

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, October 19, 2020

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

Chairperson Todd McNeill

Vice Chair Larry Rhodes

Commissioner William Sands

Commissioner Paula Perry

Commissioner Chuck Olive

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

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

Present: 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Commissioner Paula Perry, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands and Vice Chairman Larry Rhodes

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-31](#) October 5, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [October 5, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the October 5, 2020 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

IV. Adoption of Agenda

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

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public.

Judy Bare, representing the North Carolina Farm Bureau, told the Board that they are preparing bags for law enforcement officers containing items they can use while on the job. The bags represent a way to show support for law enforcement and to address needs in the community.

No further comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[20-158](#)

9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Report

Attachments: [10-19-20 DSS Monthly Departmental Report](#)
[10-19-20 DSS Energy Programs](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer reviewed departmental statistics for month ending August 2020. She told the Board that Child Protective Services now has 67 children in foster care which is an all time high for the agency. There has also been an increase in adult services cases. Child Support is on track in most areas. Next, Tracie Downer highlighted upcoming energy programs, the Crisis Intervention Program and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

[PRES](#)
[20-159](#)

9:15 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [10-19-20 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the Monthly Tax Report for September 2020. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

[PRES](#)
[20-160](#)

9:20 AM - Tax Mapping Supervisor Matthew Levi & Kent Rothrock with Highland Mapping - Mapping Address Project Update

Attachments: [10-19-20 Tax Mapping Address Project](#)

Tax Mapping Supervisor Matthew Levi and Kent Rothrock with Highland Mapping provided information on the Mapping Address Project. Matthew Levi provided information through a PowerPoint presentation. The Tax Mapping Department will provide the addressing information that will be used by emergency medical services, the Planning Department, the Building Inspections Department, the 911 Addressing Coordinator, 911 Dispatch, the Tax Administration Department, and the phone companies. Information accessed will be real-time, errors in data will be eliminated, and information will be accessible to the public. The project will also be used for transitioning from the current E911 system to the New Generation 911 system.

[PRES](#)
[20-161](#)

9:35 AM - Planning Director Wesley Barker - Approval of Text Amendments to Cell Tower Ordinance

Attachments: [10-19-20 Communications Tower Ordinance Revisions](#)

Planning Director Wesley Barker presented proposed amendments to text in the Cell Tower Ordinance that will make the ordinance easier to understand. The Planning Board reviewed the Cell Tower Ordinance and made recommendations to amend the ordinance. The planning director explained proposed revisions to text in the ordinance. He told the Board that there are 24 active cell towers in the County. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the amendments to the Cell Tower Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

PRES
20-162

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Coronavirus Relief Fund Update & County Plan Amendment

Attachments: [10-19-20 Coronavirus Relief Fund County Plan](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb updated the Board on federal funds received through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act) in the amount of \$1.2 million in two different allocations. He reviewed disbursement of the monies to organizations in the County. The county manager requested action to allocate \$30,000 of CARES Act funds to the Sharing Center on a reimbursement basis to continue distribution of food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the funding allocation of \$30,000 on a reimbursement basis to the Sharing Center. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

PRES
20-163

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Golden Leaf Grant Applications

Attachments: [10-19-20 Golden Leaf Grant](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented applications submitted for a Golden Leaf Grant. The total grant is \$11 million for the Northwest Prosperity Zone with \$1.5 million for up to four projects in Ashe County. The County received five applications totaling \$4 million. The applications are from the County for the Industrial Park expansion, the Lost Province Center for Cultural Arts, the Agricultural Center, Partnership for Ashe, and Ashe County Schools & Wilkes Community College. County Manager Adam Stumb explained that the County is submitting an application for the industrial park to provide water, sewer, and roads to the site. Next, David Norman addressed the Board regarding an application submitted for the Lost Province Center for Cultural Arts which will preserve and promote Appalachian Heritage arts, crafts, and skills. The Center will boost tourism and provide employment opportunities in our community. The grant's focus is to improve workforce employment for adult workers and create apprenticeships in the areas of culinary, music, and pottery. Judy Bare then presented information on the application for a new Agricultural Center that will be built in Ashe County. Work has been ongoing for this project the last several years. Agriculture is the largest business in the county and the facility can be used by 4H, Wilkes Community College, and Ashe County Schools. She explained that cattle has to be transported out of the county to be sold which is a hardship on cattle farmers. Kim Barnes was next to speak to the Board regarding the Partnership for Ashe application. She explained the childcare crises in Ashe County stating that childcare sites have dropped from 16 sites to only seven sites. There are 277 children under five years of age on a waiting list for childcare. The application is being made to provide funding for an addition to their building that will be used as a training center for early childhood education because there is limited space for training within the County. County Manager Adam Stumb provided information to the Board regarding the projects which have been ranked based on need, money on hand, and availability of other grants. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to submit the following four applications ranked on need: 1) Ashe Industrial Park, 2) Agricultural Center, 3) Partnership for Ashe, and 4) Ashe County Schools & Wilkes Community College. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Chairman McNeill voting in opposition.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

Against: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

PRES
20-164

10:10 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Soil and Water Conservation Shared Personnel Mutual Aid Agreement

Attachments: [10-19-20 Soil & Water Conservation Mutual Aid Agreement](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented the Soil and Water Conservation Shared Personnel Mutual Aid Agreement for approval by the Board. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

PRES
20-165

10:20 AM - Sheriff Howell - Request to Transfer Funds from the Asset Forfeiture Line Item to the Capital Outlay/Vehicles Line Item

Attachments: [10-19-20 Sheriff's Office Transfer of Funds Between Budget Line Items](#)

Sheriff Phil Howell made a request to move \$28,603.65 from the Asset Forfeiture line item to the Capital Outlay/Vehicles line item and to move \$4500 in the Asset forfeiture line item to the Equipment line item to outfit the vehicle. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to move the funds between line items in the Sheriff's Office budget as requested by Sheriff Howell. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
OCTOBER 19, 2020

To increase the appropriation for the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,902,833 to \$2,935,937; this increased appropriation of \$33,104 to be made with an appropriation of \$33,104 of Drug Funds & Forfeitures/Sheriff Revenues (Asset Forfeiture Funds) which are located in unencumbered General Fund – Fund Balance.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

APP 20-15

Appointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Attachments: [10-19-20 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Appointment](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to appoint Michael Lea to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to fulfill the term of Donnie Johnson. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

Other Items for Consideration**MISC 20-5** Approval of the 2021 Holiday Schedule for County Employees

Attachments: [10-19-20 County of Ashe Employee Holiday Schedule for 2021](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the 2021 Holiday Schedule for County employees. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****ES 20-9** G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues & G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss Personnel Issues and G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss Acquisition of Property. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:20 with no action taken.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill, Commissioner Sands and Vice Chairman Rhodes

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.