

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, December 21, 2020

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Chuck Olive
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

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

Chairman McNeill called the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Olive led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**MIN 20-41** December 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting - OLD BUSINESS

Attachments: [12-21-20 Dec. 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting OLD BUSINESS Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the December 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting Old Business and New Business Minutes as written. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

MIN 20-42 December 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting - NEW BUSINESS

Attachments: [12-21-20 Dec. 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting NEW BUSINESS Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the December 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting Old Business and New Business Minutes as written. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

IV. Adoption of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public. No comment was

offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[20-184](#)

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

Attachments: [12-21-20 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for November 2020. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES](#)
[20-185](#)

9:10 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

Attachments: [12-21-20 DSS Monthly Stats Report](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the monthly department update for October 2020. She reviewed departmental statistics, noting that two children were moved from foster into permanent care, reducing the number of Ashe children in foster care to 65. She also stated that adoption court proceedings are currently limited due to COVID-19. Director Downer highlighted Christmas projects benefiting children in foster care and senior adults. She also noted that people can apply over the phone, online, or in person for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds beginning January 4, 2021.

[PRES](#)
[20-186](#)

9:15 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Request to Purchase Dental Clinic Property

Attachments: [12-21-20 Request to Purchase Dental Clinic Property](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a request from a resident of property adjacent to the Ashe AppHealthCare Dental Clinic, asking to purchase a small portion of the County-owned property on which the clinic is located in order to expand their vegetable garden. County Manager Stumb noted that only a portion of the property farthest from the clinic would be considered, and he would ask the potential buyers to flag the area in question so it will be easily visible if any commissioners want to visit and view the site.

[PRES](#)
[20-187](#)

9:20 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Planning for Upcoming Work Session

Attachments: [12-21-20 Upcoming Work Session](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb offered three potential dates for a work session to prioritize the Board's goals for the upcoming year. Commissioner Powers made a motion to hold a work session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, with Monday, February 1, 2021 as an alternate date, if needed. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[RES 20-6](#) 9:25 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Resolution to Name a Section of Highway 221 in Honor of State Senator Steve Goss

Attachments: [12-21-20 Resolution to Name Section of Hwy 221 for State Senator Steve Goss](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a resolution to name a section of Highway 221 from Windy Hill Road south to the Ashe/Watauga line in honor of NC State Senator Steve Goss. Commissioner Powers noted that Senator Goss's brother owns property near the proposed section and requested that the section honoring Senator Goss be moved to include his brother's property. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the resolution with an amendment to the location, from Water Tank Road to the Ashe/Watauga line. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved as Amended

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

[APP 20-20](#) Long Term Care Joint Community Advisory Committee Reappointments

Attachments: [12-21-20 Long Term Care Committee Reappointments](#)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to reappoint Phyllis Ashley and Christine Haines to the Long Term Care Joint Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

[ES 20-11](#) G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Legal Issues Concerning United States of America v. Thomas Earl Tilley, et al.

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to discuss legal issues concerning United States of America v. Thomas Earl Tilley, et al. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:37 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 9:56 a.m. with the following action taken. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to authorize the

County to file an answer in the case of United States of America v. Thomas Earl Tilley, et al. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

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.