

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 4, 2020

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

Chairman McNeill called the May 4, 2020 meeting to order at the Ashe County Courthouse at 9:03 a.m. Vice Chairman Rhodes and County Manager Adam Stumb participated via teleconference phone call. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No.121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting is broadcast live on the Ashe County website and is available to be viewed at any time after the live broadcast.

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 Sands offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-13](#) April 20, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [05-04-20 April 20, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Perry made a motion to approve the April 20, 2020 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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Perry made a motion to adopt the agenda with no changes. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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.

Via phone call, Sherry Edwards of West Jefferson spoke to the Board regarding the current ban on short-term rentals requesting that the ban not be extended after May 8, 2020. She also asked the commissioners to send a resolution to Governor Roy Cooper requesting that counties be allowed to make their own decisions on reopening businesses. She referred to a resolution recently adopted by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. No further comments were offered via telephone.

Chairman McNeill read the following two public comments submitted via email.

Susan Carter of Jefferson told the Board that she received a letter from Governor Roy Cooper. Her business, which is a campground located in Crumpler, can continue to operate as long as specified guidelines are adhered to as stated in the letter from the governor.

Next, Chairman McNeill read a public comment submitted by Grace Dillon of Todd. She stated that there are one-million people living a nomadic lifestyle in campgrounds. These people are suffering due to COVID-19 and their needs should be considered carefully.

No further comments were offered.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order No.121 that went into effect on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people, the following guidelines were set and advertised as required by the Open Meetings Law regarding the opportunity for citizens to make public comment at meetings of the Board of Commissioners. "The meeting will include a Public Comment session where the public may speak. A toll free number will be provided for anyone that wishes to make a public comment. The number to call is 888-788-0099. You will be asked to enter the following meeting ID number 848 3837 3708. When you are asked for a participant ID, press the # key on your phone. This will allow you to join the meeting. Another option is to make a public comment via email to the Clerk to the Board at aclark@ashecountygov.com. The comment will be read by the Chairman during the public comment session. The email will need to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020."

VI. Presentations

[PRES 20-64](#) 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Request to Reclassify Position in DSS

Attachments: [05-04-20 DSS Position Reclassification](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer presented a request to reclassify a position in DSS due to the retirement of a department supervisor. An employee transferred into the vacated position. The request is to reclassify a Social Worker Supervisor/Social Worker III position to a Social Worker III position which will result in a reduction of \$635.75 per month in salary for this position. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the position reclassification as requested. Commissioner 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 20-66](#) 9:10 AM - Priscilla Norris, CPA - Audit Contract 06-30-20 Approval

Attachments: [05-04-20 Audit Contract 06-30-20](#)
[05-04-20 Audit Contract Letter 06-30-20](#)
[05-04-20 Audit Contract Letter LGERS 06-30-20](#)

Priscilla Norris, CPA, presented the County's Audit Contract for year ending June 30, 2020 for approval by the Board. She explained that the State has a new requirement for

auditors to examine employee census data and underlying payroll records. This will be a separate engagement from the audit and the fee for this is \$2,400. The regular audit fee is \$44,700 and includes an increase of \$1200 over last year due to additional Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the June 30, 2020 Audit as presented. 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

[PRES 20-67](#) 9:20 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb- Resolution Appointing Wesley Barker as Plat Review Officer

Attachments: [05-04-20 Resolution to Appoint Plat Review Officer-Wesley Barker](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a resolution appointing Planning Director Wesley Barker as Plat Review Officer. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution 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

[PRES 20-68](#) 9:25 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Short-term Rental Discussion

County Manager Adam Stumb stated that this agenda item is a point of discussion for the Board regarding the expiration of the short-term rental ban on Friday which will allow the rentals to reopen. The ban was put into place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. People will still need to practice social distancing and bring groceries with them. Most other counties in our region are moving in this direction. Chairman McNeill opened the floor for each commissioner to make comments.

[PRES 20-69](#) 9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Baldwin Convenience Center Site Maintenance Agreement

Attachments: [05-04-20 Baldwin Convenience Center Site Agreement](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb provided an explanation on a maintenance agreement that the Department of Transportation is asking the commissioners to approve. The agreement permits the County to utilize property owned by the Department of Transportation on which the Baldwin Convenience Center is located. The agreement will be in effect for as long as the County utilizes the property for a convenience center site. Commissioner Perry made a motion to approve the maintenance agreement as presented. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 20-70](#) 9:45 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Update on COVID-19 in Ashe County

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill provided an update on the COVID-19

pandemic in Ashe County. Her report included the current number of coronavirus cases in Ashe County and surrounding counties and also the number of tests that have been performed. Commissioner Sands asked Ms. Gambill to continue providing updates at each meeting of the Board.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 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