

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, May 3, 2021

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Chuck Olive
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Chairman McNeill called the Regular Session of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Vice Chairman Sands led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 21-15](#) April 19, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [5-3-21 April 19, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the April 19, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public.

Bob Phipps of Crumpler told the Board that he wanted to offer his condolences to Watauga County on the loss of two deputies last week. He said that he believes Ashe and the surrounding two counties have the best sheriff's offices in the state. He added that firefighters, nurses, and veterans are in the same category and that he would be praying for them all.

No further comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 21-64](#) 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Southmountain Children's Advocacy Center Lease

Attachments: [5-3-21 Sample Southmountain Lease - Moore County.pdf](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer and County Attorney John Kilby presented for the Board's approval a lease allowing Southmountain to operate a Children's Advocacy Center in the County-owned log cabin on Highway 163 for one year for the fee of \$1 per year. Mr. Kilby added the lease can be extended by mutual agreement. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approved the lease as presented for a lease period beginning Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-65](#) 9:10 AM - Generations Ashe Executive Director Patricia Calloway and Finance Director Mary Owen - CARES Act Proposed Budget & Proposed Home and Community Care Block Grant Planning Committee Membership

Attachments: [5-3-21 Generations Ashe CARES Budget and HCCBG Committee.pdf](#)

Generations Ashe Executive Director Patricia Calloway presented for the Board's approval the proposed 2021-2022 membership roster for the Home and Community Care Block Grant Planning Committee. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the committee membership as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Ms. Calloway and Generations Ashe Finance Director Mary Owen shared that Ashe Services for Aging had received \$68,736 in CARES Act funding, which would be used to pay for additional part-time staff, a van for meal deliveries, and to reimburse the cost of a broken freezer compressor. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the CARES Act Budget as proposed. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-66](#) 9:20 AM - High Country Association of REALTORS® President Patrick Morgan - Real Estate Market Update

Attachments: [5-3-21 High Country Association of Realtors Update.pdf](#)

High Country Association of REALTORS® President Patrick Morgan and Shared & Regional Government Affairs Director Michael Cooper shared with the Board an update on the real estate market in the High Country. Mr. Morgan shared that home sales, land sales, and median sales prices had all increased in 2020 and were continuing to be strong in the first quarter of 2021. He reported that in 2020, 541 homes were sold in Ashe County, valued at over \$153 million with a median sales price of \$265,000. He credited low interest rates and increased opportunities to work remotely as having the biggest impact on this trend. Mr. Morgan also expressed to the Board a need to work together going forward to address housing availability and affordability. Mr. Cooper invited the Board to attend a meeting on May 26, 2021, at the association's office in Boone to discuss a potential housing options study.

[PRES 21-69](#) 9:35 AM - Economic Development Director Cathy Barr - Ashe Industrial Park Development Update & Approval of Golden Leaf Grant

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr presented to the Board an update on the development of the Ashe Industrial Park. She shared that the County received a \$500,000 Golden Leaf Foundation grant to develop the infrastructure of the Park, and she noted that the grant does not require a fund match. Commissioner Powers made a motion to accept the grant as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-67](#) 9:40 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CDBG-NRP) Policies

Attachments: [5-3-21 CDBG-NRP Policies.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board for approval two federally-required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) policies specific to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, from which Ashe County is receiving \$750,000 to be used for providing housing repairs. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the policies as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-68](#) 9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - County Property Addressing

Attachments: [5-3-21 County Property Addressing - Courthouse & Family Central.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb resumed the discussion with the Board regarding naming roads at the Courthouse and Family Central. Mr. Stumb recommended using more generic road names and provided maps with name options. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to name the roads at the Courthouse complex Law Enforcement Drive and Fallen Heroes Drive, as indicated on the provided map. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to name the roads at Family Central as Family Central Drive and Ball Field Way, as indicated on the provided map. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.