

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING
JULY 24, 2014
MINUTES**

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott called to order the joint meeting with the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen and the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners at 6:10 p.m. in the town hall boardroom of the Town of Franklin. All board members (with the exception of Commissioner Tate), the County Manager, Deputy Clerk and County Attorney were present. All of the Franklin aldermen (with the exception of Alderman Curtis), Mayor Bob Scott, Town Manager Summer Woodard and Town Clerk Chad Simons were present. All of the Highlands commissioners (with the exception of Donnie Calloway and Brian Stiehler), Mayor Patrick Taylor and Town Manager Bob Frye were present. Also present were members of the news media.

Chairman Corbin gave the invocation and the officials shared a buffet style dinner.

Following the meal, Mayor Scott welcomed those in attendance and announced that there would be a town hall style meeting entitled "Focus on Franklin" on July 30th aimed at finding out "where we are going." The meeting will include a presentation by Western Carolina University's Public Policy Institute. Ms. Woodard explained that the town was working on the possible expansion of the town's water treatment plant, and was considering two options – a conventional plan that would update the existing plant or building an entirely new "package plant." Noting that maintenance on the town's sidewalks has fallen behind, she said she is also looking to obtain grant funding for repairs.

Chairman Corbin's remarks centered primarily around the development of the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex and the impact of finding a burial site on the property, which may require the planned ball fields to be rotated from their initial locations. The County Manager also addressed the issues with the new recreational site, saying that the project remains on schedule and no

further delays are anticipated. He also spoke to the possible expansion of the county's landfill and the need to make adjustments to the county's employee insurance coverage.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor said that the town's revamped recreation program, which includes an indoor swimming pool, has fostered the return of the Highlands Hurricanes, and there are now 46 students on the swim team. He explained that the town increased property taxes by 1.5-cents for recreation, with the additional tax to "sunset" in three years. He also pointed out that no one spoke in opposition to the tax increase at the public hearing. In closing, he said that the town is planning some \$3-million in infrastructure improvements, including repairs to the dam and water intake at Lake Sequoyah and the installation of a six-inch water line along NC 28.

At the request of Mayor Scott, Commissioner Beale shared the plans for a trip to Macon County on August 14th by delegates to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) annual conference, which is being held in Asheville. The itinerary calls for stops in both Franklin and Highlands.

Following comments from the floor, Mayor Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m., and Ms. Woodard invited those in attendance to take a walking tour of historic downtown Franklin, led by Greg Clark of the Macon County Historical Society.

Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman