



**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Shields called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Members Commissioner John Shearl, Commissioner Josh Young, Commissioner Gary Shields, County Manager Derek Roland, Deputy Clerk Tammy Keezer, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present, as were some county employees, media, and citizens. Commissioner Danny Antoine arrived at 5:47 p.m. and Commissioner Paul Higdon was excused from the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 5:31 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Shearl the board voted unanimously to go into closed session as allowed under NCGS 143-218.11(a)(3) and (4) for the attorney-client privilege and to discuss matters related to economic development. Commissioner Antoine was not present for the vote and Commissioner Higdon was excused. At 6:30 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Shearl, the board voted unanimously with Commissioner Higdon excused to return to open session.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO CONSIDER ENTERING INTO PRIVATE SALE AGREEMENT TO SELL OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY AND PROVIDE INCENTIVE GRANT** – Mr. Roland asked to remove this item from the agenda. He said there were some items that were not completed and we would have to re-notice and re-schedule the public hearing on this matter.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM AT MACON MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Mr. Roland requested to remove this item from the agenda. He said we received one proposal for Macon Middle School (MMS), but that Mr. Morgan had been communicating with another vendor to obtain another proposal by the March regular meeting. Mr. Roland indicated that we are not losing anything by waiting for the March meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLEMENTAL GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION AND CONSULTING SERVICES FOR FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL** – Mr. Roland explained that the Frogtown area of the Franklin High School (FHS) project is being considered as a location for housing fill dirt when construction begins and that the engineers are concerned about the slope of that area and the amount of weight that it will hold. He said that the architects revised the plans and Kessell Engineering needs to collect some additional samples and data to determine the usefulness of that area as planned. Mr. Roland indicated that the proposal from Kessell Engineering is for \$21,000 but that a budget amendment for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from General Fund Contingency and transfer to the FHS Project Fund has been prepared in case some additional costs were incurred. He said that Item #2 in the proposal

will not be needed for this phase. Motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Antoine to approve the proposal and budget amendment as requested. Commissioner Shearl said he would be voting against this as discussed in the last meeting because he is still getting calls from people wanting this on a referendum. He said he is convinced this is needed but he is still getting calls about the site. The vote was 3-1 with Commissioner Young, Commissioner Antoine, and Commissioner Shields voting in favor, and Commissioner Shearl opposed. Commissioner Higdon was excused.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 6:31p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Shearl, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously with Commissioner Higdon excused to go into closed session as allowed under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege. At 6:47 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Shearl, seconded by Commissioner Young, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business, at 6:48 p.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Shearl, seconded by Commissioner Young, the board voted unanimously with Commissioner Higdon excused to adjourn.



Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Gary Shields  
Board Chair