

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2013 – 6 P.M.
MINUTES**

Following a welcome by Chairman Corbin and an invocation by Planning Board Chairman Karl Gillespie at 6 p.m., the members of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the members of the Macon County Planning Board and their respective staff members shared a meal prior to holding a joint meeting.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting of the county commissioners to order at 6:34 p.m. at the Macon Bank Corporate Center, located at 220 One Center Court in Franklin, NC. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, interested citizens and members of the news media were present. Also present were planning board members Derek Roland, Chris Hanners, Lewis Penland, Jr., Mark West, Susan Ervin, Peggy Patterson, and Bill Futral. Members absent were John Underwood, Jimmy Goodman and Lamar Sprinkle. Also present were Macon County Planning, Permitting and Development Director Jack Morgan and County Planner Matt Mason.

Chairman Corbin introduced the commissioners, and noted that in recent years there has been “a bit of a rocky relationship” with the planning board, and then outlined the purpose of this meeting.

Chairman Gillespie expressed his thanks to the commissioners and planning staff and to Commissioner Tate, who serves as the liaison to the planning board.

County Planner Matt Mason gave an overview of the subdivision ordinance review process, which he said has resulted in three significant proposals for the commission’s consideration, (1) to allow phasing of

minor subdivisions, (2) to do away with a minimum lot size requirement when public utilities are available and (3) to revise the technical review committee.

Chairman Corbin then recognized Commissioner Tate and asked him to lead the discussion regarding goals and expectations for the planning board in 2013. Commissioner Tate said that he “couldn’t be more tickled” with how well the members of the planning board have worked together, and noted that Commissioner Haven was also serving as a liaison to the planning board. This was followed by a discussion involving the status and upcoming review of several county ordinances, including the floodplain ordinance, sign ordinance and high impact ordinance. Commissioner Beale thanked the planning board members for their service, suggested finding a happy medium on issues with the floodplain ordinance, said the sign ordinance has needed work for a long time, and in a “big picture” context, said the county needs to have a serious discussion about water and sewer with the Town of Franklin. Commissioner Higdon said he was appreciative of the attitude of the current planning board and impressed with its makeup. Commissioner Haven stressed that communication was important, and said that led to a lack of understanding in the past. “I want what we’re doing to be fair to the public,” he said.

Chairman Corbin then ranked the planning board’s 2013 priorities as (1) a review of the floodplain ordinance, (2) a review of the sign ordinance and (3) a review of the high impact ordinance, and Commissioner Tate made a motion to formally prioritize the list in that order, seconded by Commissioner Beale. Commissioner Haven raised the question of a timeframe for completion of those items, and the County Attorney suggested that the planning board be tasked with all three and asked to report periodically. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

During the “roundtable” part of the meeting, the primary topic of discussion was long-range planning for water and sewer services. It was also noted that the county needs to pay close attention to a possible interbasin transfer, as the headwaters of the Little Tennessee River are located in Georgia.

Chairman Gillespie expressed his appreciation for the County Attorney and his assistance to the planning board during the subdivision ordinance review process.

Chairman Corbin noted the passing of former planning board member Al Slagle and recognized his dedication to planning efforts in the county.

With no other business, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman