

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 5, 2018

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman
 Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 6:17 PM)
 Milton H. Campbell
 Ryan Mayberry

ABSENT: 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, November 5, 2018 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Reese called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Chairman Reese announced that Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, was the recipient of the Colonel Phillip Nichlos Waters Award for his outstanding achievement in the Alexander County Emergency Management Program as well as his contribution to the overall good and advancement of the North Carolina Emergency Management System.

Mr. Greene accepted the award on behalf of the County Commissioners, County Manager, department heads, County employees, emergency staff, and volunteers who make up a team charged with working together to benefit Alexander County citizens.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Mayberry urged everyone to exercise his or her right to vote tomorrow. He added that it had been a pleasure working with the outgoing commissioners during the past 4 years and thanked them for their service.

Vice-Chairman Lail mentioned the time commitments required to be an effective county commissioner and encouraged the public to be supportive of the new Board members once they take office. He conveyed his appreciation to staff members for their assistance and loyalty during his tenure.

Commissioner Campbell agreed that it was difficult to fulfill the many commitments while also working a full-time job but noted that he was proud of many projects accomplished during his term. He also mentioned that Alexander County had fantastic employees and wished the new members well.

Chairman Reese stated that it had been an honor to serve the citizens for the past 4 years and felt this Board had accomplished a lot of positive things by working together.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 18-5 – PARKHURST

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 18-5 submitted by Janet Parkhurst and Donna Parkhurst White who requested rezoning of two parcels located on NC Highway 127 North and Telephone Exchange Road from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to make the property more desirable for commercial development. The sizes of the property tracts are 2 acres and 2.42 acres. Zoning districts and land uses within 100 feet include RA-20 to the north, south, and west along with H-C to the south, east, and west.

He reported that the applicants had inquired about rezoning these parcels when the Board rezoned the Cecil Sigmon property to H-C in May 2017; however, staff was contacted too late to be included in that particular hearing.

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*.

The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on October 4, 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 commercial development.
3. The request would create a large area for potential commercial development along Highway 127.

After a motion by Vice-Chairman Lail, second by Commissioner Mayberry, and unanimous vote, Chairman Reese called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Chairman Reese 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 18-5 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, would not negatively affect the surrounding properties in regards to commercial development, and would create a large area for potential commercial development along Highway 127. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHRISTMAS PARADE REPORT

Dwaine Coley, Parade Coordinator, announced that the 72nd Annual Alexander County Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at 3:00 PM. This year's parade will feature 15 floats, 5 marching bands, and a variety of businesses, clubs, emergency personnel, and elected officials and Ben Hines has been chosen as the Grand Marshall. He also announced that the ACHS FFA would again be collecting canned/dry goods and cash/check donations along the parade route to supply local food pantries.

Late registration does not begin until November 19th and entry forms are available online at www.alexandercountync.gov/parade. The event will be broadcast live on WACB and the taped version will be shown on the Government Channel and the County's YouTube site.

NATIONAL HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Cindy Hathcock, My Safe Haven Executive Director, stated that My Safe Haven, a non-profit organization that assists victims of crime and traumatic events in NC, worked closely with a regional committee whose goal is to increase affordable housing and create safe and immediate options for the homeless in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and McDowell Counties. She explained that a local committee consisting of representatives from several County departments, the School System, court system, and non-profit organizations had determined that childhood homelessness was the biggest issue in Alexander County and she announced that a shelter would be opening here in early summer 2019 that would offer multiple programs to homeless families.

Jamie Jones, School System Social Worker, discussed the need for emergency and transitional housing in Alexander County, noting that the closest shelter was located in an adjoining county and did not allow men, causing families to split up and children to leave their friends and school. She reported that children who experience homelessness were more likely to have lower academic attainment, drop out of school, deal with behavioral and mental issues, and be involved in criminal activity and substance abuse. During the 2017-2018 school year, 74 children enrolled in the Alexander County School System were identified as being homeless and 46 have been identified since August. Ms. Jones explained that the new shelter coming to Alexander County would provide temporary housing, food, and safety to families as well as guidance to parents in an effort to equip them to live independently. In order to enter transitional housing from the emergency shelter, adults will be required to work through a series of programs such as budgeting, tenant training, employment training, basic housekeeping, cooking, etc. and case management will continue after they leave housing to ensure success.

Ms. Hathcock presented a proclamation declaring November 10-18, 2018 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Alexander County and requested approval.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Proclamation. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SALE OF WATER WITH ENERGYUNITED

Rod Watts, EnergyUnited Water Corporation General Manager, presented an agreement between Alexander County and EnergyUnited Water Corp. allowing either party to buy or sale water in emergency situations. EnergyUnited will install a short water line and meter vault on Millersville Road to connect to the County system and will pay for all construction and maintenance costs associated with the line. He added that this agreement provided a much-needed backup for both parties.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the agreement with EnergyUnited Water Corporation for the emergency sale of water. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

INDUSTRIAL SHELL BUILDING DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA RESOLUTION

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, discussed a proposal to move forward with a design-build process for the Industrial Shell Building Project that requires approval of written guidelines by way of a criteria resolution, which has been reviewed by both Norma Houston with the NC School of Government and the County Attorney. He felt the design-build process was beneficial to this project due to the minimal design features involved as well as already having a defined budget in place and, in addition, it shortens the timeframe to construction. If approved tonight, staff will post RFQ guidelines tomorrow with a submission deadline of December 4th in hopes of naming a design company in early January 2019.

Vice-Chairman Lail and Commissioner Mayberry both expressed concerns with the design-build process. Commissioner Mayberry stated that he had many questions and did not feel comfortable voting until they were answered. Commissioner Campbell added that he was a proponent of the bid process. After discussion, the Board agreed to remove consideration of the design-build criteria resolution and move forward with a traditional bid process approach.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to allow County staff to move forward with the process to select an architect to design the new shell building in the Industrial Park. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADDICTION CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, gave a slide show presentation related to addiction, substance abuse, and overdose statistics that included the following information:

- Alexander County's rate for unintentional medication and drugs deaths per 100,000 persons from 2012-2016 was 18.3 compared to 12.1 for the region and 12.2 for the entire state.
- Alexander County's rate for newborn hospitalizations associated with drug withdrawal syndrome per 1,000 live births was 21.4 compared to 6.7 for the region and 9.0 for the state.
- Estimated lifetime costs for medical and work loss from medication and drug fatalities for 2016 totaled \$9,965,702 or a per capita cost of \$266.26
- The rate of outpatient opioid pills dispensed per NC resident in 2016 totaled 98.4 in Alexander County compared to 58.9 for the region and 66.5 for the state.
- Addiction Recovery Medical Services has served over 200 patients since opening 1 ½ years ago. Alexander County's rate of substance abuse and mental health related visits to emergency departments was 2,033.2 per 100,000 compared to 1,697.8 for the state.

- DSS costs for drug screens (only supplies and testing, does not include employee costs) from 2008-2018 totaled \$315,574.86 and 911 Communications received 1,913 overdose calls during that time. Alexander County EMS administered 109 doses of Narcan in 2017.

Ms. Whisnant advised that the Commissioner’s Task Force appointed several years ago had been revamped to investigate and address this growing trend. In addition to educating the public, several take back campaigns are planned and staff is continually applying for grant funding.

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM PROCLAMATION

After a reading by Vice-Chairman Lail, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring December 1-31, 2018 as Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF 2019 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING SCHEDULE

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2019 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as follows:

January 7, 2019	June 17, 2019
February 4, 2019	July 22, 2019
March 11, 2019	August 5, 2019
April 1, 2019	September 9, 2019
April 15, 2019	October 7, 2019
May 6, 2019	November 4, 2019
May 20, 2019	December 2, 2019
June 3, 2019	

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the 2019 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF 2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2019 Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year’s Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 21, 2019
Good Friday	Friday, April 19, 2019
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27, 2019
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4, 2019
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2019
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11, 2019
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019
Christmas	Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, December 24, 25, & 26, 2019

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the 2019 Holiday Schedule as presented. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested that Kristen Icard with Alexander County DSS and Douglas Bowman with the Taylorsville Police Department be appointed to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for two years.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the appointments to the JCPC. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #16 - #20

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #16 - #20 as follows:

Budget Amendment #16 – To increase the Information Technology budget to use PEG channel funds received in prior years from the State Video Programming Distribution.

Budget Amendment #17 – To budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for 2017-2018 funds that service providers were unable to spend due to case classification.

Budget Amendment #18 – To budget for a true-up adjustment of FY 2018 tax revenues compared to FY 2018 disbursements to fire departments.

Budget Amendment #19 – To adjust the budget to make the FY 2019 COLA effective on the 12/7/2018 pay date instead of in February 2019 (General Fund).

Budget Amendment #20 – To adjust the budget to make the FY 2019 COLA effective on the 12/7/2018 pay date instead of in February 2019 (Revaluation Fund).

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #16 - #18. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Due to a predicted 2/2 vote, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to table Budget Amendments #19 and #20 to be considered during a conference call at 9:15 AM tomorrow, November 6, 2018. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Keith Moon, former Interim DSS Director, passed away on October 18, 2018.
- B. The engineering agreement for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project with West Consultants is being finalized.
- C. New Duke Energy leases for Dusty Ridge Park and Wittenburg Access should be received by the first of the year. Staff hopes to apply for PARTF grant funding in the spring for one of these locations.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the October 1, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$3,232.05) and Tax Refunds (\$2,654.37) for September 22 – October 25, 2018.
- C. Resolution approving the Water Shortage Response Plan 2018 PWS ID #01-02-020.
- D. Resolution to adopt all policies and plans for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project to include the Procurement Plan and Resolution, Citizens Participation Plan and Complaint Procedure, Section 3 Plan, Equal Opportunity Plan, Excessive Force Policy, Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan, Section 504 Self-Evaluation Plan and Grievance Procedure, and Language Access Plan.

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

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

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:10 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, Chairman Reese made a motion at 8:24 PM to continue the meeting until tomorrow, November 6, 2018 at 9:15 AM at which time a conference call would be held to consider Budget Amendments #19 and #20. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board