

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night adopted the community agenda, which includes the future land-use map and is the final step in the update process.

Ball Ground and Waleska, which

as an "active document" that the board follows.

"The outcome is a good plan with moderate growth built in to it," he said. "The whole concept is so different from the prior plan that it is going to take time to get used to

of input," Commissioner Karen Bosch said. "Anything as serious as a comprehensive land-use plan should be long and tedious."

Commissioner Jim Hubbard said there is more density in the plan than he would like, but considered it an "excellent compromise."

vision the board Jim Hubbard can follow.

Commissioner Harry Johnston said the update is not "tremendously different" from the current plan, but does reflect more growth opportunities. He said he hoped the board would be able to stick to it.

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# Canton leaders focus on growth

By Ashley Fuller  
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

Economic development is the top issue Canton leaders say they want to see addressed during the city's comprehensive plan update.

Bringing more companies to town and with them new jobs was the focal point of the Canton citizen stakeholder committee meeting on Tuesday night.

The committee, made up of residents and business leaders appointed by the Canton City Council to assist in the update process, will next meet on Aug. 26 at Canton City Hall.

"Growth of jobs is the No. 1" issue for the committee, said member Hooky Huffman, an insurance agent.

The plan, which the state requires cities and counties to update every 10 years, is a long-range vision for growth and includes a future land-use map, zoning guidelines and infrastructure priorities. City staff plan to submit a completed update to the state by December.

Committee member Mandi Ballinger of Canton, a law firm business manager said the city should be growing "more attractive," high-paying jobs.

"This city has so much to offer," she said.

Huffman said he thinks the plan should encourage coordination with the Cherokee

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## SIGN OF SUPPORT

Dr. David Selden of Etowah Chiropractic on Marietta Highway in Canton climbs up a ladder to change his business sign to a new message in support of the U.S. Olympic Team. The 'Go Michael' sign has been up for the last week in support of U.S. swimming gold medalist Michael Phelps.

Cherokee Tribune photo by Amber M. McCloskey

## 'It is all destruction'

More than 150 dead after jet crash in Madrid

By Harold Heckle  
Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain — A jetliner heading to the popular Canary Islands vacation resort crashed during takeoff Wednesday, turning a wooded area off the end of a runway into a hellish scene of charred bodies and smoldering wreckage. About 153 were believed dead — Spain's worst air disaster in nearly 25 years.

Only 19 people survived the midafternoon crash of the Spanair MD-82 at Madrid's Barajas International Airport, and some were in critical condition, said Development Minister Magdalena Alvarez, whose department oversees civil aviation

As smoke billowed from the wreckage, dozens of fire trucks and ambulances rushed to help, lining a nearby road and filling a field next to a swath of charred vegetation. Helicopters flew over dumping water on fires.

"The scene is devastating," said Pablo Albella, an emergency rescue worker. "The fuselage is destroyed. The plane burned. I have seen a kilometer of charred land and few whole pieces of the fuselage. It is all destruction."

Rescuers rushed the few survivors to hospitals, while emergency workers shrouded the dead in white sheets. One body lay on burned grass, an arm and a leg poking out.



A part of the fuselage of the Sp

# Sen. favo veep

By Nedra Pickler  
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — S the clear favorite Barack Obama's standing of foreign and his fighting spirit against the rival Republican ticket.

Obama is keeping his decision quiet, but his staff in Chicago and party activists who await a decision are buzzing about Biden in large part because he c biggest weaknesses especially on world go on the attack Democrats is less Biden will ultimately more of a recognized candidate faces a the race.

Obama plans to ed running mate announced via te Obama also is wide Govs. Kathleen Se Kaine of Virginia, Indiana.

Biden was first el in 1972, when Obar the people living i weren't born yet. H for running mate fo

## On the agendas:

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday considered the following agenda items:

- Approved a request by Highland Financial Capital Group to rezone 3.27 acres on Lower Union Hill Road near Sugar Pike Road in Union Hill from agricultural to general commercial for unspecified commercial uses;

- Approved a request by Andrew Financial to rezone three acres on Lower Union Hill Road near East Cherokee Drive in Hickory Flat from agricultural to a denser R-40 single family residential;

- Held a public hearing to consider an amendment to the zoning ordinance for the purpose of adding subdivision regulations. The board took no action;

- Set a public hearing date for Sept. 16 for several amendments to the county zoning ordinance;

- Postponed a decision on abandoning a portion of Barton Town Road;

- Approved increases for the compensation for boards and committees, which vary for each body;

- Approved annual stone contracts with LaFarge and Vulcan quarries for the roads and bridges department;

- Accepted rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage on Haley Farm Drive, Haley Farm Way and Haley Farm Court for county maintenance;

- Set a public hearing on Sept. 2 to approve sending the 2008 Cherokee County Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program annual update to the Department of Community Affairs and Atlanta Regional Commission;

- Approved a request from Bobo Grinding Equipment, LLC to postpone tornado debris grinding operations until the end of the year. No additional costs will be incurred;

- Awarded a \$60,175 contract to Bartow Paving Company Inc. for construction of the Village at Park Creek for completion of public improvements;

- Approved the purchase of two New Holland

T6020 4WD tractors with side and rear mowers from Wade Tractor for \$152,972;

- Approved an easement agreement between the county and the Falls of Cherokee Homeowners Association for a neighborhood sign;

- Approved a development agreement between the county and PEC Development Group for construction of a second entrance at the Forest Creek neighborhood;

- Approved the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The board talked about working with state officials to find alternate funding sources due to the Department of Transportation's current budget shortfall, which will impact projects in the plan;

- Postponed action on a 12-month probation for the Kroger at 6199 Highway 92 and approved a 12-month probation for the Food Depot at 5530 Bells Ferry Road for selling alcohol to minors. The marshal's office also recommended the owners, licensees, managers and clerks attend an alcohol ordinance training class; and

- Heard the details of a request submitted to the Canton City Council to annex 26.39 acres on South McCollum Drive. The current zoning is R-20 single-family residential and the proposed zoning is R-2A single-family residential.

During the work session, the board considered the following agenda items:

- Heard a presentation from the Towne Lake Arts Center about participating with the center and local public libraries in The Big Read, but took no action.

- Heard an update on citations issued to R&P for a lot used on Highway 20 for repossessed cars. The case will be in magistrate court in two weeks;

- Reviewed plans for Firefighter Appreciation Week for Sept. 14 to 22, but took no action; and

- Chairman Buzz Ahrens talked about a meeting scheduled for Sept. 2 with Georgia Department of Transportation representatives, state legislators and city leaders.

numbers on the nationalities of those on board, saying relatives had to be notified first.

In Germany, Lufthansa said it issued tickets to seven people who checked in for the flight and four of those were from Germany. It was unclear whether they were German citizens.

Sweden's Foreign Ministry said two Swedes were on the plane. It said one was at a hospital but the other was unaccounted for.

The accident was Spain's worst air disaster since 1983, when a Boeing 747 operated by the Colombian airline Avianca crashed near Madrid on landing approach, killing 181 people. In 1985, an Iberia Boeing 727 crashed near Bilbao in the Basque region, killing 148 people.

The deadliest disaster in aviation history occurred in Spain in 1977. Two fully loaded Boeing 747s collided on a runway in the Canary Islands and a total of 583 peo-

ple started with a minute silence and players on teams wore black armbands.

Allard, the Spokesman, said the crew plane passed an inspection in January and no problem was reported since then. The plane was 15 years old and has been owned by Spokesman since then.

The DC-9/MD-80 family of twin-engine, medium-range jets enjoyed wide popularity among the world's airlines in the 1970s, '80s and '90s.

But it has had a number

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## Growth

Continued from Page 1A

County government and Chamber of Commerce and consolidation of the groups associated with downtown Canton.

"We should take the four groups that have similar goals and bring them together to work as one," he said of the downtown groups.

Creating a theme for marketing the city as a destination is another idea proposed by the stakeholders.

One such concept is to promote the city as a gateway to the Appalachians — with stores geared toward outdoor activities and spots along walking trails to put a canoe into the Etowah River.

Adding more parking in the downtown area and at Heritage Park also are on the stakeholders' wish list, as is increased code enforcement in older neighborhoods.

"We were laying the groundwork of things that need to be discussed," Dennis Burnette, president of Cherokee Bank, said of the issues raised.

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