

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Monday, June 7, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**The Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce**

### **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 Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce**

*Chairman McNeill called the Regular Session of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at The Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce.*

**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 21-17](#) May 11, 2021 Special Meeting with the Ashe County Board of Education Minutes

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 May 11, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 Special Meeting with the Ashe County Board of Education 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 21-18](#) May 17, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 May 17, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the May 17, 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

[MIN 21-19](#) May 17, 2021 Executive Session Minutes

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Executive 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 as presented. Commissioner Olive 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 21-80](#)** 9:05 AM - Museum of Ashe County History Events Committee Chairman Gary Poe - Real Americans Celebration Invitation

*Museum of Ashe County History Events Committee Chairman Gary Poe shared with the Board information about a new feature exhibit at the Museum. The exhibit is about Native Americans and includes artifacts from numerous Ashe County collectors. Mr. Poe also presented the Board with formal invitations to the unveiling of the new exhibit at the Real Americans Celebration on Friday, June 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.*

**[PRES 21-81](#)** 9:10 AM - Diane Harless, Ashe Medication Assistance - Ashe Medication Assistance Program Overview

*Diane Harless with Ashe Medication Assistance provided the Board with an overview of the program. She shared that the organization helps Ashe County citizens who lack insurance or have Part D coverage gaps to get necessary medicine. Ms. Harless shared that from May 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021, Ashe Medication Assistance helped clients get \$2.5 million worth of medications such as insulin, heart medication, and blood thinners. Ashe Medication Assistance has been in operation for 22 years and is located at 225 Court Street in Jefferson.*

**[PRES 21-82](#)** 9:20 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Interlocal Agreement to Collect Jefferson Municipal Taxes

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 Tax Interlocal Agreement.pdf](#)

*Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented for the Board's approval an interlocal agreement between the County and the Town of Jefferson authorizing the County to bill and collect Jefferson municipal property taxes beginning July 2021. The Jefferson Board of Aldermen voted to approve the agreement. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented. 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

**[PRES 21-83](#)** 9:25 AM - Building Inspector Jonathan Stansberry - Building Inspections Fee Schedule Amendments

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 Building Inspections Fee Schedule Amendments.pdf](#)

*Building Inspector Jonathan Stansberry presented for the Board's approval an amended*

*Building Inspections fee schedule. The proposed changes were designed to alleviate additional labor and fuel costs from smaller permits that require multiple inspections. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the amended fee schedule as presented. 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

**PRES 21-84** 9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Facility Use Discussion

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 County Facility Grounds Use Policy.pdf](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb discussed with the Board the County's Facility Use Policy. He shared that a local organization had requested to use the government complex for a community concert, and he noted that the organization was one of the groups eligible under Item 4 on the policy, pending Board approval. County Manager Stumb also highlighted several conditions for use, including requirement of insurance and thorough cleaning, damage liability, and prohibited items.*

**PRES 21-85** 9:40 AM - Ashe County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kitty Honeycutt - Community Concert Approval

*Ashe County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kitty Honeycutt presented for the Board's approval a request to hold a community concert in the parking lots of the government complex on Friday, July 9, 2021. She discussed details about the performers but said that specifics could not be promoted until after June 19, 2021, in keeping with the band's contracts. Ms. Honeycutt said that the show will be family-friendly and free to the public. She also noted that the concert will be a chance to celebrate the resilience of the local community and will also have a notable economic impact due to the band's loyal following. The Chamber will sponsor and host the event with the support of corporate sponsors. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the request as presented. 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

**PRES 21-86** 9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - County Property Leases Due For Renewal

**Attachments:** [6-7-21 County Leases.pdf](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval several leases of County-owned property that are due for renewal on July 1, 2021. He noted one new tenant, Appalachian Senior Programs, which will be utilizing space formerly used by the Wilkes Community College Cosmetology Department at Family Central. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the leases 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 21-87** 10:00 AM - Town of Lansing Mayor Mack Powers - Town of Lansing

## Update & Park Information

*Town of Lansing Mayor Mack Powers shared with the Board several updates from Lansing. Among recent projects completed are the Highway 194 bridge as well as the striping and repair of the parking lot at the park. He also noted that the Town of Lansing is installing free Wi-Fi service in the park and that two new businesses plan to open soon. Mayor Powers requested maintenance support from the County, specifically regular hours from the County's contracted mowing company to assist with mowing and trail maintenance. After discussion by the Board, County Manager Adam Stumb offered to ask the mowing company to provide a quote for the work in Lansing and to provide the information when the contract is presented for approval.*

## GENERAL SESSION

### Other Items for Consideration

#### MISC 21-8      New Middle School Project Discussion

**Attachments:**    [6-7-21 Middle School Estimate & Financing Schedule.pdf](#)

*Ashe County Schools Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox requested the Board's approval to move forward with the new middle school at the proposed size of 164,771 square feet and estimated cost of \$61,361,823. County Manager Adam Stumb added that with the Board's approval, the County would need to begin holding financing meetings with the Local Government Commission. He also noted that while material prices are high, interest rates are low. Dr. Cox added that the school system had been awarded a \$15 million grant from the State that will be applied to the cost of the project. Commissioner Olive made a motion to commit to funding a new middle school in the amount of \$61,361,823. 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

#### MISC 21-9      Selection of Voting Delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference

**Attachments:**    [6-7-21 NCACC Conference Voting Delegate.pdf](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to appoint Chairman McNeill as Voting Delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference. 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

## VII. Commissioner Comments

## VIII. Announcements

## IX. Executive Session

**X. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 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.