

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 6, 2022

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie Reese, Chairman
 Marty Pennell, Vice-Chairman
 Kent Herman
 Josh Lail
 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, June 6, 2022 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

Commissioner Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Commissioner Yoder presented a Key to the County to Danny Dyson, retired Alexander County Clerk of Court, for 36 years of service. The Board thanked Mr. Dyson for his dedication and congratulated him on his retirement.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Yoder was happy that citizens were enjoying the splash pad at Courthouse Park. Chairman Reese agreed and asked the public to do its part to keep the park clean.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice-Chairman Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke during the Public Comment Period.

PUBLIC HEARING: NUISANCE CASE #829 - CALE

Cody Bowers, Code Enforcement Officer, presented Nuisance Case #829 for property located at 1078 Willie McLeod Road owned by Judy Cale who lives in Supply, NC. The first inspection was conducted in early October 2021 and a notice of violation was sent on October 8, 2021 related to the accumulation of trash providing a habitat for snakes, rats, vermin, etc. A second notice of violation was hand-delivered to the property on November 15, 2021 at which time Mr. Bowers was able to take photos of bagged household garbage and other debris in the garage that reached at least 5 feet in height.

In December 2021, Mr. Bowers' duties changed which caused this case to be delayed; however, additional complaints have been received to date on this property. He reported having recently spoken directly to Ms. Cale who relayed that she has no control of the occupants of the residence; however, she was informed that all legal and financial responsibility falls on the property owner. As of today, no efforts have been made towards clean-up of the property and the conditions appear to have worsened.

Mr. Bowers provided a staff recommendation that this property be deemed a nuisance and orders of abatement be issued, pointing out that if the owner failed to abate the nuisance within the timeframe chosen by the Board, N.C.G.S. 160A-193 allowed the County to remove or remedy the nuisance with all costs incurred charged to the property owner.

After a motion by Chairman Reese, second by Commissioner Yoder, and unanimous vote, the public hearing was called to order and comments requested. There being none, Chairman Reese made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Reese made a motion to deem the property located at 1078 Willie McLeod Road a nuisance and issue an order of abatement, allowing the property owner 30 days to comply. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2022-2023 ALEXANDER COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the proposed Alexander County General Fund budget for FY 2022-2023 presented at the May 16, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting totaled \$52,385,587 and included a 4-cent property tax decrease. Since that time, several revisions have taken place

including a substantial increase in DSS salaries, updated cost estimates to remount an ambulance, and the addition of a few vehicles and positions. Mr. French also pointed out that guidance was needed regarding financial assistance for volunteer fire departments as well as whether to remove the 4-cent tax decrease, noting that a budget work session was scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Administration Building lower level conference room.

After a motion by Chairman Reese, second by Commissioner Herman, and unanimous vote, the public hearing was called to order and comments requested. There being none, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: RE-ADOPTION OF ALEXANDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Alison Adams, WPCOG Community & Regional Planning Director, explained that N.C.G.S. 160D-501 required local governments to have a reasonably maintained comprehensive plan in place by July 1, 2022; therefore, she recommended the Board readopt the Alexander County Comprehensive Plan.

After a motion by Chairman Reese, second by Vice-Chairman Pennell, and unanimous vote, the public hearing was called to order and comments requested. There being none, Chairman Reese made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Reese made a motion to readopt the Alexander County Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTAINMENT PLAN UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, presented the updated Alexander County Hazardous Materials Containment Plan that was adopted in 1992. In order to allow additional time for the chiefs of each fire department as well Alexander Rescue Squad to review the proposed changes and provide input prior to approval, he requested the Board continue the public hearing until the July 18, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting.

After a motion by Commissioner Yoder, second by Commissioner Herman, and unanimous vote, Chairman Reese called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Chairman Reese made a motion to continue the public hearing until the July 18, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, stated that a total of \$5,013,240 has been collected in sales tax revenue through May 2022 (\$1,437,743 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 78.23% of the \$6,408,655 budgeted with 75% of the budget year expired and an increase of 13.28% over last year.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #98 - #103

Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #98 - #103 as follows:

Budget Amendment #98 – To increase the Detention Center budget for 1) estimated medical supplies and inmate medical bills for the remainder of FY 2022 including a single invoice of almost \$49,000 for a safekeeper inmate held in State custody and 2) the estimated cost of inmate meals for the remainder of FY 2022.

Budget Amendment #99 – To increase the DSS budget for LIEAP supplemental payments issued to households during the State FY 2021-2022.

Budget Amendment #100 – To increase the Library budget for donations received in excess of original budget estimates.

Budget Amendment #101 – To adjust the General Fund budget for FY 2022 personnel costs that differ from original budget estimates.

Budget Amendment #102 – To adjust the Solid Waste and Landfill Closure Funds for FY 2022 personnel and operating costs that differ from original budget estimates.

Budget Amendment #103 – To budget for a deobligation of the Borealis Compounds Building Reuse CDBG Project grant funds due to circumstances that prevented completion of the grant-funded activities.

Commissioner Herman made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #98 - #103. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the reappointment of Nancy Coley and Commissioner Larry Yoder to the Historic Preservation Committee for 3-year terms.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No discussion was held during Other Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the May 16, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$1,558.37) and Tax Refunds (\$633.02) for May 10-26, 2022.
- C. Renewal of Agreement with the Town of Taylorsville for Planning and Zoning Services.
- D. Alexander County JCPC Revised Funding Plan for FY 2022-2023.
- E. Resolution approving the Local Water Supply Plan for the Alexander County Water System, PWS 01-02-020.

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

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

Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:31 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Reese made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board