

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING May 23, 2011

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 James “Burkie” Jennings
 Judy M. Moose
 Larry Yoder

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, May 23, 2011 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Robertson gave the invocation and Commissioner Yoder led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Jennings promoted a Memorial Day event scheduled for Sunday, May 29, 2011 at 3:00 PM at the Courthouse, sponsored by the local VFW, DAV, and American Legion organizations. All veterans, survivors and families of veterans, and the public are invited to attend.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 11-2 = BROWN

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented Rezoning Case 11-2 submitted by Barbara Brown who requested rezoning of property located at 7073 Millersville Road from RA-20 (Residential Agricultural) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for future commercial use. The size of the property tract is 1.7 acres and the current land use is a vacant commercial garage. Mr. Harris stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property is RA-20 to the north, east, and west, B-4 (Town Highway Business) to the south, and L-I (Light Industrial) to the east. Land uses within 100 feet of the property include single family residences to the north and east, singlewide manufactured homes to the west and east as well as US Highway 64, a convenience store, and automobile sales to the south.

He explained that the existing building on the property was constructed in 1982 and that a body shop was in operation there until 2007. The building consists of a 3-bay garage with office and bathroom facilities. He also noted that the property was served by a 4-inch public water line and individual septic system.

Mr. Harris advised that Section 154.140 of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance states that the RA-20 District is established to provide low-density residential and agricultural purposes including single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, individual manufactured homes, and related uses necessary for a sound neighborhood. Section 154.170 of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance states that the H-C District is to provide suitable locations for those commercial activities which serve primarily the traveling public, including those which function rather independently of each other.

The 2008 Comprehensive Plan shows this property as remaining residential in nature; however, the plan does show nearby areas being primarily industrial and adjacent properties are zoned for commercial uses. The 1995 Thoroughfare Plan makes no mention of improvements to Millersville Road or US Highway 64. The 2009 annual average traffic county for a nearby section of Millersville Road was 3,400 trips per day and 7,400 trips for US Highway 64.

Mr. Harris stated that letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary, a sign was posted on the property, and an advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*. Staff has not received any calls regarding this request.

He informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the request due to similar adjacent zoning districts. He also stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission met on May 5, 2011 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on the following supporting facts.

1. The property has been used for commercial purposes since prior to the adoption of countywide zoning.
2. Proximity of similar zoning districts.
3. The property's location makes it suitable for commercial use.

Mr. Harris advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth above and is reasonable in regards to the public interest.

Chairman Robertson called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being no comments made, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 11-2 based on the 3 supporting facts provided by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, presented a resolution to adopt a 6-mile fire district for all fire departments located in the county. He reported that current approved district boundaries, which had been drawn as a point to point on the map, were approved prior to the availability of GIS. Over the years, several fire districts have been extended from 4 to 5 miles and some of them have already been extended to 6 miles for insurance grading purposes.

He presented maps of each district while noting that approval of the resolution and the 6-mile districts would bring all fire departments into compliance during fire department inspections.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the resolution adopting a 6-mile fire district for all fire departments. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Greene also thanked all emergency service agencies that aided in the response and clean-up of last night's storm.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority – Appoint Rick French for 3 years.

Workforce Development Board – Reappoint David Icenhour for 2 years.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #48 - #49

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #48 and #49 as follows:

Budget Amendment #48 – To increase the Governing Body budget for health insurance claims. To increase the Recreation budget for the purchase of football equipment. To increase the Senior Center budget for money collected from cookbook ads to pay for cookbook printing costs.

Budget Amendment #49 – To budget for the purchase of a used garbage truck.

Commissioner Moose made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #48 - #49. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The paving project at Dusty Ridge should be finished by tonight or early tomorrow. Games can resume tomorrow night.
- B. Barbara Poole, Veterans Service Officer, will be retiring on August 1, 2011.

Chairman Robertson stated that Ms. Poole had done a great job and was an asset to this county. Commissioner Jennings agreed that she was very knowledgeable and her leaving would be a great loss to Alexander County.

- C. Advertising for the Veterans Service Officer and Library Director positions will begin after Memorial Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the May 9, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Proposal for surplus and purchase of a DARE golf cart replacement.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 PM and reconvene in a work session. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION May 23, 2011

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
James "Burkie" Jennings
Judy M. Moose
Larry Yoder

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a work session following adjournment of the regular meeting.

2011-2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the proposed 2011-2012 budget, which included the following items:

- The proposed 2011-2012 budget is \$29,382,456.
- There are no fee increases in any department and no additional employees.
- The school system will again receive an appropriation of \$5 million plus \$150,000 for the auditorium.
- The first debt service payment on the Detention / Law Enforcement Center is included and will total \$864,000. Other ongoing debt payments include the auditorium, Bethlehem water, CVCC, Ellendale, and other school projects.
- Major projects include the Church Road water lines, Rocky Face Park, and the Detention / Law Enforcement Center.
- State impacts – elimination of the Golden Leaf Foundation funds, meth lab cleanup costs transferred from the state to counties, counties must provide office space for public defenders, Library state funding was reduced by 15%, Veterans service state funding eliminated, the Pre-trial Release Program funding was eliminated, changes in lottery distributions, counties housing state misdemeanants is included in the House budget but the Senate budget includes funds to offset the costs.

- 4 new vehicles and radios are included for Sheriff's Department vehicles.
- Funding is set aside for a part-time attorney (30 hours per week and benefits).
- Approximately \$80,000 is appropriated for umpires, referees, etc. for the Recreation Department.
- Capital projects to consider are technology needs, imaging software for Finance and DSS, Economic Development, and Recreation.
- \$60,000 is budgeted for the PEG channel; however, grants are received throughout the year to offset that amount.
- \$280,000 has been included in the Garage budget for fuel.

Mr. French reviewed the expenses and revenues of each County funded department and briefly mentioned sales tax predictions for Articles 39, 40, and 46. He also reported that the County was expected to receive \$500,000 from the state for the Medicaid hold harmless.

Other items discussed were worker's compensation costs for the past year as well as part-time positions. Mr. French explained that retirement must be paid on a part-time employee after 1,000 hours are worked. He felt that more part-time employees may be needed to eliminate this problem.

Mr. French suggested a public hearing be held during the June 6, 2011 Commissioners' Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board