

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONTINUED SESSION
MAY 21, 2015
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin reconvened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. as recessed from the May 18, 2015 continuation meeting and welcomed those in attendance. All board members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director and County Attorney were present, as were members of the news media and interested citizens.

Chairman Corbin explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was for the County Manager to present his recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16. Budget notebooks were distributed to the board members and staff, and the County Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of the budget. A copy of the County Manager's budget message is attached **(Attachment 1)** and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Among those highlights:

- A list of the budget accomplishments for the current fiscal year, including the completed revaluation of real property, revisions to county employee health insurance, the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex project, courthouse renovations for the District Attorney's office, the relocation of the state Division of Workforce Solutions office, School Resource Officers (SROs) in all county schools, an increase in school capital outlay funding, a memorandum of understanding with Southwestern Community College (SCC) for the expansion of the college on county property, the purchase of additional property to expand the county landfill and Macon County Public Health being recognized as the National Small Health Department of the Year.
- The budget as proposed equals \$46,646,357, which reflects an increase of \$925,235 over the current fiscal year, but is "100 percent supported by recurring revenue" and no dollars from fund balance were used.
- A detailed explanation of how the revenue neutral tax rate was calculated, resulting in a rate of 34.9 cents per \$100 valuation. With

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positive growth in sales tax, a 3 percent increase in sales tax revenue was budgeted for the upcoming year.

- Public safety and education continue to be the primary focus of the county, as the budget plans for two additional dispatchers and four additional detention officers.
- Plans for much needed technology upgrades to the county's telephone system and additional data storage for the computer network.
- Four new vans for Macon Transit, plus an upgrade to an electronic fee card system and the possibility of converting some of the vehicles to propane instead of gasoline.
- Added financial responsibilities for county employees, including approximately \$530,000 in additional funding for the county's health insurance fund and \$353,756 to provide a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for all full-time employees in the absence of implementing the final portion of the Springsted pay plan. The County Manager announced plans to form a committee to look at recommendations that would be brought back to the board at budget time next year.
- The addition of a maintenance supervisor position for the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex, which is nearing completion.

In closing, the County Manager told the board that "it has been a great year in 14-15." The discussion then turned to scheduling work sessions for the board to review the budget, and the consensus was to recess the current meeting until Tuesday, May 26th at 5 p.m. for that purpose.

HIGHLANDS FIRE DISTRICT MAP: Emergency Services Director Warren Cabe presented the board with a map outlining the new fire districts in the Highlands area, which shows the location of the new Highlands Fire Department sub-station. Mr. Cabe explained the new protection classes that will result from the addition of the sub-station. He said Jackson County officials were scheduled to approve their county's portion of the new maps tonight, and he requested that the board approve the new map as presented. Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the map entitled "Highlands New Fire Districts," a copy of which is attached **(Attachment 2)** and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

COMPLETION/CLOSE OUT OF PARKER MEADOWS RECREATIONAL COMPLEX: The County Manager presented a brief PowerPoint presentation and requested that the board consider transferring \$303,216 from Fund 56, the Little Tennessee River/Cartoogechaye Creek Trunk Sewer Project, to Fund 55, the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex project, in order to cover additional costs associated with the latter project. The County Manager explained that additional costs associated with the preservation of the gravesite at the complex total \$244,442.63, including a new change order from Vinson

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and Anderson in the amount of \$5,765 associated with the re-routing of a pump sewer line as a result of the redesign associated with the finding of the human remains. The original project budget of \$3,158,382 has grown to \$3,461,597.49, and the County Manager and board members discussed the changes that brought about the increase. The Finance Director explained that approximately \$527,000 remained in Fund 56. Chairman Corbin said that the project is within 1.5 percent of the original budget once you “back out” the costs associated with the gravesite, and concurred with the county manager’s recommendation. Commissioner Shields made a motion to transfer \$303,216 from Fund 56 to Fund 55, and Commissioner Beale seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Higdon questioned what remained to be done to complete the sewer project. The County Manager explained that the money left in this fund would cover the cost of some rip rap and one other concern. Commissioner Higdon asked that the motion include that the County Manager will complete the sewer project, and Commissioner Shields agreed to amend his motion to include this and Commissioner Beale agreed to amend his second to the motion to include this. Commissioner Tate asked when the recreational complex would be complete. Parks and Recreation Director Seth Adams said the work would be complete by mid-July with a grand opening planned for August 1st. Following discussion about upcoming tournaments at the complex and concerns with “overuse” of the fields, the board voted unanimously to approve the motion as it was amended. Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the change order for Vinson and Anderson in the amount of \$5,765 as previously discussed. The County Manager presented a proposed construction contract with Kevin Rogers, doing business as Smokey Mountain Masonry, to do the rock work at the monument in the amount of \$17,960, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

RECESS: At 7:22 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 5 p.m. in the commission boardroom on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse, 5 West Main Street, Franklin, NC.

Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman