

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Monday, June 17, 2019**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair William Sands  
Commissioner Larry Rhodes  
Commissioner Paula Perry  
Commissioner Larry Dix*

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

*Chairman McNeill called the Regular Meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

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

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

**III. Approval of Minutes****MIN 19-26      May 20, 2019 Regular Session Minutes**

**Attachments:** 06-17-19 May 20, 2019 Regular Session Minutes

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the May 20, 2019 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

**MIN 19-27      May 20, 2019 Executive Minutes**

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the May 20, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

*Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of a request for approval of a Blue Ridge Electric Membership Company Installation of Underground Service Agreement for the Fire Training Facility. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

**V. Public Comment**

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public.*

*Todd Carter, development director of the Hospitality House, thanked the Board for their continued support. The name of their organization has changed to Hospitality House of*

Northwest North Carolina to better reflect the seven counties they serve. Mr. Carter told the Board that they have been serving the area since 1995 and funds that the County appropriates to the Hospitality House are used to provide housing, case management, and counseling for homeless citizens.

No further comments were offered.

## VI. Presentations

PRES  
19-114

### 9:05 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: 06-17-19 Monthly Tax report

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the May 2019 Monthly Tax Report for approval by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the Tax Report as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-115

### 9:10 AM - Finance Director Sandra Long - Budget Amendments

Finance Director Sandra Long presented budget amendments for approval by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

#### BUDGET AMENDMENTS June 17, 2019

##### General Fund:

To increase the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,655,256 to \$2,670,026; this increased appropriation of \$14,770 to be made with Insurance Proceeds for repairs of vehicles (\$8,395) and revenues from the sale of surplus weapons (\$6,375).

##### Enterprise Fund:

To increase the Enterprise Fund budgeted expenditures from \$3,539,067 to \$3,571,617; this increase will be offset with revenues of \$32,550 from grant revenues for the single-stream recycling project.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-123

### 9:12 AM - Interim County Manager Adam Stumb - Blue Ridge Electric Membership Company Utility Easement for Fire Training Facility Approval

Attachments: 06-17-19 Fire Training Facility Utility Easement

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb presented a utility easement for Blue Ridge

*Electric Membership Corporation to install underground electrical service at the Fire Training Facility. He told the Board that G.S. 168-273 requires this to be approved by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the utility easement for the Fire Training Facility. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-116

**9:15 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed FY2019-20 County Budget**

**Attachments:** 06-17-19 Budget Notice

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public regarding the FY2019-2020 County Budget at 9:15 a.m. No comments were made and the public comment period was closed at 9:18 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve budget needs to include:*

*Approving the FY2019/2020 budget ordinance for \$52,481,646;*

*Setting the ad valorem tax rate at: 44.3 cents (per \$100 of assessed value, which remains unchanged from FY2018-2019. (The revenue neutral rate is .4443);*

*Setting fire tax rates (per \$100 of assessed value) as follows:  
(All fire tax rates remaining the same except for Warrentonville, New River, and Laurel Springs Fire Departments. All three have held their Public Hearings which were appropriately advertised.)*

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)
Warrentonville	\$.080	(8 cents per 100) (from 6.8 cents per 100)
Jefferson	\$.029	(2.9 cents per 100)
New River	\$.070	(7 cents per 100) (from 4 cents per 100)
West Jefferson	\$.017	(1.7 cents per 100)
Laurel Springs	\$.070	(7 cents per 100) (from 4 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	from \$130.00
Commercial	\$ 62.00	remaining the same
Industrial	\$ 52.00	remaining the same
LCID	\$ 42.00	remaining the same

*Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-117

9:20 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed FY2019-20 Economic Development Budget

**Attachments:** 06-17-19 Public Hearing Notice

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor at 9:20 a.m. for comments from the public regarding adoption of the proposed FY2019-2020 Economic Development Budget. No comment was offered and the chairman closed the public hearing at 9:21 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the FY2019-2020 Economic Development Budget as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-118

9:25 AM - Ashe County Middle School Site Coordinator Fawn Roark - Update on Communities in Schools of Northwest North Carolina

**Attachments:** 06-17-19 Communities in School

*Glendora Yarborough, executive director of Communities in Schools of Northwest North Carolina, provided a brief update of the program that started in Wilkesboro and has expanded to seven counties in the northwestern portion of North Carolina. Ashe County Middle School Site Coordinator Fawn Roark presented information on the program at the Middle School which began in Ashe County in 2017. The purpose of the program is to bring community involvement into the schools. Ms. Roark highlighted several projects at the Ashe County Middle School including a food pantry for students and a mentoring program that resulted from this program being in place.*

PRES  
19-119

9:35 AM - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen with Ashe Services for Aging - FY2018/19 H&CCBG Budget Revision Approval

**Attachments:** 06-17-19 HCCBG Budget Revision

*Patricia Calloway, executive director of Ashe Services for Aging, shared challenges faced and successes achieved during the past year at Ashe Services for Aging. Some of the challenges they are facing include a waiting list for In-Home Aide services, retention of employees, workforce recruitment, and marketing of services. Success stories include establishment of a reserve fund for building maintenance, purchase of a new roof for the building, repaving of the parking lot, and the receipt of two grants. Finance Officer Mary Owen explained the budget revision which is necessary due to the inability to hire CNA's. Funds were moved to congregate meals, adult day care and day health, and senior center operations. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2018-2019 H&CCBG Budget Revision as presented. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-120

9:40 AM - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen with Ashe Services for Aging -  
FY2019/20 H&CCBG Budget Approval

Attachments: 06-17-19 HCCBG FY2019-20 Budget

*Ashe Services for Aging Finance Officer Mary Owen presented the FY2019-2020 Home & Community Care Block Grant Budget. Funds were increased in the line items for Home Delivered Meals and Adult Services. Ms. Owen explained that one of the most significant changes this year includes changes to unit rates for individual services. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2019-2020 H&CCBG Budget as presented. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

PRES  
19-121

9:50 AM - Arts Council Board of Directors - Proclamation Honoring Jane  
Lonon, Retiring Executive Director of the Ashe County Arts Council

Attachments: 06-17-19 Proclamation-Jane Lonon

*Wesley Barker, representing the Arts Council Board of Directors, presented a proclamation honoring Jane Lonon, retiring executive director of the Ashe County Arts Council. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. A plaque of appreciation from the commissioners to Jane Lonon was presented by the Board.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

## GENERAL SESSION

### Other Items for Consideration

MISC 19-13 Announcement Setting New Meeting Schedule for the Board of  
Commissioners Beginning July 1, 2019

Attachments: 06-17-19 Resolution to Change Meeting Times

### VII. Commissioner Comments

### VIII. Announcements

### IX. Executive Session

### X. Adjournment

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,  
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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**Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCMCC**  
**Clerk to the Board**