

# Ashe County

150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, January 6, 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**

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

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

*Due to inclement weather Chairman McNeill called the January 6th, 2025 Regular Session Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.*

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

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

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

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

*With the additions of "First Responder Appreciation Resolution" by Commissioner Greene and "Employee Safety" by Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen made the motion to approve the January 6th, 2025 Agenda. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**IV. Consent Agenda**

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

**Approved**

**MIN 25-1** December 16th, 2024 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [1-6-2025 December 16th, 2024 Minutes](#)

**APP 25-1** Reappointment to Ashe County Joint Community Advisory Committee

**Attachments:** [1-6-2025 Reappointment Request Joint Community Advisory Committee](#)

**V. Public Comment**

**VI. Presentations**

**PRES 25-2** 9:04 AM - Jennifer Richardson - 2025 Ashe County Volunteer Awards Ceremony

**Attachments:** [1-6-2025 Volunteer Awards Ceremony Documentation](#)

*Jennifer talked about how October was full of postponements and cancellations, Volunteer and needs hotlines were set up at Family Central, they attended new Christmas Tree Center at Upper Mountain Research Station, they worked with DSS & Partnership for Children to plan for Christmas, attended St Jude Family Fun Day event*

Bi-monthly CRC Meetings were held at the Agricultural office. She stated that they worked with Ashe County Childrens Christmas Project and worked with the Partnership for Children to coordinate the Tinsel Toys event sponsored by the Richard Petty Foundation. Volunteers unloaded three airplanes of items for children for Christmas, each child received two gifts, a bicycle, and a helmet and helped with the Sheriffs Office Christmas event. Jennifer also said that it's time to start planning for the Ashe County Volunteer Awards, Volunteer week is observed the week of April 20-26. This event is usually held around April 17th, but there are concerns about staff availability and individuals traveling. An alternate date is being discussed, possibly the first week in May. She stated that they usually receive 450 nominations, but last year around 750 were received. She discussed the possibility of a floating event on a Saturday in the courthouse parking lot. But the Board determined the event would be held May 1st at Ashe County High School, either in the gym or auditorium. Jennifer stated that she is going to send out invitations, get RSVPs back and then come back to the Board for a budget request.

**PRES 25-3** 9:10 AM - John Pence, Keep Ashe Beautiful - Clean River Proclamation

**Attachments:** [1-6-2025 Clean River Month Proclamation](#)

John Pence requested that the Board sign a resolution declaring August as "Clean River Month". Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adopt the Clean River Month Resolution. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. John highlighted that Keep Ashe Beautiful is planning several river cleanups. The Spring Sweep event is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th. John emphasized the need for many volunteers and a lot of time for these efforts. He noted that the resolution aims to raise awareness of the issues faced by the New River. Keep Ashe Beautiful is planning to construct and place kiosks along the New River during August. These kiosks will hold river cleanup bags for people to use while going down the river. People can take a bag from the kiosk and pick up trash as they travel down the river. This initiative aims to instill the mindset that every month should be "Clean River Month." Keep Ashe Beautiful will coordinate all activities, build and place bag stations/kiosks, acquire and refill bags, provide promotional information to stakeholders, assist with debris disposal, and remove bag stations at the end of August if the outfitters do not want them to remain. Vice Chairman Powers stated that the quote for waterway cleanup was \$115 million. The County is in discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding waterway cleanup efforts.

**Approved**

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

**PRES 25-4** 9:16 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - State and Local Cyber Security Grant Program (SLCGP) & Budget Amendment

**Attachments:** [1-6-2025 MOU SLCGP](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board the State and Local Cyber Security Grant Program (SLCGP) & Budget Amendment. He stated that this Cyber Security Grant will support IT in providing training, equipment and software to assist with on going cyber threats via email like phishing and other fraud. After some discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to accept the grant and approve the budget amendment for the grant. 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**

*Additions to the Agenda:*

*First Responder Resolution of Appreciation - Commissioner Wes Greene added to the agenda is a resolution of appreciation for our volunteer first responders. Fire and Rescue. First responders spent days and days at the fire stations in the days of and following Hurricane Helene. All in attendance spoke on their appreciation for all our first responders. Commissioner Greene read the Resolution aloud and after some discussion Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Employee Safety – Vice Chairman Jerry Powers - Jerry expressed concerns about employee safety, especially for convenience center attendants. The Board concurred, recognizing the importance of providing training to clarify expectations and determine appropriate moments to disengage. Emphasizing the priority of safety, Commissioner Greene pointed out that heightened incidents should be reported and assured that employees would be protected from any repercussions. In response, Human Resources will investigate conflict resolution training options to better equip employees in managing potential conflicts.*

**Approved**

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

**VII. Commissioner Comments**

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Executive Session**

**NOTE: Middle School Site Visit - Following today's meeting Commissioners are invited to accompany Adam Stumb, County Manager to the build site of the new middle school.**

*CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER*

**X. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn at 10:56 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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