

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, June 1, 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 Regular Meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse. 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

Vice Chairman Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Perry offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-15](#) May 18, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [06-01-20 May 18, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the May 18, 2020 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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Dix made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sands 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 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 873 4539 8140. 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 29, 2020."

VI. Presentations

PRES 20-80 9:05 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - CARES Act Plan for Submission to the State

Attachments: [06-01-20 CARES Act County Plan](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Plan for approval by the Board before submission to the State. Funding for the Act comes from the federal government and Ashe County is scheduled to receive \$692,602. The County will distribute funding to towns, educational partners, health partners, and several other non-profits. The county manager explained the breakdown of funding distributions. There is a specific deadline for agencies to spend the funds for expenses related to the coronavirus. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the CARES Act Plan for Ashe County that will be submitted to the State. 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 20-81 9:10 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Mt. Jefferson Child Development Center Lease at Family Central

Attachments: [06-01-20 MJCDC Lease at Family Central](#)

Don Church, board chair for Mount Jefferson Child Development Center (MJCDC), spoke to the Board regarding the lease renewal for space at Family Central. The lease payments for March, April, and May were not paid to the County because there were only 22 children attending due to the COVID-19 Stay at Home Order issued by Governor Cooper. A request was made for the County to forgive lease payments for the three months. Vice Chairman Rhodes asked for an update on the status of construction for the new MJCDC facility. Ned Fowler, president of Northwest Housing Enterprises, stated that in 2018 the County allowed MJCDC to lease space at Family Central. All of the pre-construction items for the new property site have been completed. They are seeking \$1.5 million in funding for a \$2.2 million facility. Area business leaders will be approached to invest in the daycare center. An existing grant for \$800,000 has been extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Sands made a motion to table consideration of the request until the June 15, 2020 meeting of the Board. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Mr. Fowler added that the amount of funding that Northwest Housing Enterprises has paid toward MJCDC rent at Family Central is \$72,545.

Approved

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

[PRES 20-82](#) 9:15 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Jodi Province Lease at Family Central

Attachments: [06-01-20 Jodi Province Lease at Family Central](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented the lease renewal for Jodi Province Counseling Services at Family Central. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the lease 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 20-83](#) 9:20 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - COVID-19 Update

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill provided an update on COVID-19 in Ashe County. She told the Board that there have been 34 positive cases in the County with 16 cases still active, one person has died, and 19 residents are currently being monitored. She also addressed measures being taken to keep migrant workers safe in our community.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 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