

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes  
Commissioner William Sands  
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. Vice Chairman Rhodes participated via teleconference phone call. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No.121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting is broadcast live on the Ashe County website and is available to be viewed at any time after the live broadcast.*

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[MIN 20-14](#) May 4, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [05-18-20 May 4, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

*Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the May 4, 2020 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry 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****V. Public Comment**

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

*No comments were offered.*

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order No.121 that went into effect on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people, the following guidelines were set and advertised as required by the Open Meetings Law regarding the opportunity for citizens to make public comment at meetings of the Board of Commissioners. "The meeting will include a Public Comment session where the public may speak. A toll free number will be provided for anyone that wishes to make a public comment. The number to call is 888-788-0099. You will be asked to enter the following meeting ID number 898 8964 7062. When you are asked for a participant ID, press the # key on your phone. This will allow you to join the meeting. Another option is to make a public comment via email to the Clerk to the Board at [aclark@ashecountygov.com](mailto:aclark@ashecountygov.com). The comment will be read by the Chairman during the public comment session. The email will need to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on*

Friday, May 15, 2020."

## VI. Presentations

**PRES 20-71** 9:05 AM - Crystal Morphis, President of Creative Economic Development Consulting - Ashe Industrial Park Economic Impact Analysis

**Attachments:** [05-18-20 Industrial Park Economic Impact Analysis](#)

*Economic Development Director Cathy Barr introduced Crystal Morphis, president of Creative Economic Development Consulting. Ms. Morphis provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Ashe Industrial Park Economic Impact Analysis". The presentation provided a model of businesses possibly locating in the park and depicting the potential economic impact for Ashe County. The proposed industrial park includes 39 acres in the site plan with five building lots. Buildings could range from 22,000 square feet to 130,000 square feet. The building size is based on an average of 10,000 square feet per acre. The businesses proposed include those that are already in or a part of the supply chain in Ashe County. The one-time impact of construction activities is estimated to be \$21 million. Utilizing industry standards, the direct employment in the five proposed facilities in the business park would create approximately 322 jobs and Ashe County could see an additional \$48.9 million added to the economy. In addition to the economic impact for Ashe County, there will be increased local property taxes and new sales tax revenue.*

**PRES 20-72** 9:20 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - County MOU Agreements & Monthly Departmental Statistics

**Attachments:** [05-18-20 DSS County MOU Agreements](#)  
[05-18-20 DSS Monthly Statistics](#)

*Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer told the Board that the County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will be issued for an effective date of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This action will meet statutory requirements for the NCDHHS to enter into a written agreement with counties each year. In lieu of the MOU, a document will be issued setting current performance measures which are based on federal or state requirements and can affect funding received.*

*Next, DSS Director Tracie Downer presented departmental statistics for March 2020. She brought attention to the number of foster children and wards in the County.*

**PRES 20-76** 9:20 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - DSS Records & Retention Schedule Approval

**Attachments:** [05-18-20 DSS Records Retention & Disposition Schedule](#)

*Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve the County Social Services Agencies Records Retention and Disposition Schedule as provided for under G.S. 121 and 132. Commissioner 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 20-73** 9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report**Attachments:** [05-18-20 Monthly Tax Report](#)

*Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for April 2020. Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the April 2020 Tax Report as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

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

**PRES 20-74** 9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Budget Presentation FY2020-21 and Scheduling of Public Hearing for the FY2020-21 Budget

*County Manager Adam Stumb read the Budget Message for the FY2020/21 County Budget. Commissioner Dix made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing for the FY2020/21 Budget on June 15, 2020 at 9:05 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**PRES 20-75** 9:45 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - COVID-19 Update

*Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Ashe County. The report included the current number of coronavirus cases in Ashe County, where the cases have been found, and cases in surrounding counties.*

**PRES 20-77** 9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Wilkes Community College Financing Project Update**Attachments:** 05-18-20 WCC Financing Project

*County Manager Adam Stumb updated the Board on financing the Wilkes Community College construction project. He referred to a spreadsheet with financing proposals received from First National Bank and Sterling National Bank. The proposal from Sterling National Bank is more favorable. The total financing amount is \$13 million and will include a \$4 million balance which remains on the law enforcement center project.*

**PRES 20-78** 9:55 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding Information**Attachments:** 05-18-20 CARES Act Funding

*County Manager Adam Stumb provided information on the Coronavirus Relief Fund known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which became law on March 27, 2020. The Act provides \$150 billion to states for expenses related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, but does not include addressing lost revenues. North Carolina received over \$4 billion and Ashe County will be allocated \$692,602 of the funds. A plan must be submitted to the State on how the monies will be distributed by June 1, 2020. The State and the federal government both require reports to be filed on usage of the funds.*

**PRES 20-79** 10:00 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Parks & Recreation Spring Sports Update

**Attachments:** 05-18-20 Parks & Rec Special Credit Form

*County Manager Adam Stumb explained that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has been made that there is not a safe way to hold any of the spring sporting events. Both Watauga and Alleghany counties have made the decision to cancel their sports for the spring season. A Special Credit Form has been created that will allow registration fees to be redeemed toward any Ashe County Parks & Recreation program. In addition, anyone that requests a refund will be able to have their registration fees returned.*

## **GENERAL SESSION**

### **VII. Commissioner Comments**

### **VIII. Announcements**

### **IX. Executive Session**

### **X. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Sands made a motion adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

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

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.