



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, November 14, 2016

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 5 - Chairman Jim Crawford, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Mike Cross, Commissioner Karen Howard and Commissioner Walter Petty

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Cross delivered the invocation after which the Chairman invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crawford welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Amanda Robertson submitted the following comments:

Since private citizen taxes, including my own, are paying for the Agriculture and Conference center it only makes sense that all departments within the county that serve the public in a variety of ways (including committees that serve at the behest of the commissioners) get the same reservation benefits as those organizations, most of which aren't even county organizations, receive. These organizations are afforded over 12 months advance reservation and can use the center for free. This center represents a vital need in our county. It isn't feasible for any organization to plan a conference when you only have 30-60 days reservation time to do so. This is the requirement/"benefit" afforded non-profits and county departments. County departments or committees serving the county should not be thus discouraged from collaborating with a non-profit organization by putting on such restrictions. It hinders the opportunities the county is able to provide its citizens.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[16-1912](#)

Presentation of Recommended FY 2018-2024 Capital Improvements Plan

County Manager Renee Paschal gave a presentation on the Capital Improvements Program. (Presentation attached). The County Manager thanked Lisa West, Budget Analyst, for all of her hard work on the CIP.

[16-1929](#)

Vote on a request to approve the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (CCACC) General Policy

Attachments: [FinalCCACC Fees and Policy Nov 8 2016](#)

Tansy Long, Policy Analyst, presented the Agriculture & Conference Center General Policy.

The County Manager stated it was important for the Board to go ahead and adopt the policy because the website launch is on hold until the policy is approved.

Vice Chair Hales asked for the reasoning behind letting certain groups reserve space thirteen months in advance. Ms. Long stated those groups are building occupants and they will get first priority. Internal County departments can reserve further than thirty days out, they just have to pay the full fee. Human Resources already has an event planned for Leadership Academy and the department is paying the fee to reserve it early.

Vice Chair Hales asked when the center would be ready to host events.

The County Manager stated the contractor is showing mid-December but that date has slipped consistently. The contractor is currently paying liquidated damages on a daily basis. She is not hopeful that the building will be open by Christmas. Staff would like a test period to hold internal events exclusively to get the bugs worked out before opening the building up to the public.

Chairman Crawford stated the liquidated damages are \$1,000 a day.

Commissioner Howard asked once the introductory period has passed will the Board get to revisit the policy.

The County Manager stated the Board could revisit the policy as often as needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Vice Chair Hales, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Cross, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Petty

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager stated the HVAC system at Chatham Trades is broken and they have no heat. They have requested the Board release part of the \$300,000 allocation. They have gotten a quote for \$10,800 to replace the system.

The Board needs to approve a delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Conference. Vice Chair Hales volunteered to serve as the delegate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to approve releasing the funds needed to replace the heating system at Chatham Trades. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Cross, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Petty

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cross stated in the absence of the Board of Elections Director Dawn Stumpf, there was a very successful election in Chatham County and the Board of Election staff should be recognized. The County Manager stated everyone knew with Ms. Stumpf's illness that it was going to be a difficult election season. Pandora Paschal took on the job of being Interim Director and she did a great job. Folks from across County departments stepped up to volunteer to setup computers on voting day and also help with the election results coming in. Vice Chair Hales stated the County did a great job when the Hickory Mountain precinct lost power on voting day. Commissioner Petty stated he suggested to the elections staff that they should put in their budget to request UPS backup for the computers and printing machines so that things could continue running for a period of time until backup power is brought in. A UPS system would probably run a couple of hours.

Vice Chair Hales stated the Town of Siler City is applying for a Brownfields EPA Grant to do some assessments and clean up a site for economic development. Siler City is requesting letters of support.

Chairman Crawford stated the Affordable Rental Housing Task Force met. There was good representation from the municipalities. The next meeting will be in early December. Vice Chair Hales asked who is on the committee. Chairman Crawford stated Chip Price from Siler City, Tim Cunnup from Goldston, the County Manager and Town Managers from Siler City and Pittsboro and staff members. The chairman of the task force is Dennis Streets, Director of the Council on Aging.

Vice Chair Hales stated the West Chatham NAACP awarded the Council on Aging as the 2016 Organization of the Year. Dennis Streets accepted the award. Chatham County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Derrick Jordan, was awarded the 2016 Person of the Year.

Commissioner Cross stated the three tenths of a mile road down in Southeast Chatham County, State Road 1914, was nicely paved last week and goes to the boat ramp at Harris Lake.

Commissioner Howard stated the Chatham County Association of Educators is having a meeting Thursday night and she thinks it is worth having some of the commissioners attend. She is working with a local group looking to work with the Organization for Racial Equity to do some equity training. She thinks this is timely given the current state of protest and unrest in the nation and locally. She would like for a couple of the commissioners to attend the training.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to approve sending a letter of support for Siler City's Brownfields application. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Cross, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Petty

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Hales, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Cross, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Petty