

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING September 10, 2018

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman
 Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman
 Milton H. Campbell
 Ryan Mayberry (arrived at 6:39 PM)
 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, September 10, 2018 in the Administration Building downstairs conference room in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Campbell gave the invocation and Commissioner Peal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Lail attended a focus group meeting on August 30, 2018 sponsored by the WPCOG and the NCSOG for all cities, towns, and counties in the Unifour. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if local elected officials were being offered adequate educational opportunities.

Chairman Reese urged the public to begin making preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Florence and to stay safe.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 18-3 – BETHLEHEM FIRE & RESCUE, INC.

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 18-3 submitted by Bethlehem Community Fire & Rescue, Inc. who requested rezoning of property located at 235 Teague Town Road from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to N-B (Neighborhood Business) so that it can be sold to a potential buyer who plans to store equipment for a pressure washing business in the former fire department building. The size of the property tract is approximately a half acre. Zoning districts and land uses within 100 feet include RA-20 to the north, east, and west along with L-I (Light Industrial) to the south.

After reviewing staff comments related to the 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, Mr. Pilkenton advised that the rezoning was consistent with the adopted goals and policies of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan which identifies this area as being designated for commercial use.

Letters were sent by first class mail to 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*.

In addition to staff's recommendation for approval, the Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on August 3, 2018 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on the following:

1. The rezoning request is consistent with the future land use map in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and its adopted goals and policies.
2. The request will not negatively impact the surrounding properties with regards to residential development.

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.

After a motion by Vice-Chairman Lail, second by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimous vote, Chairman Reese called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being

none, Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 18-3 based on recommendations from staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission that the rezoning request is consistent with the future land use map, adopted goals, and policies in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and would not negatively affect the surrounding properties in regards to residential development. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ROTARY STAGE GROUNDBREAKING & MURAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, announced that on Friday, September 28, 2018 a groundbreaking would be held for the Rotary Club performance stage at the Alexander County Courthouse Park as well as a dedication ceremony for the new mural artwork on the Heafner Office Complex building. Activities begin at 5:00 PM and will include live music by Sarah Tucker, food vendors, and children's inflatables.

EARLY VOTING & BETHLEHEM 1 PRECINCT POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

Patrick Wike, Elections Director, advised that Session Laws 2018-112 and 2018-129 approved by the General Assembly this summer made several changes affecting early voting that includes:

- One extra day was added to the early voting time period.
- All one-stop sites must be open from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM on weekdays.
- If one site is open, all sites must be open on the same day.

A budget amendment will be presented later in the meeting for consideration to appropriate funds needed to implement the additional 275 hours mandated by the session laws. Mr. Wike mentioned that no county elections board was given advance notice of these mandates.

In addition, Mr. Wike reported that the Bethlehem 1 Precinct Election Day polling place had moved from Bethlehem Elementary School to Shiloh Lutheran Church located at 1011 Shiloh Church Road. All affected voters have received a voter registration card alerting them to this change.

Commissioner Campbell was interested in a voter turnout comparison for the extended timeframe. Mr. Wike stated that hourly volume could be captured to provide that information.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed updates to the Emergency Operations Plan, drafted in 1990 and last updated in 2004, which is a signed agreement between jurisdictions and partner agencies in Alexander County to coordinate the delivery of assistance and resources

during a major disaster or emergency. He advised that the updated plan was modeled after the national framework and included specifications for 15 emergency support functions such as transportation, communications, public works, mass care, etc.

Updates to the Emergency Management Ordinance to reflect new statutes were also reviewed. Mr. Greene explained that this ordinance outlined the abilities and responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners and other County staff members for the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or manmade disasters as well as hostile military or paramilitary action.

Draft versions of both documents can be viewed online under the Emergency Services/Emergency Management website and hard copies are available at both the Emergency Services and Administration Offices. Mr. Greene urged citizens and staff members to review them and provide suggestions before they are presented to the Board for consideration in October.

Other issues discussed included a visit from U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx today who presented Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant checks to Stony Point Fire Department (\$178,048 to replace air packs) and Bethlehem Community Fire & Rescue (\$100,534 to purchase hydraulic equipment for trucks). Mr. Greene also gave brief weather predications surrounding Hurricane Florence and advised that shelters would not be opened in advance but would be provided if needed. Citizens should go to their local fire department who will notify emergency staff when a shelter is necessary.

STONY POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CDBG-I SEWER PROJECT ENGINEERING

Rick French, County Manager, reported that 5 proposals had been received in response to the engineering services RFQ for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project that included Clayton Engineering & Design PLLC, Hulsey McCormick & Wallace, McGill Associates PA, West Consultants PLLC, and WithersRavenel. The committee formed to review the proposals has recommended the Board allow the County Manager to negotiate a contract with West Consultants who received the highest score of 86.5 based on criteria described in the RFQ.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to allow for contract negotiations with West Consultants PLLC for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the Alexander County School System had received a \$28,700 School Safety Grant from the NC Department of Public Instruction to provide one school resource officer for Hiddenite and Stony Point Elementary Schools for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. He reviewed specifics within the agreement and noted that the School System would provide a grant match of \$14,350

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the agreement between Alexander County and the Alexander County School System for a school resource officer. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSTITUTION & CITIZENSHIP DAY / CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring September 17, 2018 as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day as well as September 17-23, 2018 as Constitution Week. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following appointments and reappointments:

Council on Aging – Reappoint Chris Howes for 3 years.

Bethlehem Community Plan Committee – Appoint Bud Caywood, Ryan Mayberry, Ashley Starnes, Randy Bock, Steve Brown, Jim Price, Betty Long, Andi Jack, Susan Osborne, and John Dahlstrom.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #7 - #12

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #7 - #12 as follows:

Budget Amendment #7 – To increase the Board of Elections budget for changes to the one-stop early voting schedule due to recent statutory changes.

Budget Amendment #8 – To increase the EMS budget for the Medicaid Program reimbursement payments required by the NCDHHS.

Budget Amendment #9 – To adjust the Senior Center budget for estimated grant revenue keyed to an incorrect line item during the budget process.

Budget Amendment #10 – To increase the Public Building budget to hire an additional maintenance employee.

Budget Amendment #11 – To budget for the FY 2019 payment to the Alexander County School System to help cover the cost of the 21st Century Program at Taylorsville Elementary School for the 2018-2019 budget year.

Budget Amendment #12 – To increase the Sheriff’s Office budget to hire a school resource officer to serve two elementary schools for the 2018-2019 school year with funding from the Alexander County School System per agreement.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #7 - #12. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$4,530,736.79 has been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2017-2018 budget year (\$1,447,663.03 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 99.45% of the \$4,556,000 budgeted with 100% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 4.55%.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, mentioned several issues discussed at the NCACC Annual Conference held in Hickory on August 23-25, 2018 that included DSS MOU’s and performance measures, Medicaid transformation, legislative updates, and the new ability for cities and towns to appropriate property tax revenue to fund public schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Unseal January 19, 2010 – December 10, 2012 Closed Session Minutes.
- C. Tax Release Requests (\$11,018.66) and Tax Refunds (\$3,200.06) for July 28 – August 31, 2018.
- D. Surplus a 2002 Dodge van, VIN #2B7LB31Z52K122442 with 165,563 miles and a 1999 Chevy Cavalier, VIN #1G1JC5243X7108390 with 106,908 miles.

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)(5 & 6) CONTRACTUAL & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Peal made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:56 PM to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5 & 6). Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board