

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 18, 2006  
CONTINUATION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES

Chairman Leatherman reconvened the meeting at noon as recessed. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

REVIEW OF BONDS: The County Attorney advised the Board as defined in NCGS §58-72-20, The Board of Commissioners shall examine the bonds of public officers which are listed in NCGS §58-72-10 each December. The County Manager advised he is currently bonded for an additional amount due to emergency relief funds and after expenditure of these funds the additional bond will not be necessary. After discussion Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt resolutions per attachments #2 and #3 setting the bonds for public officials as required by North Carolina General Statute. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and was amended to include a bond for the County Manager to a time deemed appropriate by the County Manager and Counsel. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners McClellan and Beale were invited to share information about themselves as new board members while waiting to convene the public hearing.

HIGH RISE CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM: Public hearing - Chairman Leatherman recessed the regular meeting at 12:15 p.m. to convene the public hearing on high rise construction moratorium as posted. He stated several individuals had registered to speak and, in the interest of time, if anyone who had addressed the Board about the issue at a previous meeting wished to note they had spoken previously and waive their right the Board would understand. The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those present who would speak in favor of the moratorium and practically everyone present raised their hand.

Bob Kieltyka representing the Highlands Chamber of Commerce stated the Chamber promotes residential development around Highlands and a high rise is not the image wanted. He urged adoption of the moratorium at thirty five feet.

Jill Cremens stated she was representing twelve families from Wildwood Forest, would be moving from Atlanta soon and opposes the high rise construction.

Luther Turner stated he was a native of Highlands, that the original developers wanted low profile buildings and ETJ would have taken care of the high rise problem.

Nancy Hart stated she was from Clearwater, Florida and was looking to move to this area. She stated Clearwater did not provide protection there and now all the natural beauty is destroyed. She added the hope that the beauty is protected here.

Patrick Brogan stated the ocean is totally blocked by condos and high rise buildings in the Florida area he moved from. He expressed the hope that this isn't allowed to happen to the mountains.

Elaine Whitehurst stated she had spoken earlier in favor of a moratorium and waived her right to speak.

Mary Berry stated she opposes the high rise construction.

Mercedes Heller stated the temporary moratorium is the first step and that the second step would need to be a permanent policy. She stated she grew up in the Appalachian Mountains, her roots are deep and unplanned, unwise growth is detrimental to the environment.

Bob Wright expressed appreciation to the people present to let Board know how

people feel about high rise development and to the Board of Commissioners for consideration of their response to these pleas.

Bill Crawford stated he strongly supported the moratorium.

Bob Scott stated he supported the moratorium and questioned if it will cover municipalities.

Jenny Harris stated she had spoken twice before and was still concerned about the lack of fire protection for the proposed high rise.

There were no further comments. Chairman Leatherman adjourned the hearing and reconvened the meeting in regular session.

MORATORIUM: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt the attached ordinance imposing a moratorium on the issuance of building permits for high-rise construction in the County of Macon through November 18, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale. During discussion census statistics in paragraph one were discussed and the clarification is reflected in the attached moratorium. The motion passed unanimously. (Attachment #1)

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Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Charles D. Leatherman  
Board Chairman

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