

FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
May 2, 2016
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner David Strickland
District 3 Commissioner Jeff Jacques
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen

Staff: County Manager, Beth Thomas
County Clerk, Elaine Evans
County Engineer, John Phillips

Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the public hearing. He said that there are two items on the agenda. Time will be given to talk for or against both items.

The first public hearing item is a conditional use permit for Aubrey and Terri Lunsford. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak for this item. There was no one. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak against this item. There was no opposition. He said if anyone comes into the meeting before six o'clock, they will be given an opportunity to speak for or against this item.

The second public hearing item is a rezone and conditional use permit for Trace and Joy Embry. Attorney Keith Milford spoke on behalf of Trace and Joy Embry for Shepherd's Hill Academy, which is a wilderness camp for troubled teens. Shepherd's Hill Academy is licensed by the State of Georgia as a school. This school plays a part in easing the juvenile system in the County and brings a lot of revenue into the County.

Mr. Milford said that the rezone and conditional use permit is being requested because the Hwy 17 project came through the center of the campus of Shepherd's Hill Academy. They went from wilderness to being in the middle of the road. Mr. and Mrs. Embry did a lot of research and found property adjoining where they are located. This way they will be able to move the facility to the adjoining property and be able to comply with the licensing requirements from the State of Georgia. Mr. Milford said that Shepherd's Hill Academy has been in operation for over 20 years. There have not been problems associated with this school. They are also a good member of the community.

The Commission Board was given an opportunity by Mr. Milford for questions. Mr. Milford said that Mr. and Mrs. Embry were in attendance along with a good number of other people in support of their request. Chairman Bridges stated that the recommendation and information from the Planning Commission was given to the Commissioners in their packet from Planning Director John Phillips. He asked if anyone wanted to speak against the request from Mr. and Mrs. Embry to rezone and grant a conditional use permit. There was no one in opposition.

Chairman Bridges gave the Commissioners a chance to comment on the request from Mr. and Mrs. Embry. Commissioner Strickland said that he is very familiar with Shepherd's Hill and Trace Embry. He said that he was part of the group that built a ramp on this property. He thanked everyone for coming in support of this request.

Commissioner Jacques said that the submittal of the request is very clear and concise. The Planning Commission did an outstanding job as usual. He expressed thanks for the people who came out in support of the rezoning and stated that speak volumes. Chairman Bridges also said that this speaks well of the request.

The public hearing remained open until 6:00 p.m. to give an opportunity for additional comments or concerns. There were no additional comments. Chairman Bridges closed the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. to begin the regular board meeting.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2016

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

David R. Strickland, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk