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Franklin Springs debating who's the boss

City Council questioning whether mayor or manager can hire and fire

By Kandice Smith
Staff Writer

For years, the city of Franklin Springs has worked on bringing its zoning ordinances up to date. Now the city's attention has turned to its charter. The main question being asked is who has the authority to hire and fire city

employees. "The city council is questioning who has the authority to hire and fire employees," said Franklin Springs City Manager Bobby Shores. "When I was asked about it, the only thing I know to do is go to the charter." The council first brought up the issue dur-

ing its March 24 meeting. That meeting also included a closed session to discuss personnel issues. Shores would not comment on any specific situation that brought up the subject. Shores and Police Chief Dennis Bell had hired four new part-time police officers prior to the March

meeting. According to Section 229 of the city's charter, the city manager is the chief administrative officer of the city. In regards to this matter, the city manager has the power to appoint and suspend or remove all city employees and administrative officers the city man-

ager appoints. In order to better understand the city's charter and its personnel ordinances in relation to this matter, the city attorney was brought in to review the matter. Between March 23 and March 29, City Attorney Lee Hicks reviewed the charter and ordinances concerning re-employment

three times, held three conference calls with the mayor, drafted an opinion letter to the mayor, proposed changes, researched re-employment issues and had a conference with the mayor and a council member. Work on the charter

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Photo by Shane Sougrins

School board talks over plans for SPLOST money

By Kandice Smith
Staff Writer

Now that voters have passed SPLOST II, the Franklin County School System is preparing to implement some of the proposed projects, namely the construction of a new core building at the high school.

Executive Director of Operations and Human Resources Justin Old informed the Franklin County Board of Education that it is beneficial for them to approve a task force to look into the design phase for the high school core building in a timely fashion. "We have talked with the administration at the high school," Old said. "They have looked at each option and discussed the pros and cons."

The school board looked at several different options - presented as numbered "Schemes" - for how to move things around at the high school while construction on a new building is taking

place. It does not displace too many students. The cost is a balance of student travel to agriculture classrooms and the gym, some parking and a lot of "empty space" between agriculture classrooms, gym and the main building.

"Scheme 2 is out of the picture for the high school administration," Old said. The pros of Scheme 1 are a lot of parking, not as many options to move the CTAE building walk for long, exposed walk for students to Ag/Gym and bus loop would be tight.

The pros of Scheme 4 are it creates enough space for future growth and compact design that minimizes student travel. The cons are it displaces three-quarters of students in the main academic building - trailer space could be a problem, both rooms will be a concern, distance from main core building to Ag/Gym and bus loop could be a problem.

...through Houston was a 24-hour labor Saturday and Sunday for members of...