

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 20, 2019

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner Paula Perry
Commissioner Larry Dix*

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

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

Present: 5 - Commissioner Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Dix led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Perry offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 19-24](#) May 6, 2019 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [05-20-19 May 6, 2019 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve the May 6, 2019 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

[MIN 19-25](#) May 6, 2019 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve the May 6, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[19-104](#)

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

Attachments: [05-20-19 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for April 2019. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the April 2019 Tax Report as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Next, Mr. Lambert provided an update on surplus property available due to foreclosure on the property for non-payment of taxes. A bid in the amount of \$250 to purchase the property was submitted by Alan Briggs, president of the Homeowners Association in the development that the lot is located in. The property has been advertised and although numerous calls came in with questions regarding the property, no one placed an upset bid on the property.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

[PRES](#)
[19-105](#)

9:10 AM - Jane Lonon, Executive Director Ashe County Arts Council - Presentation of Ashe Arts Brochure

Jane Lonon, director of the Ashe County Arts Council, presented the new Ashe Arts brochure. The brochure showcases all of the various arts in Ashe County. Ms. Lonon spoke to all of the benefits that Arts provide to citizens in the County including tourism and economic development. The brochure will be used as a marketing tool to promote Ashe County. It was produced in conjunction with the Ashe County Economic Development Department and will be placed at the Chamber of Commerce, visitor centers, and welcome centers.

[PRES](#)
[19-106](#)

9:20 AM - Don Church - Request for Extension of Lease for Mount Jefferson Child Development Center

Don Church, board chair of Mount Jefferson Child Development Center (MJCDC), spoke to the Board about their current lease with the County for 6000 square feet of space at Family Central. A request was made to extend the lease for another year. An update was provided on the property purchased to build their new facility. Mr. Church told the Board that both the soil analysis and environmental review are complete. The civil and utility drawings are complete, and the architectural designs are almost finished. He explained that MJCDC is low on funding and they are working on grant applications. Once funding has been secured, they will be ready to set a timeline for the project. Before moving into Family Central, they were serving 120 children, now they are serving approximately 100 children. When MJCDC moves into their new facility, they will be able to serve 158 children. Commissioner Dix made a motion, citing the financial predicament of MJCDC and due to the fact that they are trying to raise money, to reduce the lease rate to \$6.32 per square foot. Commissioner Dix suggested that MJCDC could possibly extend a reduction in rates for County employees that take children to MJCDC. Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the commissioners and stated concern for reducing the rate due to the other tenants at Family Central and his belief that the County should be consistent with the rate that is charged for leasing space at Family Central. Commissioner Dix believes that the commissioners need to look at each situation separately, adding that MJCDC rents three times more space than other tenants. Chairman McNeill believes that the County would need a plan stating the amounts of space that would qualify for a reduction in rent. Commissioner Rhodes commented on the number of tenants that are non-profit organizations. The County used

to fund MJCDC and the County went out of the daycare business several years ago. He does not believe the commissioners can lower the rent in fairness to the other tenants. He added that the commissioners need to be consistent and are not helping other daycares in Ashe County. Commissioner Rhodes recommends extending the lease with MJCDC for one year at the current rate of \$7.32 per square foot. Vice Chairman Sands agrees, stating that the commissioners need to be consistent with everyone. Commissioner Perry agrees with leaving the rate unchanged, adding that after the commissioners reviewed a copy of the financial report for MJCDC, the rate was not increased to \$9.15 per square foot that the majority of tenants are charged. With no further discussion, Chairman McNeill called for a vote to the motion on the floor. The motion failed with no second being made. Commissioner Rhodes then made a motion to extend the lease for MJCDC for an additional 12 months at \$7.32 per square foot beginning on July 1, 2019 and running through June 30, 2020. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

[PRES
19-107](#)

9:30 AM - Interim County Manager Adam Stumb - Approval of Lease for Mount Jefferson Child Development Center

Attachments: [05-20-19 MJCDC Lease Approval](#)

This item was voted on at PRES 109-106.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

[PRES
19-108](#)

9:35 AM - Interim County Manager Adam Stumb - Budget Message FY 2019 - 2020

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb read the Budget Message for the FY2019/20 County Budget.

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

[MISC 19-10](#)

Adoption of the Ashe County Records Retention & Disposition Schedule

Attachments: [05-20-19 Records Retention & Disposition Schedule Approval](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule - General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies issued by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and Records dated March 1, 2019. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

MISC 19-11 Discussion Regarding Convenience Centers (Out of County/State Usage)

Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley spoke to the Board about problems with people from neighboring counties and states dumping trash at convenience center sites in Ashe County. He explained that implementing a sticker system would help to eliminate the problem. He has seen a large increase in trash although the number of citizens in the County remains consistent. Discussion between the commissioners included comments that this is not being directed at tourists visiting Ashe County, but rather the issue is with people from neighboring counties and states using Ashe County facilities. Mr. Hurley told the Board that the current cell in the landfill will last approximately six more years. To open another cell will cost approximately \$3 million. The commissioners agreed that implementing a sticker system would benefit Ashe County taxpayers. Vice Chairman Sands requested that signage be installed at the convenience centers stating that the sites are to be used by Ashe County citizens only. Commissioner Rhodes would like this added to the budget work sessions to discuss further.

MISC 19-12 Scheduling of Budget Work Sessions

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to schedule FY2019/20 budget work sessions to begin immediately following the June 3, 2019 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and to continue the meetings until finished beginning at 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to schedule the FY2019/20 County Budget public hearing and the Economic Development public hearing at 9:15 a.m. on June 17, 2019. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

Resolutions**RES 19-3** Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Property to Standardize Sheriff's Office Weapons

Attachments: [05-20-19 Resolution for Surplus Property \(2\)](#)

Sheriff Phil Howell presented two resolutions for the disposal of surplus property. The first resolution contains department issued weapons that are being changed from 45 millimeter weapons to 9 millimeter weapons which will standardize officer weapons at the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Howell explained that by trading in the department issued weapons and selling confiscated weapons, the cost to supply each officer with a new weapon has been reduced from \$17,140 to \$815 including ammunition. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution for the disposal of surplus property of department issued weapons. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

RES 19-4 Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Property

Attachments: [05-20-19 Resolution for Surplus Property](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution to declare confiscated weapons belonging to the Sheriff's Office as surplus property. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****[ES 19-10](#)** Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) - Acquisition of Property

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss acquisition of property.

Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:25 a.m., with no action taken.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,
Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

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.

Todd McNeill, Chairman

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

