

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, May 21, 2018**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairman William Sands  
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes  
Commissioner Jeff Rose  
Commissioner Paula Perry  
Commissioner Todd McNeill*

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

**Present:** 4 - Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Todd McNeill

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Jeff Rose

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

*Vice Chairman Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Sands offered the opening prayer.*

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[MIN 18-72](#) May 7, 2018 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 May 7, 2018 Regular Session Minutes](#)

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the May 7, 2018 Regular Session minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

[MIN 18-73](#) May 7, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the May 7, 2018 Executive Session minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

**V. Public Comment**

*Chairman Sands opened the floor for public comment.*

*Tracie McMillan Downer, director of DSS, read a proclamation from Governor Roy Cooper declaring May 2018 as Foster Care Month. The proclamation is an opportunity to recognize foster parents, child welfare professionals, and people that work to ensure the safety and well-being of children. The proclamation also encourages people to volunteer*

*on behalf of children in foster care, their biological families and their foster parents. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to add a proclamation to the agenda for the Ashe County Commissioners to adopt. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the Ashe County proclamation declaring May 2018 as Foster Care Month. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*No further comment was offered.*

## VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)  
[18-204](#)

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

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 Monthly Tax Report](#)

*Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for April 2018. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

[PRES](#)  
[18-205](#)

9:10 AM - Priscilla Norris, CPA - Approval of Audit Contract for FY2018-19

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 Audit Contract FY2018-19](#)

*Priscilla Norris, CPA, presented the FY2018-19 Audit Contract for approval by the Board. She explained that there is a change in the contract this year which is mandated by the State. The state auditor now requires a report on eligibility requirements for Medicaid. The cost of the separate agreement is \$4400 and the regular audit contract cost is \$38,600 bringing the total contract amount to \$43,000. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to to approve the FY2018-19 Audit Contract. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

[PRES](#)  
[18-206](#)

9:15 AM - Mount Jefferson Child Development Center - Request to Lease Space at Family Central

*Mount Jefferson Child Development Center (MJCDC) Board Chairman Don Church told the Board that he met with County Manager Yearick to negotiate a reduced rate to rent space at the Family Central facility. After discussion, an agreement was reached to rent 6,178 feet at a rate of \$7.32 per square foot as opposed to the regular rate of \$9.15 per square foot. In addition, County Manager Yearick agreed to waive the first month's rent because employees of MJCDC will be responsible for cleaning the space and so forth, so that County maintenance staff will not need to be involved with that. MJCDC will pay \$41,454 in rent for the next 12 months. Mr. Church told the Board that they would like to have a cheaper rental rate. Chairman Sands asked how the market rates for MJCDC compare with other daycare centers. MJCDC Director Becky Goss answered that market rates are set by the State and the center is paid a childcare subsidy through the*

Department of Social Services. Private pay parents that make \$80,000 or more pay the market rate and parents that make under that amount receive a scholarship to pay the amount that other centers charge which is \$495 - \$498 per month. Chairman Sands asked for a breakdown of the payment percentages. Ms. Goss answered that 65% of the children receive a subsidy, 25% receive a sliding scale subsidy, and the remaining balance is private pay. Chairman Sands stated that with an enrollment of 126 children that the annual income for MJCDC would be \$600,000-\$700,000 a year. Ms. Goss answered that there are 111 slots for children and some are children that attend part-time. She told the Board that MJCDC offers health insurance and retirement benefits for their employees. Chairman Sands would like for MJCDC to pay the agreed upon rate for six months and then increase the rate of rent to be fair to the other daycare centers. Vice Chairman Rhodes asked Mr. Church why MJCDC is in the situation of not having a building. They were supposed to be able to stay at their current location until their other building was completed. Mr. Church answered that the grant that Mr. Fowler received to renovate the Old Hospital called for the nurses quarters to be torn down in a certain amount of time. And the other building they were planning to use did not work out. Vice Chairman Rhodes stated concern with the Board being consistent with rental rates concerning the use of a county-owned building. Vice Chairman Rhodes is agreeable with MJCDC paying 80% of the normal rental rate for a year. Since they receive approximately \$666,000 a year for 111 children, he challenged them to come back before the Board in six months with an update on the property they are securing and the commissioners will negotiate the rental rate for the next six months. He understands that facilities need to be updated to meet State requirements and when MJCDC leaves, the commissioners can ask for removal of facility updates or leave them as is, all at the expense of MJCDC. Chairman Sands also requested at the six month update, for MJCDC to present the Board with a copy of their financial report. County Manager Sam Yearick stated that no one else is leasing that much space in the building which is how they came to the 20% reduced rental rate. Most other groups lease much smaller amounts of space. Chairman Sands asked how much space is left at Family Central. County Manager Yearick answered that there are possibly four office spaces. He also stated that county staff cannot clean the space due to time constraints for MJCDC to move into the facility. This will compensate for the first month's rent. Vice Chairman Rhodes then made a motion to allow County Attorney Kilby to write a contract for the County to lease 6178 feet at Family Central to MJCDC at a rate of \$7.32 per square foot for a total amount of \$41434.65 annually, to include a six-month review requirement in the contract, for the length of the contract to be one year, and that the rental rate will be re-negotiated. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

[PRES](#)  
[18-207](#)

9:25 AM - County Manager Sam Yearick - FY2018-19 Budget Presentation

County Manager Sam Yearick presented the proposed county budget for FY2018-19. Budget work sessions are scheduled for the week of June 4th. Public hearings for the county budget and the economic development budget will be held on June 18, 2018.

[PRES](#)  
[18-208](#)

9:35 AM - Diane Killen, Director of Ashe Developmental Day Care & Rebecca Rash, Assistant Director - Request for Funding

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 Ashe Developmental Day School Funding Request](#)

*Diane Killen, director of Ashe Developmental Day Care, and assistant director Rebecca Rash, made a request for an appropriation of \$10,000 funding to paint the building which is a county-owned facility. Ashe Developmental Day Care had several unexpected costs that has placed them in a bind financially. They recently had to purchase two heat pumps and a sterilizer for the kitchen which cost \$14,000. Due to sanitation requirements they will need to replace flooring in several classrooms and the kitchen and updates need to be made to the playground. The commissioners agreed to discuss the request during the budget work sessions that will take place in two weeks.*

**Continued**

## GENERAL SESSION

### Appointments

[APP 18-28](#) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board Member Appointment - Justin Manganeli

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 JCPC Board Appointment - Justin Manganeli](#)

*Commissioner McNeill made a motion to appoint Justin Manganeli to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council as a representative for law enforcement. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Appointment(s) Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

### Other Items for Consideration

[MISC 18-47](#) Road Petition - Hidden Valley Road Extension

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 Road Petition - Hidden Valley Road Extension](#)

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve a road petition to add Hidden Valley Road Extension to the state-maintained road system. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. The petition will be forwarded to the DOT office in Wilkesboro to begin their work, which includes research of property information and road investigation.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

### Proclamations

[PRO 18-6](#) Foster Care Month Proclamation

**Attachments:** [05-21-18 Foster Care Month Proclamation](#)

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the Foster Care Month proclamation as written. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**VII. Commissioner Comments****VIII. Announcements**

*County offices will be closed next Monday, May 28th, for Memorial Day. The convenience centers and the landfill will be open.*

**IX. Executive Session**[ES 18-24](#)**Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) - Personnel Issues**

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss Personnel Issues. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:02 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. with the following action being taken. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to place County Manager Sam Yearick on administrative leave with pay effective immediately. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 - 1 with Commissioner Perry voting in opposition.*

**Approved**

**For:** 3 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Commissioner McNeill

**Against:** 1 - Commissioner Perry

**X. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

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.