

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, June 21, 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.*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

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

**III. Approval of Minutes****[MIN 21-20](#)**

May 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes - AEV Tour with NC Labor Commissioner

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 May 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the May 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes as written. 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

**[MIN 21-21](#)**

June 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 June 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the June 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written. 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

**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

*Commissioner Jordan made a motion to adopt the agenda with two additions: a budget request regarding the disposal of fire form, and approval of the preparation of an application for a health clinic grant to benefit the new middle school. Commissioner Olive 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 21-88** 9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 County Budget**Attachments:** [6-21-21 County Budget Notice.pdf](#)

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public regarding the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 County Budget at 9:05 a.m. No comments were made, and the public comment period was closed at 9:06 a.m. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve budget needs to include:*

*Approving the FY2021/2022 budget ordinance for \$60,965,862:*

*Setting the ad valorem tax rate at: .51 cents (per \$100 of assessed value)*

*Setting fire tax rates (per \$100 of assessed value) as follows:  
(All fire tax rates remaining the same)*

<i>Creston</i>	<i>\$.060</i>	<i>(6 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Fleetwood</i>	<i>\$.040</i>	<i>(4 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Glendale Springs</i>	<i>\$.070</i>	<i>(7 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Lansing</i>	<i>\$.060</i>	<i>(6 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Warrensville</i>	<i>\$.080</i>	<i>(8 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Jefferson</i>	<i>\$.029</i>	<i>(2.9 cents per 100)</i>
<i>New River</i>	<i>\$.070</i>	<i>(7 cents per 100)</i>
<i>West Jefferson</i>	<i>\$.030</i>	<i>(3.0 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Laurel Springs</i>	<i>\$.070</i>	<i>(7 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Pond Mountain</i>	<i>\$.080</i>	<i>(8 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Todd</i>	<i>\$.080</i>	<i>(8 cents per 100)</i>
<i>Deep Gap</i>	<i>\$.040</i>	<i>(4 cents per 100)</i>

***SWDF (Solid Waste Disposal Fees)***

<i>Household</i>	<i>\$150.00 remaining the same</i>
<i>Commercial</i>	<i>\$ 62.00 remaining the same</i>
<i>Industrial</i>	<i>\$ 52.00 remaining the same</i>
<i>LCID</i>	<i>\$ 42.00 remaining the same</i>

*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 21-89** 9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Economic Development Budget**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Economic Development Budget Notice.pdf](#)

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor at 9:06 a.m. for comments from the public regarding adoption of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Economic Development Budget. No*

*comment was offered, and the chairman closed the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the FY2021-2022 Economic Development Budget as presented. Commissioner Olive 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 21-90](#)** 9:15 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 DSS Monthly Departmental Update.pdf](#)

*DSS Director Tracie Downer presented departmental statistics for April 2021. She highlighted that the numbers of children in foster care and adult wards had remained elevated, with 77 children in foster care. She also shared that there is a need for foster homes for teenagers. Commissioner Powers asked what programs were in place to put children in foster care back with their families. Ms. Downer said that returning children safely to their family homes is always the first objective, and all foster care staff work to achieve this goal.*

**[PRES 21-91](#)** 9:25 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Monthly Tax Report.pdf](#)

*Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for May 2021. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the report as presented. 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

**[PRES 21-92](#)** 9:30 AM - Economic Development Director Cathy Barr - Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Approval of a Financing Agreement

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Industrial Park Financing Resolution.pdf](#)

*Economic Development Director Cathy Barr presented for the Board's approval a resolution authorizing the filing of a financing agreement application for the development of the Ashe County Industrial Park. She shared that the financing would be for an amount up to \$1.36 million but that grants received would be applied to reduce the financed amount. Ms. Barr also added that she will know more of an exact cost once bids for the utilities are received. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. 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 21-93](#)** 9:35 AM - Cooperative Extension Director Travis Birdsell - High Country Commercial Kitchen Video

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Commercial Kitchen Video.pdf](#)

*Cooperative Extension Director Travis Birdsell provided the Board with an update on the High Country Commercial Kitchen. He explained that with increased size and quantity of wedding venues in and tourism to the area, our region has seen a heightened need for commercial food preparation and catering space. Mr. Birdsell also shared with the Board a video about the space, and he introduced Jill Cockerham, manager of the commercial kitchen. Ms. Cockerham noted that she is collaborating to create a new business guidebook for food and value-added product businesses. Ms. Cockerham and Mr. Birdsell said that they hope for the commercial kitchen to be an incubator kitchen that will allow new businesses and restaurants to develop and thrive.*

**PRES 21-94** 9:50 AM - Planning Director Wesley Barker - Appointment of Plat Review Officer**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Plat Review Officer Resolution.pdf](#)

*Planning Director Wesley Barker presented for the Board's approval a resolution updating the list of appointed plat review officers. He proposed that Angela Brooks be added as a new plat review officer, along with existing officers Tim Winters, Wesley Barker, and Adam Stumb. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. 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

**PRES 21-95** 9:55 AM - Planning Director Wesley Barker - Planning Department Fee Schedule Amendments**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Planning Department Fee Amendments.pdf](#)

*Planning Director Wesley Barker presented for the Board's approval a few amendments to the Planning Department fee schedule. The amendments came as a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Board and were in line with fees in neighboring counties. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the amended fee schedule 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 21-96** 10:00 AM - Finance Officer Sandra Long - Budget Amendments

*Finance Officer Sandra Long presented the following budget amendments for the Board's approval. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**  
**JUNE 21, 2021**

*General Fund:*

*To increase the appropriation for the department of Elections from \$352,425 to \$371,755; this increased appropriation to be made from \$19,330 in additional unappropriated State Board of Elections Grant Funds.*

*To increase the appropriation for the department of Economic Development from \$1,476,411 to \$1,487,327; this increased appropriation of \$10,916 to be made with additional unappropriated occupancy tax revenues.*

*To increase the appropriation for the department of Cultural Arts from \$385,000 to \$412,764; this increased appropriation of \$27,764 to be made with additional unappropriated occupancy tax revenues.*

*To increase the appropriation for Other Taxes – Revenues from \$6,976,350 to \$9,476,350 with \$2,500,000 in additional unappropriated sales tax revenues and to decrease the General Fund – fund balance budgeted appropriation from \$5,603,317 to \$3,103,317.*

*Deeds of Trust Special Revenue Fund:*

*To establish and budget the activity of a Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$294,000 for Deeds of Trust fees collected by the Register of Deeds office which are remitted to the NC Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. This fund is created for audit purposes as required in General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement #84 and/or statement #97.*

*Revenue Source:*

<i>Deeds of Trust Fees</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
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*Expenditures:*

<i>Remittance to State of NC</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
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*DSS Representative Payee Special Revenue Fund:*

*To establish and budget the activity of a Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$530,000 for DSS Representative Payee Funds which are received from DSS Payee Revenues and from Donations & Contributions and used to pay DSS Representative Payee Expenses. This fund is created for audit purposes as required in General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statement #84 and/or statement #97.*

*Revenue Sources:*

<i>DSS Representative Payee Revenues</i>	<i>\$527,000</i>
<i>Donations &amp; Contributions</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>Total Revenues:</i>	<i>\$530,000</i>

*Expenditures:*

<i>DSS Representative Payee Expenditures</i>	<i>\$530,000</i>
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**Approved**

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

[PRES  
21-102](#)

## 10:00 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Fire Foam Disposal Approval

*Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill discussed with the Board the need for professional disposal of potentially dangerous fire foam. She shared that fire departments across the county have a total of 88 five-gallon buckets and 182 additional gallons of the fire foam that need to be properly discarded. Ms. Gambill requested permission to use \$24,172.50 of her remaining departmental budget previously allocated to COVID-19 expenses for the disposal of this fire foam. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the request as presented. 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 21-97](#)

## 10:05 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Allocation of Unappropriated FY20-21 Occupancy Tax Revenues

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Occupancy Tax Allocation.pdf](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb shared for the Board's approval an allocation plan for unappropriated FY20-21 occupancy tax revenues, including \$120,000 to provide protective shields and helmets for the Ashe County Sheriff's Office law enforcement officers, and \$40,000 to be used for a New River public access area on Highway 163. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the allocations 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 21-98](#)

## 10:10 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - American Rescue Plan Grant Project Ordinance

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 ARP Grant Project Ordinance.pdf](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval a grant project ordinance for funds received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. He noted that a separate budget and account would be created for ARP funds, and that the County had already received \$2,641,932, or half of its total allocation. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the grant project ordinance 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 21-99](#)

## 10:15 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments.pdf](#)

*County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval several amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance. The proposed changes require stricter proof before any solid waste fee reductions or releases, eliminate discounts to solid waste fees for early*

payment, and offer a 50% reduction for elderly or disabled property owners. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the amendments as presented. 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

[PRES  
21-100](#)

10:25 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Discussion of Mowing Contract for County Facilities

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Mowing Contract.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb discussed with the Board the proposed mowing contract for County facilities for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. County Manager Stumb shared that the final cost of the contract is \$77,000, which was an increase over the previous year due to the contractor's increased workers compensation coverage. He also shared that he has been pleased with the company's performance over the last year and receives positive feedback about their work. The mowing contract was included as part of the County's FY21-22 Budget, which had been approved earlier in the meeting, and did not require any further action. The Board also discussed potentially adding some public areas in Lansing to the contract for an additional \$21,000, but decided to get more information about the Lansing portion and options to decrease the cost to the County.

[PRES  
21-101](#)

10:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Ashe County Sharing Center Long-Term Property Use Request

**Attachments:** [6-21-21 Sharing Center Property Use.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board a long-term property use request from the Ashe County Sharing Center, now called the Ashe Food Pantry. County Manager Stumb shared that the Ashe Food Pantry had requested to use County-owned property adjacent to the facility they rent from the County to serve as a garden for a minimum of ten years. The Board was agreeable to the notion, and County Manager Stumb offered to have County Attorney John Kilby draft a lease agreement for the Board's approval at a later date.

[PRES  
21-103](#)

10:40 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - AppHealthCare Grant Application

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board that AppHealthCare CEO/Health Director Jennifer Greene had identified a grant that could provide up to \$500,000 for the health clinic in the new middle school. He also noted that Ms. Greene would prepare the grant application with the Board's approval. Commissioner Powers made a motion to endorse the application by AppHealthCare as presented. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

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

## GENERAL SESSION

## VII. Commissioner Comments

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Executive Session**

**X. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.  
Commissioner Jordan 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**