

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill*

*Vice Chair Jerry D. Powers*

*Commissioner Russell Killen*

*Commissioner Wes Greene*

*Commissioner Mike Eldreth*

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

*Chairman McNeill called the September 2nd, 2025 meeting to order at 9:00 am.*

**Present:** 5 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman Jerry D. Powers, Commissioner Mike Eldreth, Commissioner Russell Killen and Commissioner Wes Greene

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

*Commissioner Killen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman McNeill offered the opening Prayer.*

**III. Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Killen made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[MISC 25-30](#) 2026 County Holiday Schedule

**Attachments:** [9-2-2025 Holiday Schedule 2026](#)

[MIN 25-26](#) August 18th, 2025 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [9-2-2025 August 18th, 2025 Regular Session Minutes](#)

[MISC 25-31](#) Leave Accrual Rate Re-Instatement - Dustin Farmer

**Attachments:** [9-2-2025 Employment History for Dustin Farmer](#)

[MISC 25-32](#) Leave Accrual Rate Re-Instatement - Abigail McGuire

**Attachments:** [9-2-2025 Employment History for Abigail McGuire](#)

**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

*With the addition of an appointment for a representative to the HCCOG. Commissioner Greene made the motion to adopt the September 2nd, 2025 Agenda. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

**V. Public Comment**

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for the Public Comment portion of today's meeting at 9:03 am.*

Alan Briggs from the Othello community in Ashe County came to the podium to thank the Commissioners for all their support in their efforts to replace the Rustic Road bridge. He stated that the bridge served four neighborhoods with over 60 homes. He said he was happy to report that thanks to the efforts of county staff and Representative Ray Pickett, the bridge has been approved as a priority from the State Private Roads and Bridges Fund for replacement. The engineers and design team have been out actively over the last couple of weeks starting to survey, soil tests and so forth stated Mr. Briggs. They've been in touch with Ashe County staff to go through any permitting requirements and stated that Ashe County staff were great to work with. He also spoke to Commissioners on a recently released guide by AARP with FEMA called "Disaster Resilience Tool Kit" saying it was a guide for how local leaders can reduce risks and better protect older adults in disaster situations.

Seeing no further movement from those citizens in attendance Chairman McNeill closed the floor for Public Comment at 9:06 am.

## VI. Presentations

### [PRES 25-117](#)

9:03 AM - Allen Foiles, President of the Asheville Tennis Association - Presentation

Attachments: [9-2-2025 Asheville Tennis Association](#)

Allen Foiles with the Asheville Tennis Association was present at today's meeting along with Kevin Anderson, Parks & Rec Director to present a check to the Board and Ashe County Parks & Recreation for \$26,000 for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Ashe Park. Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to accept the funds. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

### [PRES 25-118](#)

9:07 AM - Patricia Calloway, Executive Director Generations Ashe - Update & Grant Approval

Attachments: [9-2-2025 Email Request](#)

Patricia Calloway, Executive Director Generations Ashe was present today and gave commissioners an update on operations at Generation Ashe. She also presented for approval by the Commissioners the Home and Community Care Block Grant Final Revisions FY2024/25, the Home and Community Care Block Grant Budget for FY 2025/26 and approval of paying Generations 2nd quarter regular allocation early.

Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the FY2024/25 Home and Community Care Block Grant Final Revisions. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the Home and Community Care Block Grant Budget for FY 2025/26. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the paying of Generations 2 quarter regular allocation early. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed

*with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[PRES  
25-119](#)

9:15 AM - Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager - Economic Incentive Policy

**Attachments:** [9-2-2025 Economic Incentive Policy](#)

*Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager presented to the Board the Economic Incentive Policy. He stated that he thought that it would be beneficial to the county to have this type of policy because it starts to create a uniform response whenever we start to talk to existing or prospective businesses either expanding or locating within the county. He stated that as we move forward with transitioning from building out the industrial Park to actually finding tenants, we're going to see the requests for items like these come up a lot more often so it'll be beneficial to give staff the uniform direction and the private sector an expectation as to what Ashe County is willing to Entertain in terms of incentives. Nick said he thinks that the other part to this that he tried to create mimics state guidelines for incentives, and the wording in here is actually taken from EDPNC. Generally how this policy works is that it would be a reimbursable cash grant based off a percentage of capital investment from that company. There are some qualifying factors in the sense of that it would have to create jobs that are above the median income, and it would need to comply with all state regulations. Generally what we would look at is if a company wanted to come and locate into the county or an existing company wanted to expand, they would have to show that the incentives were necessary to locate here versus another state, have a signed affidavit that states the amount of jobs that they would be creating and the average salary for that and also a capital commitment whether that's real property or personal business property and then at the end go through that whole process build it out. We then certify that and give them a percentage back based on that capital investment.*

*After some discussion Commissioner Greene made the motion to approve the Economic Incentive Policy. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

## **GENERAL SESSION**

[MISC 25-34](#) HCCOG Representative Election

*Chairman McNeill stated that it was necessary to appoint a representative for Ashe County to the High Country Council of Government Board. They must attend monthly meetings in Boone at the HCCOG. Commissioner Killen made the motion to elect Commissioner Wes Greene to the HCCOG Board to represent Ashe County. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*At this time Vice Chairman Powers spoke up stating that he had served on the Workforce Development Board for five years and that he wished to come off of that board. He stated that Commissioner Killen had expressed interest in being on that board. After some discussion the Board was in agreement that Commissioner Killen would replace Vice Chairman Powers on the Workforce Development Board.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

**VII. Commissioner Comments****VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session**

*Commissioner Greene made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:55 am.  
Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

**[ES 25-14](#)**

Property G.S. 143.318.11 (5)

*Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to return from Executive Session at 10:39 am.  
Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

**X. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:39 am.  
Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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**Missy Seivers  
Clerk to the Board**