

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING October 3, 2016

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ryan Mayberry, Chairman (arrived at 7:05 PM)
Milton H. Campbell, Vice-Chairman
Josh Lail
Ronnie Reese
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, October 3, 2016 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Reese gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reese congratulated Captain Mike Harrison who was awarded the Advanced Service Award by the NC Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission on September 9, 2016 for 35 years of criminal justice service. Vice-Chairman Campbell echoed Commissioner Reese's comments.

Commissioner Lail mentioned the many services offered by the Alexander County Partnership for Children, noting that he had asked the Executive Director to attend a future Commissioners' Meeting to provide an overview of the organization.

Commissioner Yoder urged everyone to get their flu and pneumonia shots this season.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Campbell requested that Item #5 (Craftmaster Building Renovation Update) be moved up and heard as Agenda Item #2.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were heard:

Bud Caywood agreed with a reference made by Rev. Jeff Chapman at the September 12th Commissioners' Meeting to a Washington Post article stating that alcohol abuse costs the U.S. \$240 billion annually. He also provided the following statistics:

- The American Cancer Society reports that legal tobacco sales costs the U.S. \$133 billion in related health costs annually.
- The CDC reports that \$72 billion is spent each year in medical costs related to dependency on prescription drugs.
- The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health reported in a nationwide study that problem gambling costs the U.S. \$5 billion annually in social costs (including education lottery and scratch off).
- The National League of Cities, a partner to the U.S. Department of Health, reports that the estimated annual cost of health care for obesity related illnesses totals \$190.2 billion or 21% of annual medical spending in the U.S. Childhood obesity alone accounts for \$14 billion. If this trend continues, numbers will reach \$549 billion over the next two decades.

He asked if we wanted to ban 1) farmers from growing tobacco and the legal sale of tobacco, 2) pharmacies from selling legal prescription drugs, 3) the NC Education lottery, or 4) Big Macs, Happy Meals, soft drinks, and ice cream. He pointed out that the upcoming alcohol election was not about abuse but about making responsible choices and the economic gain of Alexander County.

Judy Caywood personally thanked Commissioner Yoder for his service as an Alexander County Commissioner for the past 12 years. She mentioned the numerous committees that Commissioner Yoder serves on, pointing out the many hours, nights, and weekends spent away from jobs and families necessary to serve as a member of the Board.

CRAFTMASTER BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reported that Alexander County was awarded a \$300,000 NC Department of Commerce grant in August 2016 to assist Craftmaster Furniture

with Phase 2 the Building Renovation Grant Project for Plant #4 on Highway 90. In return, Craftmaster must create 30 new jobs meeting a wage standard and providing at least 50% insurance and must spend at least \$600,000 in renovation and equipment costs.

Roy Beardon, Craftmaster Senior Vice-President of Manufacturing, explained that \$665,000 had already been spent to date of the \$1.3 million budgeted for the project that will result in a frame operation section of the facility. Painting and light fixture installation is currently underway and equipment should be delivered in the next few weeks. He advised that an initial 15 employees would be hired to begin operations in November and the remaining 15 will be added over time.

Mr. Icenhour also announced that Alexander County was now one of 19 Certified Workforce Ready Communities in NC and he thanked all involved in the process.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 16-5 – SHEW

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 16-5 submitted by Bobby Shew who requested rezoning of property located at 3185 NC Highway 16 North from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for a convenience store and mobile food truck. The size of the property tract is approximately one acre. Zoning within 100 feet of the property is RA-20 on all sides and land uses within 100 feet include residential on all sides along with commercial property to the south.

He reviewed staff comments related to size of the tract, compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan, benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owner / neighbors / and surrounding community, and the relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land and advised that the rezoning was consistent with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan which identified this area as being designated for commercial use, noting that changing the zoning of this property would be consistent with growth patterns in the area. He also explained that a convenience store had been operated on this property in the past; however, due to the number of years since its operation, rezoning was now required for re-opening.

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 a notice was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*.

Mr. Pilkenton informed the Board that, in addition to staff's recommendation of approval, the Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on September 1, 2016 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on the following:

1. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the future land use patterns in the County's 2008 Comprehensive Plan.
2. The proposed rezoning and potential use is consistent with the growth patterns in this area.

He advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth and is reasonable in regards to the public interest considering all uses within the requested zoning district, not merely the use of which the applicant proposes.

Vice-Chairman Campbell called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 16-5 based on staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommendations that the proposed rezoning is consistent with the future land use patterns in the County's 2008 Comprehensive Plan and the proposed rezoning and potential use is consistent with the growth patterns in the area. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ALEXANDER COUNTY DSS REPORT

Patricia Baker, DSS Director, gave a slide show presentation that included the following information:

- Mission of Alexander County Department of Social Services.
- History of social services in NC.
- Mandated services provided.
- Organization structure, number of employees, program staff (Administrative and Supportive Services, Economic Services, Child Support, Child Welfare, and Adult Services), and program facts.
- Federal, State, and County funding and operating expenses.
- Current issues – NC FAST, staffing, turnover, workload, policy changes, monitoring, and timeliness/accuracy requirements for all programs.
- Collaborative / Community Partners.

Members of the Board conveyed their appreciation to Ms. Baker and all DSS employees for their commitment to Alexander County citizens.

ROCKY FACE PARK UPDATE

Alisha Stamey, Rocky Face Park Ranger, gave a slide show update for Rocky Face Park that included the following information:

- 2016 Events – RockyFest, Vertical Mile Challenge, Vertical Mile Day, Rocky Face Marathon, Rock Climbing Festival, sunset hikes, and astronomy stargazing.

- Visitor sign-ins since May 25, 2012 total 74,978 (50,608 in-county and 24,370 out-of-county).
- Activities – 50% hiking, 23% walking, 12% picnicking, 7% rock climbing, 4% educational, 3% wildlife observation, 1% geocaching, and less than 1% camping.
- The Vertical Mile Challenge is a 2.2 mile loop. A vertical mile (5,280 feet in elevation) is reached when 8 loops are completed. The 5-Vertical Mile Challenge is 40 loops completed and the 10-Vertical Mile Challenge is 80 loops completed.

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Chairman Mayberry announced that he had received word that Governor McCrory had recommended both the Broadband Study Project and the Industrial Park Pump Station Replacement Project to the Appalachian Regional Commission as part of NC's Appalachian Investment Program.

RESCHEDULE NOVEMBER 7TH COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Vice-Chairman Campbell made a motion to rescheduled the November 7, 2016 Commissioners' Meeting to November 14th at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$382,182.44 had been collected in sales tax revenue through September 2016 (\$112,672.27 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 8.64% of the \$4,422,000 budgeted with 8.33% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 4.76%. He added that \$1 million of the \$4,422,000 accounted for the new sales tax and that \$400,000 of that amount was appropriated to the School System.

CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY

Rick French, County Manager, announced that the next Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 29, 2016. All Alexander County citizens will be allowed to dispose of their trash for free at the landfill and convenience sites from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

He explained that convenience sites will only accept bagged household trash. The landfill will not accept any liquid material, hazardous materials, or any material containing asbestos.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the Board reappoint him to the WPCOG Unifour Home Consortium for a two-year term.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the reappointment as presented. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #7 - #9

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #7 - #9 as follows:

Budget Amendment #7 – To increase the Health Department budget for 1) additional STD Prevention Funds, 2) Ebola Funds, and 3) Medicaid reimbursement funds carried forward from prior years (funds are to be spent in FY 2017 for only the Care Coordination for Children and Pregnancy Care Management Programs).

Budget Amendment #8 – To increase the Sheriff’s Office budget for September 2016 – June 2017 payments of the Law Enforcement Office Separation Allowance to an eligible officer who retired 9/1/16.

Budget Amendment #9 – To budget for costs to implement a PSAP Backup Plan as required by the State (the County was given a one-year extension and must complete the project by 7/1/17).

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #7 - #9. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Annual Apple Festival and Apple Festival 5K will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016.
- B. A least 3 informal bids for demolition of the old Dayton Chevrolet building and parking lot will be presented at the November Commissioners’ Meeting.
- C. A recommendation for an architect for renovation of the former Community One Bank building will also be given at the November Meeting.
- D. The bid opening for Rocky Face Park Phase 2 is scheduled for October 13th at 2:00 PM.

- E. The Bethlehem Branch Library will celebrate its 10th anniversary on October 23rd from 2:00-4:00 PM.
- F. The Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale is set for October 6th and 7th from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and October 8th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at 153 Industrial Boulevard.
- G. The first trail marathon will be held at Rocky Face Park on October 29th beginning at 8:00 AM.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$1,947.88) and Tax Refunds (\$726.44) for September 3-23, 2016.
- B. Minutes from the September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- C. Invoice for EMS Services
- D. Data Breach Policy.
- E. Surplus a 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier, VIN #1G1JC52F947284874 and a 1996 Ford Ranger, VIN #1FTCR10A8TUD69218.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:27 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ryan N. Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board