

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Chuck Olive
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

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

Chairman McNeill called the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 21-5](#) January 4, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [1-19-21 January 4, 2021 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the January 4, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

IV. Adoption of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

[PRES 21-5](#) 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

Attachments: [1-19-21 DSS Monthly Stats Report](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the monthly departmental update for November 2020. She reviewed departmental statistics, noting the continued need for all services and that 63 children remain in foster care.

[PRES 21-6](#) 9:10 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendment

Attachments: [1-19-21 DSS Budget Amendment](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the following budget amendment for the Board's approval. Commissioner Powers made a motion to appropriate additional unbudgeted CPS APS COVID revenues as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
January 19, 2021

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,600,804 to \$8,621,571; this increased appropriation of \$20,767 to be made with additional unbudgeted CPS APS COVID revenues received in December 2020.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-7 9:15 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [1-19-21 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for December 2020. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the report as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-8 9:20 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell - Request for Reinstatement of Employee's Sick Leave

Attachments: [1-19-21 Sheriff - Employee Sick Leave Reinstatement](#)

Sheriff Phil Howell made a request for reinstatement of 201 hours of sick leave for Steven Marvel which will be consistent with County policy. Commissioner Powers made a motion to grant the reinstatement of sick leave as requested. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-9 9:25 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - COVID-19 Update

County Manager Adam Stumb updated the Board on federal funds received through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act) in the amount of \$1.2 million. He reviewed disbursement of the monies to organizations in the County from July through December 2020. He also noted that the deadline to spend any remaining monies was extended to the end of 2021, and he suggested that the County retain the approximately \$200,000 remaining until the extended response to the virus can be determined. County Manager Stumb addressed frequent questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and stated that vaccination would not be required for County employees but is strongly encouraged.

Commissioner Olive shared that AppHealthCare was trying to coordinate a vaccination drive to be held on Saturday, January 23, with details to be confirmed.

PRES 21-10 9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Attachments: [1-19-21 Emergency Paid Sick Leave](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval an extension to the County's Emergency Sick Leave policy valid through the end of June 2021. The extension grants County employees a maximum of 80 hours of sick leave with COVID-19-related conditions for use.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-11 9:40 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Amended Airport Hangar Lease

Attachments: [1-19-21 Amended Airport Hangar Lease](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented an amended airport hangar lease reflecting two changes from the January 4, 2021 meeting. Following discussion regarding early termination of the lease, Commissioner Olive suggested the addition of a clause that if the lessee ends the lease before the completion of its five-year term, the lessee will be responsible for the balance owed for the door repairs. County Manager Adam Stumb offered to have the county attorney amend the lease with the requested inclusion.

PRES 21-12 9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Century Link Easement to Courthouse

Attachments: [1-19-21 Century Link Easement](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval an easement allowing Century Link to provide a supplemental fiber line to the Clerk of Court's office. Chairman McNeill suggested the proposed line be moved south to the southeast corner of the property to reduce the likelihood that the line would need to be moved in the future. County Manager Stumb said he would provide Century Link with this request.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Other Items for Consideration

MISC 21-2 High Country Council of Governments Proposed Charter Amendments

Attachments: [1-19-21 HCCOG Updated Charter](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the High Country Council of Governments proposed Charter amendments. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

VIII. Commissioner Comments

IX. Announcements

X. Executive Session

XI. Adjournment

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m.
Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

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

Ashley G. Honeycutt
Clerk to the Board