

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CONTINUED SESSION  
JUNE 28, 2016  
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin reconvened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. in the commission boardroom as recessed from the June 14, 2016 regular meeting. All board members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES:** Chairman Corbin opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. to receive comments on the proposed monetary economic development incentives to be offered to a private business for local economic development in the county. No one signed up to speak. Chairman Corbin recognized Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins, who provided an overview of two grant proposals for a local company looking to expand operations. The first item for “Project Tech” was a OneNC Program grant, which will provide \$90,000 from the North Carolina Department of Commerce in conjunction with a \$30,000 match from the county, based on the proposed expansion of the local company creating 35 new jobs over a five-year period with an average annual wage of \$48,886. The second is a Building Reuse Program grant, which will provide \$187,500 from the state with a \$9,375 match from the county in return for the company’s commitment to create 15 new jobs within a 24 month period and to employ those newly hired individuals for six consecutive months. In return, Mr. Jenkins noted that Macon County gets a growing company, 35 new jobs, a “ripple effect” from increased wages and tax base and a “good signal” to companies and businesses thinking about locating here. Chairman Corbin noted that for a total planned investment of \$3.2-million, the county is investing \$39,375. The chairman also announced that he would recuse himself from voting at the state-level meeting where he sits as a member of the committee that awards these types of grants. Chairman Corbin closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. and said a motion would be in order to fund the grant opportunities. The County Attorney said there would need to be one

motion to authorize either the County Manager or Chairman Corbin to sign the OneNC application, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the OneNC grant application and to authorize the County Manager to sign it. Then, upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to approve the Building Reuse Program application and authorized the County Manager to sign it. The County Attorney had also stated that the identity of the company had been disclosed to each of the board members in closed session. Mr. Jenkins noted that a formal announcement would come from the governor's office.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjust and approve the agenda as follows:

- To remove Item #6, "Continued discussion of telephony project," per the County Manager.
- To remove Item #7, "Consideration of wellness policy," per the County Manager.
- To add consideration of appointments to the Board of Health as the new Item #6.
- To add recognition of Lynn Wright as the new Item #7.
- To add discussion of the Southwestern Community College (SCC) "burn building" as the new Item #10, per Chairman Corbin.
- To add discussion regarding the County Manager as the new Item #11, per Commissioner Tate.
- To add discussion regarding the July regular meeting, per Commissioner Tate.
- To add discussion regarding funds for Macon County Public Library as part of Item #4, per Commissioner Beale.
- To move the current Item #8, "Consideration of ordinance amending the FY 2015-16 budget," to the end of the agenda if the board was going to be taking money from the contingency line item, per the Finance Director.
- To add a closed session, per Commissioner Beale.
- To add a new item as Item #13 from the Soil and Water Conservation District regarding a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund as well as a capital project ordinance, per the County Attorney.
- Chairman Corbin said that the closed session would be Item #14 and adjournment as Item #15.

**SECURITY SYSTEM AT SENIOR SERVICES:** The County Manager explained that with a growing population of users at the Senior Services facility, security

has become a concern, prompting staff to obtain proposals for the installation of a security system. A recommendation has been made to the County Manager, who in turn took it to the Information Technology Department for a review. The County Manager explained that the two proposals received were “basically apples to apples,” which each calling for the installation of panic buttons, additional keypads in the downstairs area, upgraded door controls and video surveillance systems. He said the recommendation was to go with NCI at a cost of \$12,325.50 and to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract, with the funds to come from contingency. Commissioner Beale pointed out that there had been two incidents in adult daycare that prompted staff to call law enforcement, and he made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Commissioner Shields seconded the motion, and the Finance Director requested that the amount to come from contingency be rounded up to the nearest dollar, noting that there was approximately \$53,000 in that line item at present. The motion was then unanimously approved.

**LIBRARY FUNDING:** Commissioner Beale told the board that the Macon County Public Library had requested an increase of approximately \$120,000 in additional funding in the recently approved county budget, none of which was allocated. After a number of discussions with both library and county officials, Commissioner Beale said he was comfortable with suggesting a \$20,000 “contribution” to the library, and suggested allowing the library board to determine how the money could best be spent. He then made a motion to allocate \$20,000 from contingency for this purpose, with a check to be written prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, and with the library board to report on how the money was spent. Commissioner Shields seconded the motion, and following further discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**FIREWORKS DISPLAYS:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to approve applications and grant permits for fireworks displays in Nantahala on July 2, 2016 and in Franklin on July 4, 2016.

**RECOGNITION OF LYNN WRIGHT:** The County Manager recognized Assistant Information Technology Director Lynn Wright, who on June 17<sup>th</sup> graduated from the UNC School of Government Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program. Ms. Wright was one of 57 people who completed the course, and was described by the County Manager as “one of the strongest people I know.” Commissioner Beale presented her with a small gift from the board.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COUNTY MANAGER:** Commissioner Tate said that in the recently approved pay plan update, one position was not addressed, that of the County Manager. He said that in reading a newspaper

article about the position in Jackson County, the job there paid “a significant amount more.” That prompted him to look at other counties and check on salary ranges for the position in counties the size of Macon. He found that the average was approximately \$120,000. He then reviewed the accomplishments of the County Manager over the past three years, and then made a motion to give the County Manager a five percent bonus out of the funds left in the contingency line item, and asked that the board agree to have a discussion about a pay increase for the County Manager at the July regular meeting. Commissioner Beale seconded the motion. Following comments from other board members, the board voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented in the amount of \$5,490.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 BUDGET:** The Finance Director provided an overview of the latest changes to the Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget, noting that the “bottom line” of \$48,335,869 remained the same. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the ordinance as presented, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Higdon took the opportunity to “brag” on the Finance Director, saying that she does a “phenomenal” job.

**MINUTES:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 regular meeting and the May 31, 2016 continued session.

**SCC “BURN BUILDING”:** Chairman Corbin explained that he had copies of correspondence regarding the status of SCC’s “burn building” and that he had met with Dr. Don Tomas, the president of the college, about the school’s priority to renovate the facility, which is reportedly nearing the end of its intended life. The discussion centered on the projected \$2-million cost of the project, \$500,000 of which would need to come from the county. Following a lengthy discussion, no action was taken.

**JULY REGULAR MEETING:** Commissioner Tate explained that he and the County Manager would be vacationing together during the time of the board’s July 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and asked if the board could adjust the schedule. The County Attorney said this could be approached in one of two ways, as state statute requires the board to hold a regular monthly meeting. Chairman Corbin said the board can change the date with proper notice, and the County Attorney said there was no time to do so, as it would take a resolution of the board. The County Attorney suggested that the board meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> as scheduled and recess to a later date as needed, and Chairman Corbin

suggested that the board keep the agenda “short” for the 12<sup>th</sup> and continue to the 19<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AGREEMENT:** The County Attorney explained that he had prepared an interlocal agreement between the county and the Macon Soil Water Conservation District regarding the use of a \$191,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. He further explained that he had approached the Finance Director about the county advancing the money to the district to do the work and then getting reimbursed from the grant funds. Chairman Corbin said the board would need to approve the agreement as well as a capital project ordinance. Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 2) and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve a Capital Project Ordinance for the Cartoogechaye Stream Restoration CWMTF Project #2015-405 in the amount of \$191,000, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 3) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 7:15 p.m., Commissioner Beale made a motion to go into closed session to discuss matters related to the purchase of property as allowed under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5), and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tate and passed unanimously. At 7:32 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business, and at 7:32 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

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Kevin Corbin  
Board Chairman