

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 15, 2021

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 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, 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 Chairman McNeill offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 21-11](#) March 1, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [3-15-21 March 1, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the March 1, 2021 Regular Session 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

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of a Department of Social Services budget amendment to PRES 21-36. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for public comment. No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 21-36](#) 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

Attachments: [3-15-21 DSS Monthly Stats Report.pdf](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer presented departmental statistics for January 2021. She highlighted that the 75 children in foster care marked an all-time high for the county. Ms. Downer also noted that open enrollment for NC Medicaid Managed Care began on March 15, 2021.

[PRES 21-46](#) 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendment

DSS Director Tracie Downer presented the following budget amendment for the Board's approval. Commissioner Olive made a motion to appropriate the LIEAP funds as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
March 15, 2021

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,671,571 to \$8,686,571; this increased appropriation of \$15,000 to be made with an additional allocation of \$15,000 from state Low-Income Energy Assistance Payment (LIEAP) funds.

Approved

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

[PRES 21-37](#) 9:10 AM - Dr. Lee Beckworth - Museum of Ashe County History Update

Dr. Lee Beckworth presented to the Board an update on the Museum of Ashe County History. He expressed gratitude for the Board's support of the museum and shared hopes for future capital improvement projects, including the restoration of the courtroom, that could be funded by additional financial support. Dr. Beckworth noted the historical significance of the courtroom and potential uses if restored.

[PRES 21-38](#) 9:20 AM - County Librarian Suzanne Moore - Ashe County Public Library Renovation Project

Attachments: [3-15-21 Library Renovation Project.pdf](#)

Ashe County Librarian Suzanne Moore shared with the Board plans to renovate the Library's community room space. She shared that the community room was not renovated when the rest of the Ashe County Public Library was redone, and she detailed several priority needs and additional cosmetic or functional improvements the library staff would like to see made with financial support from the County.

[PRES 21-39](#) 9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [3-15-21 Monthly Tax Report.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for February 2021. 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 21-40](#) 9:35 AM - Planning Director Wesley Barker and Code Enforcement Officer/E911 Address Coordinator Tim Winters - Proposed Ordinance Chapter 91 Text Updates

Attachments: [3-15-21 Proposed Ordinance Chp. 91 Updates.pdf](#)

Planning Director Wesley Barker and Code Enforcement Officer/E911 Address

Coordinator Tim Winters provided the Board with an update on E911 addressing. They shared that Mr. Winters has been conducting audits and has found over 900 locations that need to be adjusted. Mr. Barker explained recommended amendments to the 911 addressing ordinance Chapter 91. Commissioners Powers and Olive requested changes to the verbiage of section 91.116 before a vote will be taken at the April 5, 2021 regular session meeting.

No Action Taken

PRES 21-41 9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - County Property Addressing

Attachments: [3-15-21 County Property Addressing.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board that three County properties require additional streets to be named to be in compliance with Ordinance Chapter 91. The courthouse complex, Family Central, and Ashe Park each require two new street names. The Board requested that the County administration office gather suggestions from the public to be discussed at the April 5, 2021 regular session meeting.

No Action Taken

PRES 21-42 9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Discussion of Solid Waste Fee

Attachments: [3-15-21 Solid Waste Fee.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb, Tax Administrator Chris Lambert, and Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley were present for a discussion with the Board regarding making the County's solid waste fee more equitable to all users. One option discussed was a 0.064% tax assessed to each property based on property value (deferred value, when applicable). Chairman McNeill raised concerns regarding owners of large or multiple properties used for agriculture but not generating much solid waste. County Manager Stumb proposed making amendments to the solid waste ordinance to make the fee apply more equitably to more of the existing users.

No Action Taken

PRES 21-43 10:00 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Approval of Contractor for Hwy. 163 Convenience Center Site Construction

Attachments: [3-15-21 Hwy. 163 Convenience Site Bids.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board bids received for the construction of the Highway 163 convenience center site. He shared that the County received bids from PADCO Excavating, Shatley Investments, and Tri-County Paving, and that all three companies have successfully completed previous projects for the County. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the lowest bid, from PADCO for \$176,191.60.

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

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

MISC 21-4 Presentation of Employee Recognition Certificates

County Manager Adam Stumb expressed gratitude for the County's dedicated employees, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. He recognized by name employees who have worked for the County for 25, 20, 15, 10, and five years as of June 30, 2020.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

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