

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, April 5, 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 Regular Session 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**

*Vice Chairman Sands led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.*

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[MIN 21-12](#) March 15, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 March 15, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the March 15, 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**

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

**Adopted**

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

**V. Public Comment**

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

**VI. Presentations**

[PRES 21-47](#) 9:05 AM - Partnership of Ashe Finance Director Tonya Roark, Early Childhood & Education Consultant Marilyn Agnew, and A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE) Advocate Anna Clawson - Presentation of April Awareness Declarations

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 Partnership of Ashe April Awareness Declarations.pdf](#)

*Partnership of Ashe Finance Director Tonya Roark shared with the Board information about Partnership's mission and programs, before reading a proclamation declaring April to be Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to adopt the*

proclamation as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE) Advocate Anna Clawson explained ASHE's dedication to survivors of sexual and domestic violence and noted that two-thirds of sexual assaults go unreported. Ms. Clawson read a proclamation declaring April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Early Childhood & Education Consultant Marilyn Agnew presented a proclamation declaring April 10-16, 2021, as the Week of the Young Child™ in Ashe County. Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Adopted**

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

**PRES 21-50** 9:15 AM - Planning Director Wesley Barker - Revised Ordinance Chapter 91 Amendments

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 Ordinance Chp. 91 Revised Amendments.pdf](#)

Planning Director Wesley Barker presented proposed amendments to Ordinance Chapter 91 with changes to section 91.116 as requested by the Board at the March 15, 2021 meeting. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the amendments to Ordinance Chapter 91 as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

**PRES 21-51** 9:20 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - County Property Addressing

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 County Property Addressing.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb reintroduced for discussion the need to name two streets at each of three County properties to be in compliance with Ordinance Chapter 91. County Manager Stumb noted that he issued an invitation on the radio for the public to provide suggestions but had not received many. He also shared ideas discussed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for potential names for two roads at Ashe Park. Commissioner Olive offered a suggestion to name a road by the Law Enforcement Center after George Lee Phillips, the only Ashe County law enforcement officer to have lost his life in the line of duty. Chairman McNeill requested that more suggestions be collected before another discussion and a vote at an upcoming meeting.

**PRES 21-52** 9:30 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Acceptance & Administrative Contract

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 CDBG-NRP Administrative Contract.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for acceptance a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$750,000. He explained that these funds are to provide housing repairs—from minor improvements up to full replacements—and that DSS and the Building Inspections department have compiled a list of potential recipients. County Manager Stumb also shared for the Board's approval an administrative contract for the High County Council of Governments to administer the grant. Commissioner Olive made a motion to accept the CDBG-NR grant

and approve the administrative contract 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 21-53](#) 9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Family Central Frontier Gas Line Easement

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 Family Central Frontier Gas Easement.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval an easement to provide a Frontier Natural Gas line to a neighborhood adjacent to Family Central. Commissioner Powers and Vice Chairman Sands raised concerns about the easement's prohibition of future paving. Commissioner Jordan recommended changes to the verbiage to grant reasonable consideration for the approval of future alterations. County Manager Stumb offered to discuss the changes with Frontier and provide an updated agreement for approval at a future meeting.

[PRES 21-49](#) 9:45 AM - Airport Advisory Board Member Richard Sherrill and Chairman Thomas Bregger - What Aviation Means To Our Economy & Ashe County Airport Economics

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 Airport Advisory Board Presentations.pdf](#)

Ashe County Airport Advisory Board Chairman Thomas Bregger presented to the Board a brief overview of the economics of the airport, based on statistics for income, expenses, and grant funds over the last ten years. Over that period, airport income totaled \$2.9 million dollars and expenses totaled \$2.8 million dollars, resulting in a net gain of almost \$100,000. Airport Advisory Board member Richard Sherrill shared with the Board "What Aviation Means To Our Economy." He explained that the economic impacts of airports are measure in terms of direct, indirect, and induced impacts, and that the economic impact of the Ashe County Airport is over \$54 million.

[PRES 21-48](#) 9:55 AM - AVCON, INC. Regional Manager James Moose - Ashe County Airport Partial Parallel Taxiway and Apron Expansion Contract Approval

**Attachments:** [4-5-21 AVCON Contract Approval.pdf](#)

AVCON, INC. Regional Manager James Moose discussed with the Board three bids received for the Ashe County Airport partial parallel taxiway and apron expansion project. He explained several irregularities within the bids but noted that waiving the irregularities would not change the bid price for the lowest or second-lowest bids. Commissioner Powers made a motion to waive all irregularities and award the contract to the lowest bid, which was from James R. Vannoy & Sons Construction for \$3,113,776.50. 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 21-54](#) 10:05 AM - AppHealthCare Director Jennifer Greene and Environmental Health Supervisor Andy Blethen - Environmental Health Permitting and Inspections Discussion

*AppHealthCare Director Jennifer Greene and Environmental Health Director Andy Blethen joined the Board for a discussion regarding Environmental Health permitting and inspections. Ms. Greene shared recent challenges faced by the Environmental Health department, including staff shortages related to COVID-19. She noted a 32% increase in the number of well, septic, and water protection compliance permit applications from 2019 to 2020. Mr. Blethen discussed the extensive time and training required prior to staff authorization. He also stated that improper site preparation causes the most significant slowdowns and can be avoided. He said that while wait times for permits average four to six weeks, numerous variables affect the wait times, and the department will continue to strive for increased efficiency.*

## GENERAL SESSION

### Other Items for Consideration

#### MISC 21-5      Reappointment of Tax Administrator

**Attachments:**    [4-5-21 Tax Administrator Reappointment.pdf](#)

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to reappoint Chris Lambert as Tax Administrator for a four-year term. 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

### VII. Commissioner Comments

### VIII. Announcements

### IX. Executive Session

### X. Adjournment

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. 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

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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**Ashley G. Honeycutt**  
**Clerk to the Board**