$12,853. Mr. Harris asked the board to consider voting on this proposal at next week's regular monthly meeting. Mr. Harris recognized the contributions of Mr. Tim White and his team from the Optim Group, for his pro bono design work on the memorial plaza project and the First Responders Memorial. No official action was required of the board at this time.
- C. 2019 Audit Presentation:** Mr. Harris presented the closing comments letter for the 2019 Audit to the Board from former auditors, Duncan & Kitchens. Circumstances related to COVID-19 delayed the annual financial audit for fiscal year 2019, which ended June 30, 2019 and resulted in the deadline being extended. Each commissioner was provided a copy of the audit, and summarized findings. According to Duncan & Kitchens, there was no information in the audit which would bear on the integrity of the management of Franklin County and there were no disagreements with management of Franklin County about accounting policies, audit scope, or other significant matters. There have been no communications with management and those charged with governance of Franklin County about fraud, noncompliance with laws and regulations, and internal control matters. The auditors informed the county by email that because the firm was at the end of their contract period, and with the former county manager leaving, they decided to allocate their time to other projects.
- D. Water System GIS Mapping Proposal** – Mr. Harris presented a proposal to map the entire Franklin County Water System using GIS technology. This mapping system will cover the entire county's water system including lines, valves, meters, and fire



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hydrants. This will be a valuable tool for the water department, 911 dispatch, the fire departments, and the tax assessor's office. Mr. Harris stated that county engineer, John Phillips has recommended the county go with Turnipseed Engineers at a price of \$87,000. The other bid from KCL was lower, but Turnipseed will provide the ability for the county to continually update as the water system grows in the future. Mr. Harris asked the board to vote on this item at next week's regular board meeting.

E. False Fire Alarm Resolution- Chairman Macomson presented a proposed resolution which would authorize the county marshal to fine fire alarm users for false fire alarms in the unincorporated areas of the county. This proposal came to the board from the county fire association. According to information given by Mr. Barry Thornton who is the president of the fire association here in Franklin County, there were approximately 127 false fire alarms last year. About 99% of these false calls originated from alarm companies, and approximately 100 of these alarms were answered by responding fire departments. The proposed resolution is similar to one passed by the City of Lavonia several years ago and allows for three warnings in a fiscal year before fines are assessed, and users can appeal to the county manager if they are fined. It was pointed out that for each fire department response, there is also an EMS response, too, which pulls EMS units from service. For each fire response, there are two departments (original and backup) that respond. Mr. Harris said that most false alarms in the county are residential and small business versus commercial. The board will consider this resolution for a vote at next week's regular board meeting.

F. Executive Session – Personnel

Commissioner Wester motioned to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Commissioner Wester motioned to exit executive session and resume the public meeting, authorizing the chairman to sign the minutes for the executive session. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

G. County Manager Finalists: Chairman Macomson addressed the audience stating that in November of last year, the former county manager Beth Thomas resigned, and at that time the board advertised for the position of county manager, with a deadline of



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December 31, 2020. At the first of the year, the board began to review the applications that were received to determine which ones were qualified for the position. A total of thirty applications were received, and of those, 5 applicants were from Franklin County, of those five, one applicant was employed by Franklin County. After evaluating the applications, 9 candidate interviews were scheduled and of those 9 interviewees, two withdrew from the process before an interview could be held, and one applicant failed to show up for their interview.

Out of six applicants who were interviewed, the board identified two finalists that were determined to be highly qualified for the position. The board will meet in a special called meeting in two weeks, on February 9, 2021, to appoint the county manager. In the meantime, the board will schedule a second more in-depth interview with each finalist. The two finalists are listed below, in alphabetical order by last name. The board made no attempt to rank the finalists and Chairman Macomson announced them in random order.

Mr. Bert Rosenberger currently resides in Milledgeville, Georgia. He is the Director of Wellness and Recreation at Georgia College and State University, a position he has held since 2017. He received a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Parks and Recreation from Georgia Southern University in 2001. He received a Master of Public Administration (City Management track) from Valdosta State University in 2011.

Mr. Derrick Turner currently resides in Buford, Georgia. He is the Budget Officer of the City of Lawrenceville, Georgia, a position he has held since 2017. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Tennessee State University, and a Master of Business Administration in Project Management from Keller Graduate School of Management.

Item 6: Manager's Report: Mr. Harris notified the board that the LMIG project was released for bid, and bid opening will be on February 11, 2021, at 2:00 pm at the board office. Rushton & Associates is well into the county's 2020 financial audit, and will be here next week for onsite interviews with staff and elected officials. The county's new website went live today, and Mr. Harris congratulated the website team, including Ashley Dodd and Kayla Finger, for the hard work and energy they put into the project.

Item 7: Announcements: Chairman Macomson announced that the board will meet this Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm, in a special called meeting and will also meet next Monday, February 1, 2021, for a regular



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board meeting.

Chairman Macomson thanked county staff, including clerk Kayla Finger, Ashley Dodd, Mrs. Deborah Bufford, and the county attorney Bubba Samuels, for all of their assistance with sorting through county manager applicants and scheduling/conducting interviews. He also thanked them for their hard work on the county's new website.

Commissioner Franklin thanked the county staff for all their hard work. Commissioner Foster thanked the staff for their work on the new website.

Commissioner Swails thanked the staff for their work on the new website.

Commissioner Wester thanked the staff for their work on the website as well as their assistance with the county manager selection process.

Item 8: Adjournment

Commissioner Wester made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Foster gave the second. All were in favor, 4-0.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2021

Chairman Jason K. Macomson

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Kayla Finger, County Clerk