

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 3, 2005
MINUTES

Chairman Bryson convened the meeting at 9 a.m. in the Grand Jury Room of the Courthouse as noticed following a reception for employees receiving service awards. Service awards were presented to employees as follows: ten years of service – Margaret Bishop, Susie Crawford, Brian Henry, Robbie Holland, Art Provencher, Pat Revis, Eddie Green and Lynn Wright; fifteen years – Pat Bartell, Alan Durden, Larry Conley, Sharon Moslet, Lynn Nicholson, Tommy Keener and Wesley Price; twenty years – Gary Ammons, Jeff James, Jane Morgan and Terry Watson; twenty five years – Jack Baird, Fannie Buchanan, Shelley Ledford, David O'Dell, Ellen Shope and Mike Tallent and thirty years – Jay Seay. Also recognized was the County Finance Department for receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

The meeting was recessed to reconvene in the Board Room for the business meeting. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Staff Attorney, Deputy Clerk, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the minutes of the December 6, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: There were no additions or adjustments to the agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION: Sharon Archer, representing the Humane Society Board of Directors, read a statement expressing concerns about the lack of a contract between the Humane Society and the County and gave a history of the correspondence between the two agencies since March, 2004. Narrelle Kirklund requested the Board to watch growth development in order to keep the area friendly and neighborly, questioned the status of a leash law and the status of her request for a ban of burning poisonous plants and stated now would be a good time to look at property for rentals she had previously suggested. Chairman Bryson stated he had spoken with the Health Director about the burning issue and Ms. Kirklund might want to contact Health Director Ken Ring or Fire Marshall Jimmy Teems.

AUDIT: It was noted the county audit would be presented at the February, 2005 meeting.

APPOINTMENTS: Economic Development Commission – It was reported the terms of Beverly Mason, Eric Pierson and Reggie Holland on the EDC would expire January 31, 2005 and that both Ms. Mason and Mr. Holland have served two complete terms. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to appoint Ed Barker, Roger Plemons and Thomas Craig to fill the three positions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. Terms will expire January 31, 2008. Franklin Recreation Commission – Commissioner Simpson made a motion to reappoint Matt Bullis and Tex Davis to the Franklin Recreation Commission noting both are filling unexpired terms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. Terms are for two years and will expire January 2, 2007. Town Board of Adjustments (ETJ) – Appointments to the ETJ were postponed until the February meeting. Watershed Review Board – It was reported the terms of Don Seagle and Richard Betz, at large representatives on the Watershed Review Board, expired January 1, 2005 and Mr. Betz has served one complete term and Mr. Seagle has served multiple terms. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to reappoint Mr. Betz and to appoint Jim Waldroop to replace Mr. Seagle. Terms will expire January 1, 2008. Health Board – Commissioner Simpson made a motion to appoint Dr. Charlie Enloe representing veterinarians on the Health Board to replace Dr. John Hamm who has served the maximum number of allowable terms and to reappoint Dr. Ronnie Campbell representing optometrist who has served one complete term and an unexpired term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. Terms will expire January 1, 2008.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases – Tax releases in the amount of \$740.10 were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman. (A print out of tax releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.) Appeal from Franklin Aviation – Staff Attorney Rick Moorefield and Tax Supervisor Richard Lightner gave an update on a tax discovery made on Franklin Aviation. Also present were Neil Hoppe and Peggy Melton from Franklin Aviation. After discussion Commissioner Davis made a motion to continue the matter until the February meeting when Mr. Hoppe could have his attorney present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS – Neal Hearn, Treasurer and spokesperson for Friends of Animals (FOA), introduced other FOA members present and formally presented their request to administer a neuter/spay program on behalf of the County. The County Manager commented that the Board had already done the same for the Humane Society and approval would allow the County to apply for state funds to reimburse FOA for qualified expenses upon completion of a contract to specify terms of operation. After discussion Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the request of the FOA to administer a neuter/spay program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. **COUNTYWIDE NEUTER/SPAY PROGRAM** – Commissioner Simpson stated the County has allocated \$70,000 in the current year's budget for animal control which has not been used and made a motion that \$25,000 of these funds be used to set up a county wide neuter/spay program for use by anyone in the county with the Humane Society and Friends of Animals handling vouchers after completion of a contract with the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored.

10:30 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING ON CELL TOWER EXTENSION: Chairman Bryson recessed the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. to convene the public hearing on a request from Crown Atlantic to extend an existing 140-foot monopole by 30 feet to a height of 170 feet which is located on Lot 6 (Laurel Falls) Skyline Drive in the Highlands Township on property owned by Crown Atlantic. Stacy Guffey and representatives on Crown Atlantic's behalf were present to answer questions. The Board expressed concerns about proper notification of adjacent property owners and the Staff Attorney advised he felt the County Ordinance does not allow for a variance as required in this situation. There were no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned and the meeting reconvened in regular session. After a brief discussion action was delayed pending further information and/or clarification on the concerns expressed.

BUDGET REVISIONS: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved:
revision #23, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$13,401 unexpended grant funds in EMS;
revision #24, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, aligning \$13,050 state appropriation in Transit Services;
revision #25, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$4,844 Smart Start funding increase;
revision #26, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$1,300 in state funding in the Health Department;
revision #27, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating WIC increase of \$5,359;
revision #28, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$1,862 increase in Family Planning;
revision #29, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$184 increase in Family Planning;
revision #30, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$306 increase in state funding for the Health Department;
revision #31, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$19,730 East Smart Move More grant;
revision #32, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$900 increase in Childhood Lead Poisoning funds;
revision #33, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating refund of \$343 JCPC state funds;
revision #34, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner

Leatherman, appropriating \$1,590 JCPC funds; revision #35, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$2,271 drug forfeitures; revision #37, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$63,761 reimbursements and drug forfeitures in Sheriff's Department; revision #38, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$44,500 for Highlands Plateau Water System Consolidation Study grant project; and revision #39, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, reducing FY 2005 appropriation to Airport Authority by \$3,597. (Note: Revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the meeting was adjourned.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Daniel A. Bryson
Board Chairman

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