

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING August 6, 2018

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman
 Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman
 Milton H. Campbell
 Ryan Mayberry
 Dr. Jeff Peal

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, August 6, 2018 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Reese called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Reese gave the invocation and Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

Commissioner Peal presented a Key to the County to Dennis Wahlers in recognition of his dedicated service as Alexander County Ranger for the NC Forestry Service. The Board congratulated Mr. Wahlers on his retirement and wished him well.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Reese encouraged the public to attend a draft horse pull on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the Taylorsville Lions Club Fairgrounds. Gates open at 4:00 PM and the event starts at 6:00 PM. Concessions will be available.

In addition, Chairman Reese also mentioned the need for fire department and rescue volunteers as did Commissioner Peal.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

BOREALIS COMPOUNDS PROJECT UPDATE

Jason Menendez, Borealis Operations Manager, reported that the company was currently installing equipment and making preparations for the October 20th start-up date with a job fair beginning tomorrow. He introduced Edward Turner, Maintenance Manager, and noted that Borealis, who strived to hire as many local residents as possible, had an excellent training program that allowed employees to grow with the company. In addition, Borealis has a phase two expansion planned that may be expedited depending on progress.

Mr. Menendez invited the Board to tour the facility at any time and noted that a ribbon cutting ceremony would be scheduled in the near future.

RESOLUTION FOR BETHLEHEM SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, advised that approval of this resolution was required by the NCDEQ to accept the State bond loan offer of \$5,181,300 for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project to install force main, gravity sewer, and pump stations in the Bethlehem community. The resolution also states that the County agrees to adhere to all assurances specified in the loan offer.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the resolution accepting the NCDEQ loan offer for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #4 - #6 & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE #P-3

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #4 - #6 as well as Project Budget Ordinance #P-3 as follows:

Budget Amendment #4 – To budget for the WPCOG contract to provide technical planning assistance for a Bethlehem Community Plan.

Budget Amendment #5 – To budget for the FY 2019 portion of the engineering contract for a sewer treatment facility preliminary feasibility analysis.

Budget Amendment #6 – To budget for a transfer of sales tax revenue from the General Fund directly to the Sewer Project Fund instead of passing it through the Bethlehem Sewer Fund first.

Project Budget Ordinance #P-3 – To budget for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project (\$5,181,300 NCDEQ loan and \$103,626 County loan fee).

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #4 - #6 as well as Project Budget Ordinance #P-3. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

WPCOG AGREEMENT FOR BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY PLAN

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, explained that, due to the expected growth in the Bethlehem community stemming from the widening of Highway 127, staff feels a Bethlehem Community Plan is needed to provide guidance and direction concerning the development of this area of the county. He reviewed the agreement with the WPCOG who would provide research, collection, and analysis of all data to assist in the drafting of the plan, and he mentioned that the County would need to appoint a steering committee at the September Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Peal questioned whether these services could be provided in-house by Planning & Development staff. Mr. Pilkenton replied that the WPCOG was highly skilled in this type of analysis and also had access to computer programming not available to County staff.

Commissioner Mayberry suggested the plan include costs of any capital projects recommended as well as available grants or loans to help with financing. In addition, he felt the committee should remain active after development of the plan to ensure specifics are carried out and to add priorities as needed.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the agreement with the WPCOG to develop a Bethlehem Community Plan. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$4,139,408.82 has been collected in sales tax revenue through July 2018 (\$1,327,074.20 is new sales tax for economic development, public

education, and community colleges). This amount 90.86% of the \$4,556,000 budgeted with 91.67% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 3.79%.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, advised that RFQ's for engineering services for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project were due by 2:00 PM tomorrow.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the July 16, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$23,800.79) and Tax Refunds (\$2,648.21) for July 1-27, 2018.
- C. Revised Home and Community Care Block Grant SFY 2018-2019.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:57 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board