

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, November 18, 2019**

**9:00 AM**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

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

**BUSINESS SESSION****I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order 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 19-56](#)**      October 7, 2019 Executive Session Minutes

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the October 7, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as written. 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

**[MIN 19-57](#)**      October 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 October 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the October 22, 2019 Special Session Minutes as written. 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

**[MIN 19-58](#)**      November 4, 2019 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 November 4, 2019 Regular Session Minutes](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the November 4, 2019 Regular Session Minutes as written. 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

**[MIN 19-59](#)**      November 4, 2019 Executive Session Minutes

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the November 4, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as written. 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

#### IV. Adoption of Agenda

*Commissioner Dix made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of approval of the In-Home Aide Policy for the Department of Social Services and the addition of an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and legal issues. 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 comments from the public. No comment was offered.*

#### VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)  
[19-200](#)

9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Alarm Systems Ordinance, Chapter 96, of the Ashe County Code of Ordinances

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 Public Hearing-Alarm Systems Ordinance](#)

*Interim County Manager Adam Stumb explained proposed changes to Chapter 96: Alarm Systems Ordinance of the Ashe County Code of Ordinances. The requirement that alarm systems be registered and permitted has been removed. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. No comment was offered from the public. Vice Chairman Sands then made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:08 a.m. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve changes to the ordinance as presented. 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

[PRES](#)  
[19-199](#)

9:10 AM - Regional Library Director Jane Blackburn - Appalachian Regional Library Annual Report

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 Appalachian Regional Library Update](#)

*Appalachian Regional Library Director Jane Blackburn provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Regional Library Annual Report which includes Ashe, Wilkes, and Watauga Counties. Ms. Blackburn highlighted their Five-Year Plan for 2015 - 2020, objectives met for FY2018-19, statistics of library users, programming, grants, events held at the three county libraries, the parking lot expansion at Ashe County Library, the FY2018-19 budget, and projects for FY2019-20.*

[PRES](#)  
[19-201](#)

9:20 AM - Ashe Services for Aging Executive Director Patricia Calloway - Update on Fund Raisers for Ashe Services for Aging

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 Ashe Services for Aging Fundraisers](#)

*Ashe Services for Aging Director Patricia Calloway introduced Lisa Osborne, In-Home Aide Program Director, who updated the Board on the annual Heating Assistance Program fundraiser to assist some of their more needy clients. Next, Patricia Calloway provided information on the annual Taste of the Mountains fundraiser used for the home delivered Meals on Wheels program and the Backpack program.*

**PRES**  
**19-202**

9:30 AM - George Santucci - New River Conservancy Update

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 New River Conservancy Update](#)

*New River Conservancy Director George Santucci presented a PowerPoint presentation updating the Board on the past twelve months work of the New River Conservancy. Information on the three river cleanups that are held each year, restoration projects, the water quality monitoring program, acquisition of and work on the the Elk Shoals property, the Mezey property donation, along with upcoming events.*

**PRES**  
**19-203**

9:40 AM - U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist Rick Farmer - Update and Resolution

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 Census 2020 Resolution](#)

*Census Bureau Specialist Rick Farmer provided a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board on the 2020 Census. There are seven census offices across North Carolina and Ashe County falls under the Winston Salem office. He explained the importance of having an accurate census which determines the number of seats we have in Congress. Each person counted is equivalent to \$2000 in federal taxes for local communities. Each county will need to set up a Complete Count Committee that will be made up of trusted voices in the community that will work to develop outreach plans. The new census will start in March 2020 although the official beginning date is April 1, 2020. A resolution supporting and partnering with the 2020 Census was presented for approval by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution. 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

**PRES**  
**19-204**

9:50 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell - Budget Amendments for Insurance Proceeds from (2) Wrecked Vehicles to be Added to the Law Enforcement Budget & Approval to Purchase (3) Used Vehicles Using Maintenance & Repair Vehicle Funds to Make Up Funding Difference

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 Sheriff's Office Budget Amendments](#)

*Sheriff Phil Howell made a request for the commissioners to approve monies from insurance proceeds from two wrecked vehicles to be placed into a budget line item to replace the vehicles. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to amend the budget to add the amounts from the insurance proceeds from the two totaled Sheriff's Office vehicle claims to the Law Enforcement budget line item Capital Outlay Vehicles and to transfer the difference from the other line items within the Law Enforcement budget for a total of \$48,000. After discussion by the Board, Commissioner Rhodes amended his motion to read as follows: To entertain a motion to amend the budget to add the amounts of the*

*insurance proceeds totaling \$52,903.68 from the two totaled Sheriff's Office vehicle claims to the Law Enforcement budget line item Capital Outlay. 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

**PRES**  
**19-205**

10:00 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Approval of In-Home Aide Policy

*Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer made a request for adoption of the In-Home Aide Services Policy which was previously adopted by the DSS Board. Because the Board of Commissioners now serve as the DSS Board, a request is being made for the Board of Commissioners to formally adopt the policy. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the DSS In-Home Aide Policy as presented. 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

## **GENERAL SESSION**

### **Proclamations**

**PRO 19-1**

Proclamation for America Recycles Day - November 15, 2019

**Attachments:** [11-18-19 America Recycles Day Proclamation](#)

*Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the proclamation designating November 15, 2019 as America Recycles Day. 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

### **VII. Commissioner Comments**

### **VIII. Announcements**

### **IX. Executive Session**

**ES 19-23**

G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues & G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Legal Issues (Appalachian Materials Lawsuit)

*Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) and to discuss legal issues regarding the Appalachian Materials lawsuit as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:40 am. with no action taken.*

**Approved**

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

## **X. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.*

*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

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.

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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