



*You Are Why We Are Here*

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
April 26, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

- BOC:** 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
- Staff:** County Manager, Derrick Turner  
County Clerk, Kayla Finger  
Asst. County Manager, Scott DeLozier
- Item 1:** **Call meeting to order** - Chairman Macomson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- 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 Wester motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- Item 4:** **Personnel:** Manager Turner introduced the following new staff members: Administrative Assistant, Crystalle Romandeluna, Planning Technician, Amanda Hosch, and Accounts Payable Clerk, Misti Thrift, who was not present.
- Item 5:** **Public Comment:** None.
- Item 6:** **Items for discussion**
- A. Executive Session - Real Estate: Commissioner Foster made a motion to close out of regular session and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion real estate. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0. Chairman



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Macomson asked the audience to exit the room to allow the board to meet in executive session with the Industrial Building Authority Board for discussion.

Commissioner Wester motioned to adjourn executive session and re-enter into the regular meeting and authorize the Chairman to sign the executive session affidavit and approve the executive session minutes. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Chairman Macomson announced due to time constraints with the Fire Association Meeting, he was moving item D. Franklin County Rural Fire Departments up the agenda in front of item B. Blight Ordinance.

D. Franklin County Rural Fire Departments: Mr. Guerren Hall addressed the board with concerns of the rural fire departments. He noted various funding needs for increasingly expensive equipment and fire trucks and provided examples to the board members. Mr. Hall also reviewed the benefits of keeping the fire departments volunteer rather than paid. The rural departments would like for the board to consider increasing SPLOST funding to the rural departments to accommodate these rising costs. The commissioners will comprise a subcommittee to better communicate and understand the needs of the rural departments for future SPLOST allocations.

B. Blight Ordinance: Manager Turner addressed the board with a proposed blight ordinance to help bring resolution to the county's issue with blight properties. This proposal would enact a blight ordinance with definitions that would allow the marshal to go out and identify a blighted property and pursue corrective action. The proposed ordinance allows a time period for correction, so the property owners will have a chance to correct any issues. Manager Turner reviewed the idea of a blight tax, explaining that it would allow for offenders to be penalized with a tax multiplier of up to 7 times. The board would need to



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decide about the level of the multiplier and what would be fair. The county ultimately doesn't want liens and to cause people to be out of their property. He urged the board to carefully consider all aspects since the ordinance would impact the entire county.

Chairman Macomson asked if there are any surrounding counties with a blight tax?

Manager Turner said there are a few around but he would have to pull those for comparison.

Chairman Macomson asked would there be a possibility of condemning the property and clearing it?

Manager Turner stated it's a possibility, but cautioned the board to think about possible repercussions and steps that would be necessary for this process.

Commissioner Foster asked where are we on this?

Manager Turner stated it's in the board's hands.

Chairman Macomson asked to reach out to Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to see about more local comparables and asked Mr. Turner what was needed from the board.

Manager Turner stated he needed to know if the board wants to pursue the proposed ordinance.

Commissioner Swails asked County Marshal, Freddy Akins about instances of what he runs into with blight.

Marshal Akins stated in his mind blighted property is so far gone it is non recoverable. He will send homeowner a letter to bring property up to code.

Commissioner Swails asked how many people are actually living in these types of properties?

Marshal Akins stated that nobody lives in these properties and he considers them uninhabitable. He said there are at least 27 properties alone in Brittany Harbor South that would qualify as blight.

Chairman Macomson asked the board to thoroughly review the proposed ordinance and come back with questions and feedback at the May Work Session.

Manager Turner proposed a ride along with Marshal Akins and encouraged the board to reach out to him for questions and feedback.





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C. Airport Authority: Chairman Macomson reminded everyone of the joint called meeting between Franklin and Hart County on March 21, 2021 where they both agreed to pursue a forensic audit of the Franklin-Hart Airport Authority's financials from FY 2021 -2018. The bid was awarded to Carr, Riggs, & Ingram out of Florida. Franklin County & Hart County will be jointly referring the draft findings of this audit to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for further investigation. The board will not comment further or answer any questions as it is an ongoing investigation.

*D. Franklin County Rural Fire Departments - this item was moved by the chairman above item B.*

**Item 6:      Manager's Report:**

- A. Financials: Manager Turner reviewed March's financials. The county's revenues were on a great pace, above projection at 104%. A copy of the presented financials will be attached to minutes.
- B. Miscellaneous: None.

**Item 7:      Announcements:**

Manager Turner reminded everyone that the third budget hearing will be at 5:30 before the May work session on May 31, 2022. He anticipates the approval of overall budget at the regular board meeting in June. Chairman Macomson reminded everyone of the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday May 5th, citizens are welcome to gather at the Franklin County Courthouse at 12 pm.

The previous advertisement for the open planning and zoning membership was to fill the seat that expires in June. The board will open the position back up for the full 5-year term and those who have already applied will still be considered. Chairman Macomson and the board wished Commissioner Franklin a belated Happy Birthday and Anniversary.

Commissioner Wester thanked Road Superintendent Nick Johnson & the road department for their continued attentiveness and hard work.

Chairman Macomson echoed his thanks to the road department as well. Commissioner Foster thanked Mr. Guerren Hall for speaking to the board.



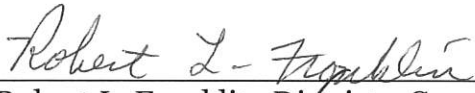
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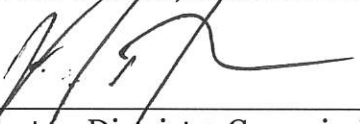
**Item 8: Adjournment**

Commissioner Wester made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Foster gave the second. No discussion. All were in favor, 4 -0.

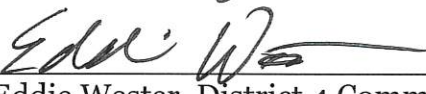
Signed on the 2nd day of May, 2022

  
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