

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONTINUED SESSION
JULY 23, 2015
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin reconvened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. as recessed from the July 14, 2015 regular meeting. In addition to Chairman Corbin, Commissioner Beale, Commissioner Shields, the County Manager and the Deputy Clerk were present, as were members of the news media. Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Higdon, the Finance Director and the County Attorney were out of town and could not attend.

The meeting served as a joint meeting with the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen and the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners, and was held at the Lazy Hiker Brewing Company at 188 West Main Street in Franklin. All of the Franklin aldermen, with the exception of Billy Mashburn, were present, as were Mayor Bob Scott, Town Manager Summer Woodard, Town Clerk/HR Officer Chad Simons and Town Finance Officer Kyra Doster. Highlands Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson were present, as were Mayor Patrick Taylor and Town Manager Bob Frye. Commissioners John Dotson, Donnie Calloway and Brian Stiehler did not attend.

Following a brief welcome from Mayor Scott, the meeting was turned over to Chairman Corbin in order for the county board to conduct business.

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS AND DOCUMENTS FOR 2015 QZAB SCHOOL FINANCING: Following a brief explanation from the County Manager and a correction to the date of adoption, upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to adopt a “Resolution Approving Financing Terms and Documents For 2015 QZAB School Financing.” A copy of the resolution as well as the draft documents contained in Exhibit A (Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust, Project Fund Agreement, and Lease Amendment and Subordination

Agreement) are attached (Attachment 1) and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS: Upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to award the construction contract for the Union Academy QZAB project to Kearey Builders in the amount of \$1,424,608 and to authorize the County Manager to enter into the contract on behalf of the county. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to award the construction contract for the Highlands School QZAB project to Carolina Specialties in the amount of \$1,255,440 and to authorize the County Manager to enter into the contract on behalf of the county.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #9: Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #9 as presented, which appropriates \$24,120 from a grant received from the North Carolina Department of Commerce for the Cowee School Music Venue. A copy of the budget amendment is attached (Attachment 2) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HIGHLANDS: Following a brief explanation from Chairman Corbin, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve an interlocal agreement with the Town of Highlands that will provide \$500,000 in county funding for recreation-related items. A copy of the Interlocal Agreement is attached (Attachment 3) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

NANTAHALA FIREWORKS PERMIT: Following an update from Chairman Corbin, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve a revised application for a fireworks display for the Nantahala community. The display, originally scheduled for July 5th, was postponed due to weather and the board approved the new date of August 1, 2015.

Chairman Corbin requested that the record reflect that Commissioner Tate and Commissioner Higdon were both out of town on vacation, and with no other items on the agenda, upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to adjourn its business portion of the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mayor Scott then introduced Ken Murphy and Graham Norris with the Lazy Hiker Brewing Company, with Mr. Murphy offering those in attendance a tour of the facility following the meeting. Following introductions of those present

from each entity and an invocation from Franklin Alderman Verlin Curtis, the board members and staff enjoyed a meal together.

At 7:07 p.m., Mayor Patrick Taylor offered an update on projects in the Town of Highlands, including the impending completion of repairs to the dam and intake at Lake Sequoyah, the opening of Founders Park and the opening of the new swimming pool. He thanked the county commissioners for their efforts to help fund the School Resource Officer at Highlands School and the just-adopted interlocal agreement for recreation. He said the new Highlands Fire Department substation would be dedicated on August 8th, and there would be a ceremony for the new pool on August 5th. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Beale for the updates on the state legislature's proposed sales tax legislation. In closing, he noted the passing of Maggie Valley Mayor Ron DeSimone, who was killed in a construction accident on July 17th. Mayor Taylor remembered Mr. DeSimone's passion for wanting to bring broadband service to all of western North Carolina.

Speaking for the county, Chairman Corbin said the board adopted a \$46-million budget with "few complaints." He noted that the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex is 95 percent complete with a grand opening set for August 25th. He also spoke to the cooperative efforts with the Town of Highlands, the QZAB project to improve Union Academy and Highlands School, and the county's declining level of debt. Commissioner Beale provided an update on legislative activity and the current status of the sales tax bills.

Mayor Scott said that the Town of Franklin is looking at ways to "repurpose" existing buildings. He said there have been further delays in the Little Tennessee River bridge replacement project. He also spoke to the Highlands officials and offered to "build bridges" between the two towns in terms of mutual promotion of events held in each municipality.

With no other comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m., followed by a tour of the brewing company.

Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman