

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 20, 2022

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 June 20, 2022 meeting of the Commissioners to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse with apologies for the 60 second delay.

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

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 22-21](#) June 6, 2022 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [06-20-22 June 6, 2022 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the June 6, 2022 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Jordan 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

Chairman McNeill stated that PRES 22-97 from the Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill – on the Warrensville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Survey & Release of Property needed to be stricken from the 6/20/2022 Agenda due to the survey not being complete. Chairman McNeill suggested the addition of Tom Bregger, Airport Advisory Board, whom was present in the courtroom, be added to that time slot with some recommendations from the Airport Advisory Board.

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion.

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for public comment. No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 22-89](#) 9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 County Budget

Attachments: [06-20-22 Public Hearing - FY2022-23 County Budget](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb shared his appreciation for the Boards hard work on this year's budget and extended that appreciation to all department heads as well. One unfinished item was then mentioned by the County Manager as to the incomplete appropriations for the Fire Departments & ARP money due to it not being addressed in the 2022-2023 Budget. He stated that the money was here and that the board could make those decisions during the 7/18/2022 BOC meeting.

Chairman McNeill opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 am and asked if there were any board members that had a comment on the proposed budget. He then also asked for public comments. Commissioner Powers then raised a concern about the addition of the Fire Department & ARP money appropriations that are going to be placed in the budget. At that time Chairman McNeill closed the floor for public comments and proceeded to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 County Budget at 9:07 am. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve budget needs to include:

Approving the FY2022/2023 budget ordinance for \$83,621,004:

Setting the ad valorem tax rate at: .51 cents (per \$100 of assessed value)

Setting fire tax rates (per \$100 of assessed value) as follows:
(All fire tax rates remaining the same)

Creston \$.060 (6 cents per 100); Fleetwood \$.040 (4 cents per 100); Glendale Springs \$.070 (7 cents per 100); Lansing \$.060 (6 cents per 100); Warrensville \$.120 (12 cents per 100); Jefferson \$.029 (2.9 cents per 100); New River \$.070 (7 cents per 100); West Jefferson \$.030 (3.0 cents per 100); Laurel Springs \$.070 (7 cents per 100); Pond Mountain \$.080 (8 cents per 100); Todd \$.080 (8 cents per 100); Deep Gap \$.040 (4 cents per 100)

SWDF (Solid Waste Disposal Fees:

Household - \$150.00 remaining the same
Commercial - \$ 62.00 remaining the same
Industrial - \$ 52.00 remaining the same
LCID - \$ 42.00 remaining the same

Commissioner Jordan 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 22-90 9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Economic Development Budget

Attachments: [06-20-22 Public Hearing - FY2022-23 Economic Development Budget](#)

Chairman McNeill asked County Manager Adam Stumb if he had any additional comments on the Economic Development Budget. His reply was no.

Chairman McNeill then opened the floor for public comment at 9:07 am regarding the Economic Development Budget. No comment was offered, and the public hearing was closed at 9:08 am.

Chairman McNeil at this time asked for a motion to approve the Economic Development

Expenditures as included in the Budget Ordinance for the Department of Economic Development in the General Fund and the Economic Development Reserve Fund. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the Economic Development Expenditures as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion was passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 22-91 9:15 AM - Finance Officer Sandra Long - Budget Amendments

Attachments: [06-20-22 Budget Amendments](#)

Finance Officer Sandy Long presented the following budget amendments for the Board's approval at 9:09 am.

Budget Amendments

June 20, 2022

General Fund:

To reduce the department of Corrections by \$55,000 from \$2,552,139 to \$2,497,139.

To increase the department of Law Enforcement from \$3,516,813 to \$3,571,813 with \$55,000 from the department of Corrections for fuel and operational expenditures.

To move \$1,571,000 in the department of Fund Transfers from the Capital Projects fund – Schools line item to the Capital Projects Fund – County line item.

To increase the department of Fund Transfers from \$4,181,723 to \$4,437,098 by increasing Article 40 Sales Tax revenues by \$100,000 and Article 42 Sales Tax revenues by \$155,375 to meet General Statute requirements.

Capital Projects Fund – County:

To increase appropriation for the Capital Projects Fund – County by \$1,571,000 from \$9,015,475 to \$10,586,475.

Capital Projects Fund – Schools:

To reduce the appropriation for the Capital Projects Fund – Schools by \$1,571,000 from \$5,994,851 to \$4,423,851.

To increase the appropriation for the Capital Projects Fund – Schools from \$4,423,851 to \$4,679,226; this increase to be made with a transfer of \$255,375 from the General Fund with Article 40 and Article 42 sales tax revenues as required.

Deeds of Trust Special Revenue Fund:

To increase the budgeted revenues and expenditures of the Deeds of Trust Special Revenue Fund from \$350,000 to \$370,000 with Register of Deeds revenues in the amount of \$20,000 for Deeds of Trust fees collected by the Register of Deeds office which are remitted to the NC Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. This fund is created for audit purposes as required in General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement #84 and/or #97.

Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion was passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 22-92 9:20 AM - Public Hearing - Land Usage, Chapter 151: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Amendments for Compliance with G.S. 160D

Attachments: [06-20-22 Public Hearing - Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Amendments](#)

Chairman McNeill opened Public Hearing – Land Usage, Chapter 151; Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Amendments for Compliance with G.S. 160 D. Chairman McNeill opened the floor for public comment at 9:28 am. No comment was offered. Chairman McNeill then closed the floor for public comment at 9:29 am.

A lengthy conversation was held and a decision was made to hold a work session in the future. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

No Action Taken

PRES 22-93 9:30 AM - Public Hearing - Proposed Ashe County Comprehensive Plan Amendments for G.S. 160D Compliance

Attachments: [06-20-22 Public Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Part 1](#)
[06-20-22 Public Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Part 2](#)
[06-20-22 Public Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Part 3](#)
[06-20-22 Public Hearing - Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Part 4](#)

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for Public Hearing – Proposed Ashe County Comprehensive Plan Amendments G.S. 1602 D compliance at 10:02 am. Planning Director Matthew Levi introduced Kyle Chase the Community Economic Development Planner from Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), NC Department of Commerce. Mr. Chase worked on the Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Board and with a lot of positive community input. There were 44 recommendations in total, and that the importance of doing this was to meet the General Statutes to update the previous adopted 160 D and the Land Usage Plan dated 1999. Commissioner Powers asked if the new plan was in the best interest of Ashe County citizens and Mr. Levi stated that yes it was. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the plan as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion.

Approved

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

PRES 22-94 9:40 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Report & Information on Infant Formula Shortage

Attachments: [06-20-22 DSS Monthly Departmental Report](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer began by thanking the Board for their support of the Elderly Abuse Awareness Event that had taken place the previous week. She then presented Departmental statistics for April 2022. She highlighted that the number of wards had went down with 53 children in custody and 23 in foster care. She then asked to present brochures to the Board that she was unable to attain ahead of time. She explained that these brochures are given to people that come into the DSS Offices and that they highlight other services available in the community such as food pantries & medical assistance. She also spoke about the Infant Formula Shortage and available resources

to help with that.

PRES
22-100

9:40 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - NC Department of Health & Human Svcs & Ashe County Memorandum of Understanding Approval

Attachments: [06-20-22 DHHS Memorandum of Understanding](#)

DSS Director Downer presented the Board with the Ashe County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Mandatory Measurements, Growth Measures, Adult Services, Child Welfare, Child Support, Food Nutrition, Energy Programs & the Work First Program at 9:20 am. Ms. Downer explained that this particular MOU is a 2-year MOU covering the 2022-23 fiscal year as well as the 2023-24 fiscal year. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the MOU. Commissioner Jordan 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 22-95

10:00 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [06-20-22 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for May 2022 at 9:14 am. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Powers 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 22-96

10:00 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Untimely Homestead Exclusion Application

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert requested that the Board approve the review of some untimely applications filed by the Elderly/Disabled & Disabled Veterans at 9:15 am. These delayed applications were in effect caused by the absence of the Veteran's Service Officer. Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion.

Approved

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

PRES 22-97

10:10 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Warrensville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Survey and Release of Property

The Warrensville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Survey & Release of Property to be discussed at a later date.

Tabled

PRES
22-110

10:15 AM - Tom Bregger, Airport Advisory Board Chair - Construction of a New Owner Occupied Hanger

Mr. Bregger proposed the construction of a new aircraft hanger at KGEV. The hanger is intended to be located in the northwest annex of the airport. As presented the hanger will comply with Ashe County building codes, FAA setback requirements, and the parameters established by the Advisory Board for new & rebuilt hangers. The hanger will be designed and constructed by experienced builders in line with a zip-code-based parameter set. The final plan will be evaluated for complete compliance when available. This hanger is intended to be used by an Airman's Medical Examiner to conduct pilot's physicals. The hanger is also intended to be used during some part of the year as an aircraft repair facility. The owner occupant also wishes to install a dedicated septic system as part of the lease. Final lease parameters remain open until the Health Department approves the installation and finalizes placement requirements. The owner would like to start construction this spring or early summer. Owner agrees to the standard lease agreement. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve 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
22-111**

10:15 AM - Tom Bregger, Airport Advisory Board Chair - Hanger Lease Process Change

Mr. Bregger asked on behalf of the Airport Advisory Board that the Airport Manager be authorized by the Board of Commissioners to execute leases at the airport that have been reviewed and approved by the Airport Advisory Board. Commissioner Jordan questioned the Board's authority on approving the request. County Manager Adam Stumb stated he would investigate the matter and the decision to postpone the discussion/approval on this request was made by the Board at that time and will be rescheduled and added to a future agenda.

Tabled

PRES 22-99

10:20 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - On Call Engineer Service

Attachments: [06-20-22 McGill Associates - Part 1](#)

[06-20-22 McGill Associates - Part 2](#)

[06-20-22 WithersRavenel - Part 1](#)

[06-20-22 WithersRavenel - Part 2](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented the two (2) proposals received from McGill Associates and WithersRavenel for the "On Call Engineer Services" contract. Mr. Stumb stated that Ashe County had previously worked with both companies and was pleased with each of their work. He also stated that the County had worked with McGill Associates on numerous occasions on numerous projects. He proposed to the Board remaining with McGill Associates due to the familiar and good working relationship with County Staff and their close proximity to Ashe County with their location being in Hickory, NC. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve McGill Associates as the On Call Engineer Services. Commissioner Powers 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 the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 am.

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.