

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

9:00 AM

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Jeff Rose
Vice Chairman Gary Roark
Commissioner Brien Richardson
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner William Sands*

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

Present: 5 - Chairperson Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Vice Chairman Gary Roark and Commissioner Brien Richardson

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 16-023](#) August 15, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-06-16 August 15, 2016 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the August 15, 2015 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of Volunteer Coordinator Dayna Price to present an update on the Volunteer Initiative Program. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

V. Presentations

PRES
16-077

Planning Director Adam Stumb - Presentation of Final Version of the High Impact Land Use Ordinance & Scheduling of a Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance

Attachments: [09-06-16 High Impact Land Use Ordinance Final Version](#)

Planning Director Adam Stumb introduced Planning Board Chair Gene Hafer who provided an explanation of the work that has taken place on the proposed High Impact Land Use Ordinance. Mr. Hafer told the Board that the Planning Board studied similar ordinances from other counties. He defined major sections of the ordinance and provided an understanding of setbacks in the proposed ordinance, along with changes made to the process for variance requests. Mr. Hafer explained the types of businesses that would be included in both Class 1 and Class 2 businesses. Planning Director Adam Stumb told the Board that a public hearing to gain citizen input regarding the proposed ordinance will need to be held at the October 3, 2016 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Rhodes stated that taking into account ordinances from surrounding counties, we need to make sure that setbacks are reasonable enough to allow a high impact industry to locate in the County, while still being able to protect surrounding property owners. He added that it is possible that a 2500 foot setback is too restrictive. In addition, we could possibly use one location in the County designated for high impact industries. Commissioner Rhodes would like to look at reducing the setback to 2000 feet if it is determined that 2500 feet is unreasonable. Commissioner Richardson believes a 1000 foot buffer from a high impact industry to the property line would be reasonable. Vice Chairman Roark would like to have each situation looked at individually and the commissioners given the authority to approve the request. Commissioner Sands agrees with Commissioner Richardson to incorporate two setback requirements; 1000 feet from the property line and 1500-2000 feet from the protected area. Vice Chairman Roark would like to study the idea of establishing several areas in the County on which to locate high impact industries. Commissioner Rhodes asked Mr. Hafer of the planning board's thinking on a minimum of 10 acres for a high impact site for polluting industries. Gene Hafer answered that some uses do not need 10 acres; some industries such as storage of medical waste only need a building, which is very different from what is needed for a quarry. Board members also discussed the variance process. Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to reduce the setback from protected sites to 2000 feet and 1000 feet from the property line. Also, wording for a variance will be presented prior to the public hearing. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Discussion was then entered into regarding Class 1 and Class 2 industries. Commissioner Rhodes believes that all industries should be grouped as Class 1 industries. County Attorney John Kilby told the Board that the proposed language for a variance will be presented to the Board prior to the next meeting. Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to hold a public hearing on October 3, 2016. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to list all businesses as Class 1 and remove reference to Class 2 businesses. Vice Chairman Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-078

Parks & Recreation Director Scott Turnmyre - Appropriation Request

Attachments: [09-06-16 Parks & Recreation Appropriation Request](#)

Parks and Recreation Director Scott Turnmyre told the Board that the Arts Council presented the Recreation Department with a check for \$500 in appreciation of assistance provided at the annual Fiddler's Convention held in August. Mr. Turnmyre is requesting that the commissioners approve the \$500 donation to be used to make improvements to the Russ Blevins Shelter venue located at Ashe County Park. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the request as presented. Vice Chairman Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS
September 6, 2016

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Parks and Recreation from \$639,503 to \$640,003; this increased appropriation to be made with an appropriation of \$500 from an unbudgeted donation revenue from Ashe County Arts Council.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-079

Craig Sullivan with Ashe Medics - Ambulance Contract Amendment

Attachments: [09-06-16 Ashe Medics Contract Amendment](#)

Craig Sullivan with Ashe Medics told the Board that he is here today to discuss adding four years to the six-year ambulance contract. At the August 15, 2016 meeting of the commissioners, Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to place a discussion on the September 6th agenda regarding amending the current contract between the County of Ashe and Ashe Medics from a 6-year contract to a 10-year contract. Chairman Rose made a motion to amend the ambulance contract to a 10-year contract. The floor was opened for comments from the Board. Commissioners Roark and Richardson spoke to the favorable comments from the public they have received regarding the service that Ashe Medics provides. Commissioner Sands stated concern for extending the contract to 10 years. He believes this will be binding to future boards and to Ashe Medics. The number of ambulance calls has increased in the past year, and there have been changes to Medicare and Medicaid. He would like for the contract to remain at 6 years for the protection of both the County and Ashe Medics, stating that extending the contract is not a good business decision. He further stated that competition is good and other companies need to be allowed to bid on the ambulance contract. Vice Chairman Roark stated that it will take at least 10 years for Ashe Medics to make a profit with all that has been invested. Commissioner Rhodes read the provision in the contract under "Terms" which allows the agreement to be renewed or renegotiated after the fourth year. He expressed concern in obligating the County to a 4% increase and for the length of time with this provision in the contract. Commissioner Sands told the Board that several ambulance service providers have closed their doors recently citing that they could no longer operate with healthcare regulations that are now in place. He believes there are too many uncertainties to extend the contract for an additional four years. With no further discussion, Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion on the floor. The motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Sands and Rhodes voting in opposition.

Approved

For: 3 - Chairperson Rose, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

Against: 2 - Commissioner Rhodes and Commissioner Sands

PRES
16-080

Volunteer Coordinator Dayna Price - Volunteer Initiative Program Update

Attachments: [09-06-16 Volunteer Initiative Program Update](#)

Volunteer Coordinator Dayna Price updated the Board on the Volunteer Initiative Program listing activities held this year and activities planned in the near future. Ms. Price highlighted the Volunteer Awards Ceremony held this past April. She told the Board that the number of volunteers recognized doubled over past years. Other activities include the annual Christmas in July event, and the annual School Supply Drive. Upcoming events include "Make a Difference Month" and the annual Canned Food Drive.

VI. Public Comment

Lou Zeller with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League praised the work of the Board of Commissioners regarding the High Impact Land Use Ordinance. He was not clear on changes adopted today to the proposed ordinance and looks forward to the Defense League having the opportunity to review the changes. He would like to see the variance process open to both applicants and affected residents. No further comment was made.

GENERAL SESSION**Resolutions**

[RES 16-014](#) Resolution Authorizing the Finance Officer to Execute an Installment Purchase Contract Modification

Attachments: [09-06-16 Resolution Authorizing the Finance Officer to Execute an Installment Purchase Contract Modification](#)

Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the finance officer to execute an installment purchase contract modification. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

Other Items for Consideration

[MISC 16-017](#) Adoption of 2017 Holiday Schedule

Attachments: [09-06-16 Holiday Schedule 2017](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule for County employees. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

[MISC 16-018](#) Reclassification of Positions at Sheriff's Office

Attachments: [09-06-16 Sheriff's Office Positions Reclassifications](#)

Sheriff Williams explained changes to positions he is requesting at the Sheriff's Office due to the retirement of Captain Carolyn Gentry. The changes will result in a savings of approximately \$61,300. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the reclassification of positions at the Sheriff's Office as recommended by Sheriff Williams. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Chairman Rose voting in opposition.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

Against: 1 - Chairperson Rose

MISC 16-019 Road Petition - Addition of Maplewood Drive to the State Maintained Road System

Attachments: [09-06-16 Road Petition - Addition of Maplewood Drive](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the road petition for the addition of Maplewood Drive to the state maintained road system. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Chairman Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

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.

Jeff Rose, Chairman

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board