

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, July 15, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

Chairperson Todd McNeill

Vice Chair Chuck Olive

Commissioner William Sands

Commissioner Jerry D. Powers

Commissioner Mike Eldreth

BUSINESS SESSION

- Present:** 4 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Mike Eldreth
- Absent:** 1 - Vice Chairman Chuck Olive

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

Chairman McNeill called the July 15th, 2024 Regular Session Meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Eldreth led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Adoption of Agenda

With the removal of the Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS from the scheduled/publicized Public Hearing Commissioner Sands made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

- For:** 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Eldreth

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sands made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

- For:** 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Eldreth

[MIN 24-15](#) Approval of the following Executive Session Minutes: November 6th, 2023, December 4th, 2023, December 18th, 2023, January 18th, 2024, March 4th, 2024, March 18th, 2024, April 1st, 2024 and May 6th, 2024.

[MIN 24-16](#) Regular Session Minutes for July 1st, 2024

Attachments: [7-15-2024 July 1st, 2024 Regular Session Minutes](#)

[MISC 24-18](#) Reinstatement of Leave Accrual for Rehires

Attachments: [7-15-2024 ReHire Employee Reinstatement Info](#)

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for the Public Comment portion of today's meeting at 9:03 am. No comment was offered. Chairman McNeill then closed the floor for Public Comment.

VI. Presentations[ORD 24-6](#)

9:05 AM - PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS and CHAPTER 162: ASHE COUNTY AIRPORT (KGEV), formerly AIRPORT HEIGHT

Attachments: [7-15-2024 Chapter 150 Building Regulations Proposed Changes](#)
[7-15-2024 Comments Page-Signature](#)

At 9:05 AM Chairman McNeill opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS and CHAPTER 162: ASHE COUNTY AIRPORT (KGEV), formerly AIRPORT HEIGHT. As stated earlier in today's meeting, Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS has been removed from today's Public Hearing for further review. The remaining CHAPTER 162: ASHE COUNTY AIRPORT (KGEV), formerly AIRPORT HEIGHT will proceed. No comments were offered. Chairman McNeill then closed the Public Hearing on CHAPTER 162: ASHE COUNTY AIRPORT (KGEV), formerly AIRPORT HEIGHT. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances Title XV: CHAPTER 162: ASHE COUNTY AIRPORT (KGEV), formerly AIRPORT HEIGHT. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved on First Reading

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Eldreth

[PRES
24-122](#)

9:10 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - Highlights From Plan Workshops and DSS Statistics for May 2024, Child Welfare Information System Name Announcement

Attachments: [7-15-2024 Highlights from Plan Workshops](#)
[7-15-2024 DSS Statistics May 2024](#)
[7-15-2024 Child Welfare Information System Name Announcement](#)

Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board information on the Highlights From Plan Workshops, DSS Statistics for May 2024, and Child Welfare Information System Name Announcement. Tracie discussed the cost of Long-Term Care in North Carolina, and affordable housing in Ashe County. She spoke on finding a way that we can look at building homes, maybe two bedroom one bath, modest homes that teachers, social workers for example can afford to buy and also our elderly population can also afford to buy so that they can age in place at home. Because this is where they want to be. Tracie talked about the May Statistics for DSS pointing out specifically that DSS now has 30 children in custody. She spoke on the new Child Welfare Information System now called "PATH NC" which stands for "Partnership and Technology Hub." Path NC will bring together information from multiple agencies and organizations to better support the work for positive outcomes for children & families.

No Action Taken

[PRES
24-126](#)

9:15 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - Energy Programs Outreach Plan

Attachments: [7-15-2024 Energy Programs Outreach Plan](#)

Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board for their approval the Energy Programs Outreach Plan. This is a federally funded block grant program that is comprised of three different programs - Crisis Intervention Program (GIP), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Weatherization. There are also non-Federal Crisis Intervention Programs - Share the Light, Share the Warmth, Wake Electric Round Up, and Helping Each Member Cope. The Outreach Plan is due to be delivered to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) by July 31, 2024. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the Energy Programs Outreach Plan. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Eldreth

[PRES
24-123](#)

9:20 AM - Zack Shepherd, VAYA Health Community Relations Regional Director - VAYA Health Update

Attachments: [7-15-2024 VAYA Health Update Info](#)

Zack Shepherd, VAYA Health Community Relations Regional Director presented an update on VAYA Health. Zack talked specifically on "Tailored Plans" which launched July 1, 2024. Zack presented a PowerPoint presentation that described Tailored Plans as a new kind of NC Medicaid Managed Care health plan covering mental health, severe substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. He also discussed Vaya Total Care. These plans are managed by the county that manages the Medicaid benefits for members.

No Action Taken

[PRES
24-124](#)

9:40 AM - Kevin Anderson, Parks & Rec Director - Update on Ashe Park Expansion Project

Attachments: [7-15-2024 Kevin Anderson Email Request](#)

Kevin Anderson, Parks & Rec Director gave the Board an Update on the Ashe Park Expansion Project. Kevin along with Aaron Hollis an intern from Appalachian State University presented photos and information on the 149 acre Ashe Park expansion including a new 40' x40' picnic shelter, a bike skills course, an Adventure Playground and 3 multi-use trails. Kevin spoke highly of his intern Aaron and how he has taken this summer to design a kiosk depicting the parks trail systems. Aaron presented an impressive rough draft of his work on mapping the trails so far as well as an idea for the construction of the outdoor kiosk. Kevin also stated that the parking lot near the new shelter has been completed with 17 total spaces, 2 of which are handicap spaces. Kevin hopes to expand with more parking in the future. He also talked about several things that still needed to be done before the completion of the project. Kevin stated he has hopes of opening the new additions for community use by this fall or Spring 2025 at the latest. Kevin had two requests from the Board, the first being the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to recognize Mrs. Margaret Neal, who graciously sold us the additional property making this expansion possible and we would like to ask your permission to put a plaque up on the new shelter in recognition of Mrs. Neil, who was so

gracious in selling us that Property. Secondly Kevin asked permission to leave the new shelter "first come first serve" so that everyone can just enjoy it and not take reservations for it's use. The Board agreed on both requests. Kevin stated that he was so thankful for the Boards support of Parks & Recreation.

[PRES
24-125](#)

9:50 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - 163 Canoe Access Update

Adam Stumb, County Manager updated the Board on the 163 Canoe Access area. Adam stated that they're getting toward the end of the grant money that we have available for this project and we're looking for some last-minute ideas of things to bring to that site. Adam suggested Wi-Fi, not so much for Internet but more for emergency calls. That area has poor access to cell tower communications and that may be a service that could help people that find themselves in an emergency situation down there. Adam stated that another idea would be bringing electric to the site. He spoke on the condition of the shelter on the property saying it looks pretty good, the roof and paint on the shelters is in good shape but it's a possibility that the guttering may need replaced. Also, maybe doing an enclosure for the port-a-jon which is available on the property from May to October. Adam also spoke on the contracting of the high school welding program in the fall of last year for a metal sculpture for the site. They did some design work back in the fall & in the winter this year. Though it wasn't quite finished before school ended for the summer, they were able to come back & finish it and get that installed on site. It is a beautiful fitting addition to the river access area. Adam stated he'd like to recognize the students & instructor for the well made, well designed sculpture and have them meet on the site for a photo.

[MISC 24-19](#)

Add-On - Election of the Voting Delegate for NCACC 117th Annual Conference

Chairman McNeill stated the the NCACC requests us to submit our voting delegate designations for the upcoming NCACC Annual Conference in August, we have the option to select one person to serve as the voting delegate and one person as an alternate, if that is our preference. Chairman McNeill made the motion to elect Vice Chairman Olive as the voting delegate designation and that he himself would volunteer for the alternate position if the need arose. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Eldreth

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

At 10:30 am Commissioner Powers made the motion to adjourn the July 15th, 2024 Regular Session meeting. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Powers and
Commissioner Eldreth

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.

Todd McNeill, Chairman

**Missy Seivers
Clerk to the Board**