

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 6 , 2003
MINUTES

Chairman West called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Rev. Bob Abel from First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

SCC LEADERSHIP CLASS: Chairman West introduced SCC Macon Center Director Hank Shuler who recognized the members of the current leadership class consisting of: Ben Brown, Judy Chapman, Mike Chapman, Art Dewitt, Cynthia Hann, Narelle Kirkland, Kristina Lynn, Byron McClure, Kathy McGaha, Ann Nandrea, Carla Norwood, Gary Reecer, Ken Ring, Dave Rowland, Jan Stanfield and Ann Stembridge. The students were commended for their interest and commitment.

SERVICE AWARDS: The meeting was immediately recessed to Courtroom B for presentation of employee service awards. The Board presented service awards and plaques in recognition of years of service to: ten years - Ann Brogden, Warren Cabe, Cindy Keener, David Key, Richard Ledford, Brian Leopard, Marie McClure, Wesley Peek, Sandy Preston, Betty Ray, Revena Shuler and Cathy Makinson; fifteen years - Mike Breedlove, Shelia Jenkins, Beth Nicholson, Regina Parrish, Cindy Penland, Mike Trammel and Kenneth Webb; twenty years - Joe Doster, Jane Kimsey, Steve Ledford, Betty Nichols and Margaret Perry; twenty-five years - Barbara Jacobs and Kathy Rogers. Chairman West expressed appreciation to the employees for the dedicated service. The Board returned to the Board Room to continue the agenda.

MINUTES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2002, meeting as submitted.

FRANKLIN CHAMBER: The Franklin Chamber of Commerce had previously submitted the Occupancy Tax Report for the period ending June 30, 2002 and Chamber Director Linda Harbuck was present to answer questions. Ms. Harbuck noted the report included a history of the occupancy tax. (A copy of the report is on file in the County Manager's Office.)

PUBLIC SESSION

Hiram Tallent stated the current meeting room is inadequate, that the citizens of Macon County have a right to know what goes on and therefore a larger meeting space and more convenient meeting time should be considered. Chairman West noted the Board had already adopted a policy to hold meetings at 6 p.m. beginning in February and there are plans to move the Board Room to a larger area on the third floor.

Norella Kirkland stated she had three proposals she wished to present to the Board for consideration: (1) that an ombudsman be designated to interface at each meeting of the Town Board so when topics of mutual interest were being considered information could be shared and carried to the other board (2) development of a way to pressure realtors and home owners to establish some means of historical preservation of buildings and real estate noting that she is working toward the preservation of the Klatt tract of land located in the Phillips Street area and (3) urged the Board to consider land use planning stating she realized it is a very tough issue but is extremely important for "our" benefit.

Guy Gooder speaking on behalf of home owners in Belmont Estates stated APAC is buying homes in the area that they are renting or letting sit empty and become rundown. Mr. Gooder added he had provided Commissioner Simpson with information and/or correspondence between the residents and APAC and requested the Board to review the information and have some type of communication with APAC/Harrison on behalf of the Belmont residents.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ORDINANCE UPDATE:
George Sweet from the Macon Watershed Council stated when the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance was adopted the Board requested periodic updates on the ordinance. Mr. Sweet reported 288 permits were issued from July through December, presented an inspection protocol revenue summary, explained a \$42,000 start up grant from the state was received to begin the program and that the Watershed Council is

currently working with the Town of Franklin on an agreement for enforcement. (Copies of handouts are on file in the County Manager's Office.)

GREENWAY UPDATE: Hank Shuler representing the Friends of the Greenway (FROGS) presented a proposed five-year plan for the Little Tennessee Greenway, requested permission to apply for Parks and Recreation Grant Funds for up to \$250,000, and distributed a proposed 2003/2004 budget including the Wesley Powell Memorial Playground. Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board voted to approval the five year plan as submitted with the understanding this involved no commitment of funding and can be altered as the need for changes occur. (See attachment # 1.) Commissioner Simpson made a motion to allow submission of the grant applications with no commitment of funds at this time and to allow Macon County to act as the lead agency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

SOCIAL SERVICES/REACH CONTRACT: DSS Director Jane Kimsey, DSS Board members Nelse Bates and Ronnie Beale, REACH Director Ann VanHarlingen and REACH Board Chairman Marty Wadewitz explained a collaborative effort between the Department of Social Services and REACH to expand housing capacity for domestic violence victims through the reinvestment of TANF federal funds which based on current spending could be over \$100,000 in federal cash savings. The group requested approval of the concept and authorization for the DSS and REACH Boards to finalize details and enter into a contract. Commissioner Bryson made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve the concept and authorize the two Boards to enter into a contact as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

CODE OF ORDINANCE: Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously approved the second reading of the attached Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for Macon County amending, restating, modifying and compiling certain existing general ordinances of the County dealing with subjects embraced in such code of ordinances. (Attachment #2)

AIRPORT PROJECTS UPDATE: Chairman West stated he had attended a recent meeting of the Airport Authority and he and the County Manager will be meeting with the Chairman and Treasurer of the Authority and bring concerns back to the Board.

FINANCE: Audit Contract - Finance Director Kim Woodley presented a proposal from Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, for audit services for the next three fiscal years per attachment #3. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to approve the contact as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman. During discussion concerns over the exclusion of a set cost for audit/implementation of the GASB 34 were voiced and that those costs/increases need to be discussed with the Board. Ms. Woodley explained the contract with LGC (Local Government Commission) has a section for explaining GASB 34 charges. The motion passed four to one with Commissioner Simpson opposing. Budget Revisions - The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #72, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$11,117 Federal Emergency Management grant; revision #73, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$23,172 insurance claim in the Sheriff's Department for lightning damage at the jail; revision #75, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$5,740 State Senior Center funds; revision #76, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$1,545 interest earnings in Highalnds Recreation capital project; revision #77, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$481 interest earnings in Schools Package A capital project; (revision #78 not included) revision #79, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$112,273 project contingency in 441-South/SCC Water/Sewer capital project; revision #80, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating interest earnings in Schools Package B capital project; revision #81, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, transferring \$153 within the Transit Services Building capital project and revision #82, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating \$1,216 for equipment and site improvements in the Nantahala EMS Building capital project. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

APPOINTMENTS: Economic Development Commission (EDC) - Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Sam Fiske and Maurice Jones to the EDC. Terms of appointment will expire February 1, 2006. Watershed Review Board - Upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to waive the term limits for the following appointees and alternates and reappoint all for another three year term on the Watershed Review Board: Siler Slagle representing the Cartoogechaye Watershed with Robert Enloe as alternate; James Keener representing the Big Creek Watershed with Billy Lowe as alternate and Bob Zoellner representing the Cullasaja River Watershed with Neville Bryson as alternate. Terms will expire January 1, 2006.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously approved tax releases in the amount of \$4,445.91 as submitted. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.) Refunds - The attached list of refunds for Johann Williams, G.R. Stockton and Amplicon Financial were presented with a recommendation that these refunds not be approved because the owners did not follow proper listing procedures for the general listing period of the years in question. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman refunds were denied. (Attachment #4)

NANTAHALA EMS BUILDING: The County Manager reported the Nantahala EMS building is complete and now occupied and stated a date for a dedication/meeting needs to be considered.

JAIL: The County Manager stated some of the jails in the six western counties are experiencing problems and now may be a good time to reapproach other counties about contracting with Macon County for housing their inmates.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss a legal matter, a contractual matter dealing with acquisition of real estate and a personnel matter involving potential litigation. During closed session the above referenced items were discussed with no action being taken. Upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board returned to regular session.

MEETINGS: Requests for joint meetings with the Board of Education and Town of Highlands were discussed. Tentative dates were suggested and staff will work on scheduling the meetings. Holding the April meeting in Nantahala and dedicating the EMS building was also suggested.

TAX: The meeting recessed at noon to Room 345 of the Courthouse where lunch was served and Tax Supervisor Richard Lightner and Stan Duncan from N.C. Department of Revenue gave an update on the revaluation process including comparisons of appraisals and actual sales prices. No action was necessary.

AJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned with a note that meetings will be held at 6 p.m. beginning with the February 3rd meeting.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board
Minutes
01/06/03
Page #1

Mark B. West
Board Chairman