

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2014
MINUTES**

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor convened the joint meeting with the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen and the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners at 6:45 p.m. at Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro at 474 Main Street in Highlands. All board members (with the exception of Chairman Corbin, Commissioner Haven and Commissioner Higdon), the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director and County Attorney were present. All of the Franklin aldermen (with the exception of Verlin Curtis, Billy Mashburn and Barbara McRae), Mayor Bob Scott, Town Manager Summer Woodard and Town Clerk Chad Simons were present. All of the Highlands commissioners (with the exception of John Dotson and Brian Stiehler), Mayor Patrick Taylor and Town Manager Bob Frye were present.

Commissioner Beale gave the invocation.

Mayor Taylor introduced the other Town of Highlands officials, and then gave a brief overview of the town's current projects. He noted that the new water intake planned for Lake Sequoyah had been delayed, and the lake will not be lowered until at least mid-December. He also touched on the progress being made on the construction of Founders Park, work on culverts located in floodplain areas, a new 4,000-foot water line along NC 28 and a number of recreation-related upgrades.

Mayor Scott told the group that a total of 712 pumpkins were rolled down Phillips Street during the town's annual "Pumpkinfest" event held on October 25th, which Scott said drew "the largest crowd in the city limits ever." He also noted that the town's Winter Wonderland events are set for November 29th and December 6th. The town is working on getting approval of a \$7.9-million loan for a new water plant. He said parking downtown remains an issue. The

mayor also pointed out that the town board took a stand opposing fracking. He explained that three of the aldermen were “under the weather” and could not attend, and introduced the town staff members who were present.

The County Manager updated the group on a number of county items, including the latest on the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex, noting that grading was almost complete and with building construction expected to begin November 3rd. He explained the formation of a county staff committee to review health insurance matters, and touched on other issues such as the proposed expansion of the county landfill, the nearly completed property revaluation, having School Resource Officers (SROs) in all county schools, a grant that will benefit the Hospice House in Franklin, a potential new method for dealing with involuntary commitments, Macon County Public Health receiving a national award, and the ongoing implementation of NCFAST by the Department of Social Services. Commissioner Tate offered several comments on the continuing discussions with Jackson County officials regarding boundary line issues. Commissioner Beale shared information on the status of the truck turnaround area that has been funded for NC 28 between Franklin and Highlands. He also noted the lack of state funding for secondary roads and gave an update on matters regarding the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Derek Roland
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman