

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING August 16, 2010

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry G. Yoder, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Wes Bolick
 Harold M. Odom
 W. Darrell Robertson

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, August 16, 2010 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Bolick gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Robertson applauded Antioch Baptist Church's "Homeland" Program held this past Sunday to honor the veterans in the county. He noted that program was scheduled to be held again in November and he urged the public to attend.

Commissioner Odom mentioned the cruising in Alexander County the past two weekends, noting that many people had turned out for the event. Chairman Yoder pointed out that many of the local businesses and restaurants had benefited from the crowds which would also help the economy.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY SCHOOLS 2009-2010 UPDATE

Jack Hoke, Superintendent, reported that all Alexander County Schools had met Expected Growth for state testing results for 2009-2010 and that 7 of those schools had also met High Growth including both East and West Alexander Middle Schools as well as Ellendale, Stony Point, Sugar Loaf, Taylorsville, and Wittenburg Elementary Schools. In addition, Alexander Central High School, West Alexander Middle School, and Ellendale, Hiddenite, and Sugar Loaf Elementary were labeled Schools of Distinction. East Alexander Middle School, Stony Point, Taylorsville, and Wittenburg Elementary Schools were named Schools of Progress and Bethlehem Elementary School was named an Honors School of Excellence.

He also compared ABC/AYP results for Alexander, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell, and Wilkes Counties as well as the cities of Hickory, Newton-Conover, and Statesville, noting that Alexander County ranked 97th in the state for per pupil expenditures.

Mr. Hoke informed the Board that several new teachers had been hired, most of which were local, and he noted that no positions were cut in the 2010-2011 budget, which was approved at the 2004-2005 funding levels. He thanked the commissioners for refusing to cut the County's appropriation to the school systems as many other counties statewide had done.

Several members of the Board thanked Mr. Hoke and the Board of Education for the great working relationship as well as the teachers, students, and parents for impressive test scores.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 10-4 – WILBURN MCKINNEY

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 10-4 submitted by Wilburn McKinney who requested rezoning of property located at 24 Marina Drive from R-20 (Residential) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for storage and future uses associated with the marina. The size of the property tract is .920 acre and the current land use is a single family residence. Ms. Turnmire stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property was H-C to the north, south, and east, and R-20 to the north and west. Land uses within 100 feet of the property include vacant property and NCDOT right-of-way to the north, Lake Hickory and Lakeside Marina to the south, Lakeside Marina to the east, and a single family residence to the west.

Ms. Turnmire stated that tax records indicated that the residence located on the subject property was built in 1969.

She reported that Section 154.145 of the Zoning Ordinance states that the R-20 District is established to provide quiet, low-density living areas consisting of only single family and related uses necessary for sound neighborhoods. The regulations for this district are designed to

stabilize and encourage a healthful environment for family life in areas where public or community water or sewer facilities may be available. Section 154.170 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.

Ms. Turnmire pointed out that the 2008 Alexander County Comprehensive Plan showed the west side of this portion of Highway 127 as being primarily commercial in nature. The 1995 Alexander County Thoroughfare Plan mentions that the widening of Highway 127 from the Catawba County line to Highway 64/90 is an "identified future need;" however, this project is unfunded.

She 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 received one call from a Cyril Hammer who was opposed to the rezoning.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the request based on the following:

1. Proximity of similar zoning districts.
2. Consistency with the existing comprehensive plan.

The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on August 5, 2010 to consider the request and voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request and consistency with adopted plans based on the following supporting facts:

1. Proximity of similar zoning districts.
2. Consistency with the existing comprehensive plan.

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

Commissioner Robertson asked if the property owner was aware of the required screening buffers for H-C zoning. Ms. Turnmire replied that he was.

Chairman Yoder advised that he has spoken to Mr. Hammer regarding his concerns with the rezoning and that his issues had been resolved.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 10-4 due to the proximity of similar zoning districts and the consistency with the existing comprehensive plan. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

LICENSE PLATE AGENCY UPDATE

Luther Stocks, Tax Administrator, presented an update on the License Plate Agency which included the timeline from the closing of the original tag office in February to the scheduled opening of the new office on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.

He also discussed steps taken by the County to receive the contract to operate the tag office, renovation of the site, and progress with the Town of Taylorsville for additional ADA parking spaces.

Mr. Stocks stated that the office hours were currently scheduled for Monday through Friday 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM; however, he noted that the hours may possibly be adjusted if needed, such as remaining open until 5:30 PM. He explained that no Saturday hours would be possible because the help desk in Raleigh did not operate on weekends. He also noted that the tag office would follow the Alexander County holiday schedule.

He commended Guy Kerley and Doug Fox for their work in the effort.

RESOLUTION FOR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – WPCOG OWNED OFFICE FACILITY

Commissioner Robertson reported that the WPCOG wished to purchase property and construct a new building to serve as its office facility, noting that the WPCOG had rented space since its formation in 1968. Due to requirements set forth by the general statutes and the Local Government Commission, all members must approve an Inter-Local Agreement before the WPCOG may pursue further action.

Commissioner Robertson added that the WPCOG would be responsible for all expenses, which would not be passed onto local governments.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Inter-Local Agreement in approval of the WPCOG's efforts to purchase property and construct a facility. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MCGILL ASSOCIATES PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CHURCH ROAD "SOUTH" WATER LINE

Rick French, County Manager, presented a proposal for engineering services from McGill Associates for the Church Road "South" water line, explaining that this project needed to be designed and bid with the portion of Church Road being funded by the Rural Center grant. He added that the "south" portion consisted of 13,000 linear feet of 8-inch water line from the existing water main below Liledoun Road south to Friendship Church Road. Staff is working on obtaining grants to fund this portion of Church Road.

The proposal fee totaled \$28,800 which included design, permitting, and bidding/award phase services.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the proposal for engineering services submitted by McGill Associates for \$28,800 for the Church Road "South" project. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

REPORT ON UPCOMING HIDDENITE FESTIVAL ROAD RACE

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the annual Hiddenite Festival Road Race, which began 4 years ago with a half-marathon in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts. He noted that a 10K race was later added and that the number of participants for these races had increased each year. This year's races are scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010.

He pointed out that both the half-marathon and 10K courses were US Track and Field certified. All Alexander County residents receive a \$10 discount off the registration fee.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #9 - #10

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #9 - #10, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #9 – To decrease the Pre-Trial Release budget for a reduction in grant revenue from the Governor's Crime Commission. To increase the Human Resources budget for the 7/2/10 Colonial supplemental insurance premiums.

Budget Amendment #10 – To budget for state-mandated sentinel wells, EOS injections, and active methane wells at the landfill.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #9 - #10. 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 deadline to submit nomination forms for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards is August 27, 2010. Please contact Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board, for more information.
- B. The NCACC Legislative Goals process starts September 15, 2010 and will be extremely critical to counties.

- C. A work session is scheduled for Monday, August 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the County Administration downstairs conference room.
- D. The next County Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.
- E. The Board has been invited to attend a Voluntary Farmland Preservation Board Meeting on August 31, 2010 at 6:30 PM.
- F. The subsurface soil borings for the jail will be considered at a later date.

Commissioner Robertson asked if staff had received any further correspondence from Smart Circle International, who recently requested information related to solicitor's license requirements for door to door canvassing. He felt more information was needed about the organization before allowing them to do business in the county. Mr. French replied that no further information had been received.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for July \$2,149.40 and Tax Refunds for July \$1,588.49.
- B. Three-year extension of County Manager's Employment Agreement.

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

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 Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:54 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). Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board