

MACON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

October 9th, 2003

A meeting of the Macon County Planning Board was held on October 9th, 2003 at the Macon County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Planning Board members present included Susan Ervin, Ronnie Beale, Lamar Sprinkle, Richard Baldwin, and Eric Pierson. Byron McClure was present as staff/secretary. Candice Cunningham from *The Franklin Press* and Sarah Kucharski from the *Smoky Mountain News* were on hand as well. A few interested citizens had attended and were recognized as well.

As the first order of business, Richard Baldwin made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Eric Pearson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next order of business involved election of officers. Mr. Sprinkle nominated Ronnie Beale as Chairman. Mrs. Ervin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pearson then nominated Neville Bryson for the position of Vice-Chairman. Ms. Ervin nominated Richard Baldwin for the seat as well. After a vote of the Board, Neville Bryson was re-elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

The Board next discussed the issue of Planning Board membership expansion. Chairman West expressed his concern for only adding enough members to make the Board efficient and diverse. Chairman Beale stated that his thoughts centered on adding three members to the Board. However, he *suggested* that new members must be in favor of planning for Macon County. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Beale asked that each member submit two names for consideration to the Commissioners by October 24th.

Byron McClure next presented Residential Development Data for the first half of 2003. A lengthy discussion ensued. Many concerns and ideas were shared between Board members. However, no action was taken.

As the next item, the Board discussed their future direction. Chairman Beale offered Macon Bank as a place for the Board to conduct a retreat meeting with the Macon County Commission. The retreat meeting would take place in the morning and would include breakfast. After discussion, the Board decided to hold such a meeting on November 8th, at 7:30 am in the Macon Bank Corporate Center. Byron McClure agreed to find a facilitator if at all possible.

Next, Mr. Beale recognized Ben Brown as a citizen to speak before the Board. Mr. Brown asked Board members to consider an upcoming SmartGrowth conference in Salisbury to be held November 5th-6th. After discussion, Byron McClure instructed members to register with him by October 15th if they were interested.

With no further business Chairman Beale adjourned the meeting.

Clerk/Secretary

Chairman Ronnie Beale