

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, April 17, 2023

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

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

Chairman McNeill called the April 17th, 2023 Regular Session Meeting to order at 9:00 am in the small courtroom in the Ashe County Courthouse. Vice Chairman Olive was absent on this day for personal reasons.

Present: 4 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Mike Eldreth

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Chuck Olive

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the April 3rd, 2023 Minutes. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[MIN 23-9](#) April 3rd, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [4-17-23 April 3rd, 2023 Regular Session Minutes](#)

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Sands made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended with the following additions added to the end. Commissioner Powers added a discussion on some white pines on the Airport Property and also a discussion on transportation for combat veterans traveling to Washington, DC. Commissioner Eldreth asked to add a discussion on the Middle School. Chairman McNeill added a discussion on Senate Bill 692. The before mentioned items will be added to the end of this agenda after today's already scheduled items.

Adopted

V. Public Comment

VI. Presentations

[PRES 23-61](#) 9:05 AM - PUBLIC HEARING - Matthew Levi Planning Director - Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances, Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 157: RACETRACKS AND MOTORSPORT EVENTS, CHAPTER 164: SIGN CONTROL and CHAPTER 165 ELECTRONIC GAMING.

Attachments: [4-17-23 PUBLIC HEARING Notice](#)
[4-17-23 Chapter 157, 164 & 165](#)

At 9:06 AM Chairman McNeill called open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances, Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 157: RACETRACKS AND MOTOR SPORT EVENTS, CHAPTER 164: SIGN CONTROL and CHAPTER 165 ELECTRONIC GAMING. Seeing no movement from the citizens in attendance and no comments offered, at 9:07 AM Chairman McNeill closed the Public Hearing on Proposed Text Amendments to Ashe County Code of Ordinances, Title XV: Land Usage, CHAPTER 157: RACETRACKS AND MOTOR SPORT EVENTS, CHAPTER 164: SIGN CONTROL and CHAPTER 165 ELECTRONIC GAMING. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the amendments to the above ordinances. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved as Amended

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

PRES 23-62 9:07 AM - Tracie McMillan Director, Ashe County Department of Social Services - DSS Monthly Update.

Attachments: [4-17-23 DSS Statistics February 2023](#)

Tracie McMillan Director, Ashe County Department of Social Services presented to the Board the February DSS Monthly Update. This included statistics for Child Protective Services, Foster Care & Adoptions, Adult Services, Child Support Enforcement, Family Support Services, Medicaid etc...for the month of January 2023. No action necessary.
No Action Taken

PRES 23-63 9:10 AM - Lynn Blevins, Victim Advocate Partnership of Ashe - Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) / Proclamation Approval.

Attachments: [4-17-23 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation](#)

Lynn Blevins with Victim Advocate Partnership of Ashe presented to the Board Governor Roy Cooper's Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) 2023. Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to increase awareness and help address this widespread public health issue. More than half of women and nearly 1 in 3 men in the United States have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Lynn Blevins read aloud the proclamation in it's entirety. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
Approved

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

PRES 23-64 9:12 AM - Zack Shepherd, LCAS, LCMHC, Community Relations Regional Director Vaya Health - Vaya Update.

Attachments: [4-17-23 Vaya Update Presentation](#)

Zack Shepherd Community Relations Regional Director for Vaya Health presented to the

Board a Vaya Health Update. Zack spoke on Vaya's Mission, Health Plans, Benefit Plans as well as future Health & Benefit plans using a Powerpoint presentation. No action needed.

No Action Taken

PRES 23-65 9:15 AM - Jordan Sellers, Blue Ridge Conservancy - Paddy Mountain, Support of match \$90,000.

Jordan Sellers with Blue Ridge Conservancy presented to the Board a request for the county to commit to contributing \$90,000 towards Paddy Mountain Park project. This is in conjunction with the Town of West Jefferson agreeing to commit the same amount, they will meet tonight on approving their \$90,000 contribution. Jordan said that the total cost of the trail/park was \$680,000. They have applied for a Parks & Rec Trust Fund Grant totaling \$500,000. The contributions from the Town & the County will bridge the gap for the total cost of the project. More discussion was held on work to be done & what the money will be spent on such as parking signage, retaining walls, storm water retention, soil conservation & paving of the parking area with two handicap spaces. Contingent on the Town of West Jefferson approving their \$90,000 at their meeting tonight Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the \$90,000 contribution. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 23-66 9:18 AM - Don Church - Mount Jefferson Child Development Update

Don Church presented to the Board an update with the management & restructuring of the Mount Jefferson Child Development Center. He stated that fees were raised \$25 per month, new hours of operation went into effect April 3, 2023 now opening 7:00 am and closing at 5:30 pm. He said parents are signing contracts and also they are working on a salary schedule along with many other management improvements. Chairman McNeill requested that they return to the May 15th, 2023 Commissioner meeting and give the Board a budget presentation at that time. No action taken today.

No Action Taken

PRES 23-67 9: 22 AM - Sandra R. Long, Ashe County Finance Officer - ARP Internal Controls

Attachments: [4-17-23 Internal Control Policy](#)

Sandra R. Long, Ashe County Finance Officer presented to the Board the County of Ashe Internal Control Policies with the Expenditure of American Rescue Plan (ARP)/(CSLFRF) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 4-17-2023. The purpose of this policy is to document how County of Ashe Management has fulfilled its responsibility for implementing and maintaining a sound and comprehensive framework of internal control. Internal controls are vital for identifying and addressing major performance and management challenges and areas at greatest risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the Internal Control Policy as presented. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-68](#) 9:25 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - ARP Project Budget Amendment

Attachments: [4-17-23 ARP Grant Project Ordinance](#)

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board an ARP Project Budget Amendment.

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve ARP Project Budget Amendment.

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

Approved

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

[PRES 23-69](#) 9:27 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - Resolution for Mt Jefferson Road Restriping

Attachments: [4-17-23 Resolution in Support for Bicycle Lanes on Mount Jefferson Road](#)

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board a Resolution for the re-striping Mt Jefferson Road to a 3-lane cross section in order to allow room for the addition of bicycle lanes. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-70](#) 9:30 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - PARTF - Lansing letter of Support.

Attachments: [4-17-23 Lansing PARTF - Letter of Support](#)

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board a letter of support for the T supporting their application for a PARTF Grant. It is exciting to hear that the Town of Lansing is pursuing a NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for continued expansion of the Creeper Trail Park. This park is a facility that provides outdoor recreational opportunities for the people of not only Lansing and Ashe County but also visitors from across North Carolina and neighboring states. The success that the Town has had with the Creeper Trail Park is why the County of Ashe would like to support their application for a PARTF Grant. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-71](#) 9:33 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - Amendment to Parks and

Rec Plan for Paddy Mountain.

Attachments: [4-17-23 Ashe County Recreation Plan - Paddy Mountain Addendum](#)

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board an Addendum to Parks and Rec Plan for Paddy Mountain. The Town of West Jefferson is partnering with Ashe County and Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) to create Paddy Mountain Park. Paddy Mountain Park will be the first northern trailhead of the Northern Peaks State Trail (NPST). The Paddy Mountain Trails will eventually connect the NPST from Three Top Mountain to downtown West Jefferson, with plans to continue east towards Mount Jefferson State Natural Area. The Paddy Mountain Park will be the first of its kind for West Jefferson and will provide residents of West Jefferson an opportunity to connect with nature from downtown business and residential neighborhoods. This project will be a partnership between the Town of West Jefferson, Ashe County and BRC to provide accessible hiking trails in West Jefferson. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the Paddy Mountain addendum. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[ORD 23-1](#) 9:36 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - Solid Waste Ordinance.

Attachments: [Chapter 50 Solid Waste](#)

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board necessary changes made to the Solid Waste Ordinance. The ordinance changes go into effect July 1, 2023. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted on Second Reading

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

[PRES 23-72](#) 9:39 AM - Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager - Health Department Update.

Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager presented to the Board an update on the Ashe County Health Department. Asbestos removal is to begin the 2nd week of May 2023 and will more than likely be completed in that week. Plans for remodel are still being worked on. No action necessary.

No Action Taken**GENERAL SESSION****VII. Commissioner Comments****VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session**

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adjourn the April 17th 2023 Regular Session Meeting at 11:39 am. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

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.