

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 26, 2012 – 6 P.M.
CALLED MEETING
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Corbin called the joint meeting of the board of commissioners to order at 6:15 p.m. at Fat Buddies Restaurant in Franklin for the purpose of holding a joint meeting with the Macon County Planning Board. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk and County Attorney were present, as were all members of the planning board, with the exception of Alan Marsh. Also present were interim county planner Jack Morgan, members of the news media and interested citizens.

Chairman Corbin welcomed those in attendance and introduced the new members of the planning board, Chris Hanners and Derek Roland. Following individual introductions and an invocation by Commissioner Beale, Chairman Corbin said he wished to “acknowledge the elephant in the room” and spoke to recent controversies surrounding the county’s planning efforts, adding that he desired to “look forward.” Commissioner Koppers said the county has a “pretty good guideline” in the adopted comprehensive plan and encouraged that it not be put on a shelf. Commissioner Beale thanked the planning board members for their “perseverance and patience.” Commissioner Haven expressed his appreciation to the planning board members for the time they had spent in service to the county. Commissioner Tate, the new liaison to the planning board, explained that he would have comments to make following the meal. The County Manager expressed his appreciation to Jack Morgan for filling in as interim planner, and reviewed the planning achievements of the past year. He also expressed his appreciation to the planning board members, saying Macon is a good, solid progressive county with vision, and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

The meeting was recessed at 6:37 p.m. for the meal and Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 7 p.m.

Commissioner Tate then read from a prepared statement **(Attachment 1)**, a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Among those comments, he asked that those involved “find it within ourselves to try and respectfully work together, listen to each other, and try to understand each other’s reasoning.” He also asked the planning board to “rise above differences and work together as a team to make a difference for our community and our prized future generations.”

Mr. Morgan told the commissioners that the planning board can “bring you what you need,” and while, like a family, it may squabble at times, it can make things happen. He also expressed a desire for the planning board to move away from working solely on ordinances and to do some “serious planning.”

Chairman Corbin, noting that he had spoken with Commissioner Tate, said that the planning board should move forward with a review of the county subdivision ordinance as its next task, and this was followed by a lengthy discussion regarding that ordinance. Commissioner Beale said there are some ordinances that need to be fixed, such as the sign ordinance, and planning board member Lamar Sprinkle said the high-impact ordinance also “needs a look.” Commissioner Haven asked to “have in writing what we task the planning board with.” Chairman Corbin noted that, based on conversations from the commission’s retreat in January, a memorandum had been prepared from the board of commissioners to the planning board regarding tasks for 2012-2013, and he read that memo for the record. The County Attorney advised that the commissioners should vote to approve the memo and have it attached to the minutes. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the memo as read, with Mr. Sprinkle requesting that the high-impact ordinance be added to the list. Commissioner Koppers and Commissioner Beale agreed to amend the motion and second to include this, and the motion was approved unanimously. A copy of the memorandum ([Attachment 2](#)) is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

The discussion then moved to the possibility of having the County Attorney attend planning board meetings as needed so as to address legal concerns with ordinances that the board might have, and the commissioners agreed by consensus to allow the planning board to utilize the County Attorney.

Following comments from planning board members Lewis Penland, Larry Stenger and Karl Gillespie, and upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman