

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, November 21, 2016

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Jeff Rose
Vice Chairman Gary Roark
Commissioner Brien Richardson
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner William Sands*

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

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 16-032](#) November 7, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [11-21-16 November 7, 2016 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to approve the November 7, 2016 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

V. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[16-109](#)

Tax Administrator Keith Little - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [11-21-16 Monthly Tax Report - October 2016](#)

Tax Administrator Keith Little submitted the monthly tax releases and refunds for October 2016 at \$127.62. Also presented were the Regular Billing Collection Report and the Motor Vehicles Collection Report through October 2016. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the October 2016 Release/Refund reports. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tax Administrator Keith Little also announced his retirement effective March 1, 2017.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

PRES
16-110

County Manager Sam Yearick - Beaver Creek Industrial Park Property
Acceptance of Bid

Attachments: [11-21-16 Beaver Creek Industrial Park Property - Acceptance of Bid](#)

County Manager Sam Yearick told the Board that Mt. Jefferson Properties LLC was the highest bidder at \$7500 on the 1.172 acre site in the Beaver Creek Industrial Park. The piece of property was advertised under the negotiated offer and upset bid process and no additional offers were received on the piece of property. The Board of Commissioners will need to vote to accept the bid and deed the property to Mt. Jefferson Properties LLC. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to accept the bid from Mt. Jefferson Properties LLC and to reserve the right after discussion by the Board, to make an amendment to the motion if needed. A PowerPoint presentation was then made showing pictures of a school street on the property. Commissioner Rhodes stated that it is difficult to determine if a street is there. In addition, cars are parked on the location of the street making it clear that it is not being used as a street. It will be the responsibility of the new property owner to contact the NC Department of Transportation with a request to close the road. With no further discussion, Commissioner Rhodes amended his motion to include that the County will assist the new property owner by sending a letter of recommendation to the NC Department of Transportation stating agreement that the road should be closed. Vice Chairman Roark seconded the amended motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

PRES
16-111

Airport Manager Eric Payne - Airport Update

Airport Manager Eric Payne updated the Board on the Airport Runway Overlay and Strengthening Project that was recently completed at the airport. He told the Board that Tri-County Paving was in charge of the project and they did an excellent job. Mr. Payne provided details on the project. The load-bearing capacity of the runway has been increased and will accommodate a medium-sized jet. GE Aviation aircraft will now be able to land at the airport instead of having to land in Wilkesboro. In addition, all older lighting at the airport has been replaced. Additional projects to be completed in the spring include grass seeding in various places and adding a coat of sealant on the apron. Mr. Payne explained that the project is funded through a 90/10 matching grant in which the federal government pays 90% of the cost of the project and the County pays 10% of the cost. The FAA will now update their 5010 Airport Master Record which will provide updated online information regarding improvements made at the airport.

VI. Public Comment

Chairman Rose opened the floor for comments from the public.

Sheriff James Williams announced his retirement effective December 31, 2016. General Statute requires the chief deputy to serve as sheriff upon a vacancy in the office of the sheriff. Chief Deputy Bucky Absher will assume the position of sheriff on December 31, 2016 until an appointment is made.

Pat Considine with the Protect Our Fresh Air Coalition thanked the Board for their dedication to protecting the health and welfare of county citizens. He is hopeful that new appointments for the Planning Board will be made before the commissioners' first meeting in December and that the new members will be thoughtful toward protecting the health and welfare of the community.

Lou Zeller with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League spoke regarding the Polluting Industries Ordinance. He stated that a model analysis the Environmental Defense League conducted for the site shows the the state's prediction of air pollution in the valley above the New River is flawed. Their analysis shows there was a lack of meteorological data to run a standard model for air quality. Mr. Zeller believes this makes the decision made by the Planning Board to be a mistake when they granted a variance for the asphalt plant in Glendale Springs.

No further comment was offered.

GENERAL SESSION**Other Items for Consideration**

MISC 16-029 Discussion Regarding County Ordinance Chapter 32: County Policies - Tobacco & Nicotine Vapor Use

Chairman Rose told the Board that after speaking with department heads, he believes that no changes should be made to Ordinance Chapter 32: County Policies - Tobacco & Nicotine Vapor Use. County Manager Sam Yearick stated that he met with department heads and the Personnel Committee and everyone agreed that no changes are needed to the policy at this time. The policy that addresses this issue covers a lot of situations and is a good policy. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to leave the Tobacco & Nicotine Vapor Use Policy unchanged. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

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

X. Adjournment

Chairman Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Roark

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Jeff Rose, Chairman

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board