



# Chatham County, NC

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

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Monday, May 6, 2019

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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#### Rollcall

**Present:** 4 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Karen Howard

#### Work Session - 5:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

#### CLOSED SESSION

[19-3056](#)

Closed Session for the purposes of discussing matters relating to attorney-client privilege.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to approve going out of the Work Session and convening in Closed Session to discuss matters relating to personnel and attorney-client privilege. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

#### ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

#### End of Work Session

#### Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

#### INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Chair Dasher asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence after which he invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.*

#### CALL TO ORDER

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

**19-3038**

Vote on a request to surplus and award a service weapon to retiring SRO Raymond Barrios on the event of his retirement from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

**19-3040**

Vote on a request to approve the re-naming of one private road in Chatham County

**Attachments:** [CALLIES HAVEN WAY PETITION](#)  
[CALLIES HAVEN WAY MAP](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

**19-3044**

Vote on a request to approve by Sears Design Group, P. A. on behalf of Fitch Creations, Inc. for subdivision Preliminary Plat Revision review and approval of **Fearrington P.U.D. Section X, Area "D" Phase 1 Montgomery**, consisting of 15 lots on 10.2 acres, located off US 15-501 N, Weathersfield/SR-1807, Millcroft/ SR-1817, and E. Camden/SR-1813, Williams Township, parcel #18998.

**Attachments:** [More information from the Planning Department website](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

[19-3050](#)

Vote on a request to approve the Pre-Qualification Policy put forth by Bordeaux Construction Company for the New Animal Shelter project.

**Attachments:**    [Pre-qual](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

[19-3051](#)

Vote on a request to approve renewal agreements for health and dental insurance coverage for FY2020 and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreements.

**Attachments:**    [2019 Self-Funded Renewal Change Form](#)  
[Agent Fees Collection Agreement](#)  
[County of Chatham Apply 070119](#)  
[County of Chatham ERISA 070119](#)  
[County of Chatham Program Selection 070119](#)  
[Uniform Benefit Changes](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

[19-3058](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Duke Energy easement for the Seaforth High School site.

**Attachments:**    [County Easement](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

[19-3042](#)

Vote on a request to approve the purchase of two communications recording systems, from Carolina Recording Systems LLC, through the GSA contract, at a total price of \$110,357.90.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

[19-3055](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a Resolution Proclaiming June 15th as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Chatham County.

**Attachments:** [2019ElderAbuseAwareness2](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that Resolution #2019-26 Proclaiming June 15th as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

### End of Consent Agenda

### **BOARD PRIORITIES**

[19-3054](#)

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Recommended Budget Presentation

*County Manager Dan LaMontagne presented the FY 2019-2020 recommended budget to the Board. (Presentation attached)*

*Mr. LaMontagne thanked the staff for all of their hard work on the budget.*

[19-3052](#)

Receive a presentation by Chatham County historian Gene Brooks

*Chatham County historian Gene Brooks gave a presentation on the history of Chatham County.*

*Chatham County was created out of Orange County in 1771. The Scotch-Irish came directly to the piedmont but other people came from many of the German states. The black people who were brought to the county did not come directly but usually from the Indies or other states. Most people came to the county for opportunity and land. North Carolina was an agricultural state. Slavery took hold the most in the state's coastal plain. The piedmont had mostly small farms. The main crop in the county was corn. By 1850 Chatham County was one of the leading producers of wheat in the state. If your people had money you may have had a tutor or gone to a private academy.*

*Before the Civil War there was a serious attempt to have a public school system in North Carolina. There were free black people in the County, not just slaves. John Chevas was a black man from the county who had a degree from Princeton. He spoke several languages. He taught at Pittsboro Academy where a lot of prominent people went to school. At night he would teach black children the fundamentals of education. One man from Chatham County went to the Legislature in the early 1800s and introduced a bill to make sure that black children had the opportunity to read. For recreation there was horse racing, hunting and fishing. The first people in the county to set up churches were the Quakers. There is a Pittsboro, Indiana that was named by a Quaker congregation that left Chatham County.*

*Chatham County was a land of small farms, not plantations. There was a meeting of Baptists at Loves Creek where they agreed the Union should be preserved. Before the*

*Civil War the county had two political parties, the Whig Party and the Democratic Party. State's rights were very important to people at that time. Probably only 5% of soldiers in the war from Chatham County and the Piedmont were slave owners. The Civil War was very complex. The casualties were horrible. More young men, Americans, died in the Civil War than all the other wars the U.S. has ever been in put together. The 26th North Carolina Regiment had two companies from Chatham County. They say the 26th had more casualties than any other in the war. Is it any wonder that those who survived and their families wanted to recognize their devotion, courage, and loss?*

*We don't need to erase history in America. We need to learn from it. Least we forget.*

[19-3053](#)

Receive presentation in support of keeping the statue in front of the Historic Courthouse

*Pam Webster addressed the Board.*

*Good evening! I wanted to begin by telling you all how all of this started. The week of April 10th Patti Jo Justice called and told me about an article in the Chatham News. A group called Chatham For All had been formed and were to present petitions to take down the monument in Pittsboro at the April 15th meeting. I had never heard of this group and I had certainly never heard about petitions going around to sign in favor of removing the memorial. We talked about it and thought maybe we could do something so the commissioners would know that people in our county are in favor of the monument staying at the courthouse, and that Chatham For All certainly doesn't represent all of Chatham County. We do not have a 'name' and we are not part of any group or organization.*

*So, Mrs. Justice and I decided to start a petition to KEEP the memorial, we put one together, started talking to family and friends and received lots of encouragement! We started on Friday April 12th, by the next week we found ourselves putting out more, people calling us to request petitions, and hundreds of signatures. By the week of April 22nd, we had them in every part of our county, and now, here we are.*

*Several people made the statement they would gladly sign but followed up by saying that the commissioners had already made up their minds and the monument was probably coming down. I looked back at the video from the ending of the April 15th meeting and I am sad to say, it did appear that way.*

*The dictionary definition of 'monument' is "a statue, building or other structure erected to commemorate a famous person or event, a structure placed by or over a grave of the dead, such as a statue, memorial, gravestone or a tombstone." A memorial is an object which serves as a focus for the memory of something, usually a person or people who have died. Forms of memorial monuments are art objects such as sculptures, statues or fountains. In fact, the very words on our Chatham County memorial clearly reads, "To The Confederate Soldiers of Chatham County, This Monument is the the Gift Of Those Who Reserve The Memory Of The Confederate Soldier." The Chatham County monument does not stand as a symbol of hate. The Chatham County monument stands as a memorial to those who fought and died.*

*The words all spoken and written in these meetings are documented. I needed to speak, so that future generations of our great county will know that there were lots of residents against the removal of this memorial that has stood at the Historic*

*Courthouse for over 112 years and was, by its own definition, a memorial to all Chatham County Confederate soldiers. And that, if the memorial is removed, it was, by far, not a decision that represented our entire county.*

*The petitions we present to the Chatham County Commissioners tonight have 3012 signatures to keep the memorial in memory of Chatham's Confederate Soldiers. Thank you for your time, and I hope that you all consider not only the history and meaning but the potential floodgate the removal of this monument will open, washing away history of our county that while is not perfect, is history. Erasing our Nation's history should not be how we deal with our past. Thank you.*

*Brantley Webster addressed the Board.*

*I am here again to state my support for keeping the memorial where it is presently, it's a memorial to the brave men who answered their Country's call. They paid a steep price for answering the call, financially, physically and mentally . This memorial was erected in their honor.*

*We could argue about the cause of the war but the historical records show the causes. Those wanting to take the memorial down say it represents slavery, it does not. They say it was put there to intimidate, it was not. They would put the UDC in with the KKK. They are not connected anymore than the KKK is connected to the Democrat Party. These people spin half-truths and undocumented lies . They seek to divide the people of this county. The area I was raised in and still live in, get along very well with all the different, diverse and ethnic backgrounds that are there.*

*Many would portray us as racists. I am not and no one I associate with is racist that I know of. The efforts of this small and loud group with outside activist helping to orchestrate and divide, have no place here. Thank you!*

## **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

*Shannon Clark submitted the following comments:*

*It was indeed a wonderful experience for Farm Bureau and Chatham County Agriculture Department to co-host the Spring Agriculture Fest. A great deal of people from Chatham and surrounding counties were able to experience just what agriculture means to Chatham County. I was amazed at the numbers (3 to 4 thousand) and in particular the children and youth represented in the program and enjoying the day. The blending of Farm Bureau, Chatham County Agriculture and the County government in sharing the vision of the important part agriculture plays in the economic and recreational aspects of our beautiful county. The Agricultural Convention Center is an integral part of this vision and certainly a part that's played a huge role in the success of the Spring Ag Fest. The finishing touches of security fence for safety of livestock exhibitors, water for livestock, and the lighting package are greatly appreciated. This addition enhances the livestock arena events. We thank you for making these improvements.*

*Renting the bleachers is a waste of money when they can be purchased reasonably and can be used for all kinds of events. The economic impact of the arena would be more than doubled with the covering of the arena. This would almost surely keep the arena rented 70% of the weekends causing the need for food, fuel and housing for weekend events.*

*Limitless possibilities include...shows (horse, cattle, sheep, goats), farm equipment expos, sale presentations, photo shoots, livestock seminars, and the list goes on.*

*I have heard some talk of private money to be offered for building stables...then things will get busy! Potential is here in our beautiful Chatham County Ag and Convention Center. Please take a good hard look at how this package can fund many more projects of fun and education producing revenue.*

*Nancy Jacobs submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Robin Whittington supports the monument remaining in its current location.*

*Margaret Vincent submitted the following comments:*

*Thank you for the opportunity to speak about preservation of history. In Chatham County, there were several men that served to protect this very county. The memorial outside the courthouse honors these men. Men like:*

*Braxton, John  
Beavers, James S.  
Burns, Elisha  
Carpenter, Elbert  
Carpenter, James  
Ellington, George Farrington  
Fox, Martin  
Gee, Willis  
Hadley, John W.  
Harris, Maurice Milton  
Hart, Samuel  
Hart, William J  
Henderson, James Sidney  
Hill, Joseph Alston  
Johnson, Eli Hadley  
Lindley, G. W.  
McClenahan, James Taylor  
Poe, Clarence Charles  
Record, John J  
Siler, Samuel  
Stinson, Herny  
Stone, John C  
White, Joseph J  
Unknown, William H*

*These men served to protect this county and North Carolina from the invaders from the North. The memorial is a war memorial of a dark time in North Carolina. These men, some volunteering and some under conscription, fought because they had to do so. The memorial marks a history that does not need to be repeated, but it also honors*

*those willing to die for this county and our state. Confederate Soldiers matter, all veterans matter. Thank you.*

*Kevin Stone submitted the following comments:*

*Good evening. My name is Kevin Stone and I have been a local Chatham County business and property owner for almost two decades and have worked in Pittsboro since 1999. I strongly urge you not to pay any heed to those who would move the Chatham County Confederate memorial to another place. It is my firm belief, and one that is supported by reality, that if this body was to allow a referendum of the people of Chatham County on this question, the result would be overwhelming support for the memorial to remain where it has since it was dedicated in 1905. The people who live and work in Chatham County and who do not answer to political parties and outside influences, have more important priorities than arguing over an manufactured controversy.*

*Whatever the unnecessary proposal is, even if the memorial is to be moved to a cemetery, the truth is that it was not meant to be moved, nor would moving it to another place solve any problems. In all cases where Confederate memorials have been moved, they have either caused further offense in their new location, requiring yet another move, or they have been vandalized or damaged, even in cemeteries. Pittsboro's Confederate Memorial was erected by the people of Chatham County and was intended to remind its citizens for all time of the bravery and sacrifice of the men from the county who fought for North Carolina, and the women who stayed behind. Those who fought answered the call of their Governor the same as any member of the military now answers the call of their President. This memorial stands as a literal gravestone to those who did not come back to Chatham County and are now buried either in mass graves on battlefields far away, or who were never found.*

*You can attribute any negative quality or motive with these men that you want now because they are no longer here to defend themselves. We, their descendants, are all that are left. One of the key features of modern political discourse is the lack of factual basis for many decisions that are made. Instead of facts, feelings and a desire for personal fulfillment now motivate movements for change and result in the biased and morally bankrupt practice of re-writing history. Unfortunately, as most working class people, we do not have the resources nor time that our opponents in this matter do and we know that our attempts to appeal to reason and moderation are falling on deaf ears. Regardless, we are still here and we want to be on the record that we've had enough of our government caving in to the whims of an extremist, lawless, and sometimes violent political faction.*

*Everywhere in the world where we have seen the .re-writing of history by similar extremists, such as Russia, China, East Germany, Vietnam, Laos, and South America, we all shake our heads and talk about how wrong and misguided it was and how the failure of case was a natural conclusion. Why is it that when it does happen here, as it has already happened in Durham, Chapel Hill, and Winston-Salem, we do not adopt the same scorn? I urge you to consider this and the damage that would be done by moving our community's memorial. Do not break the law, leave the memorial where it is.*

*David Delaney submitted the following comments:*

*Good evening, Commissioners and fellow Chatham County residents. I am David Delaney, a member of Chatham For All, but I'm offering these remarks in my personal capacity. I am a father of two young children, and I have spent 20 years in public service as an army officer, Homeland Security attorney, and law professor. I care deeply about good governance, and I care deeply about how we educate our children on local, national, and global issues. I believe you should return the Confederate statue outside this window to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. While it sits prominently on public land, it expresses and symbolizes as public policy any message that people can reasonably infer from it.*

*Your task is not what Commissioner Petty stated last month: searching for the statue's one, true original purpose. Some Chathamites of 1907 or 2019 may see only a memorial to a community's wartime sacrifices and hardships. But this statue is inscribed "CSA 1861-1865" and "Our Confederate Heroes." White supremacy cannot be separated from the Confederacy's institutions. Your public duty is more heavily weighted to the present and future than Commissioner Petty suggested. I have the same high expectation of federal officials in another of my figurative back yards. West Point has no statues to the confederacy or, to my knowledge, even of Confederate generals. But a barracks dedicated in 1962 at my alma mater in the midst of our nation's essential civil rights movement was named for Robert E. Lee.*

*When the federal government puts Lee's name on a building, it honors the whole man with the public's voice as part of West Point's national education function. To better support its claim to be QUOTE "the preeminent leader development institution," West Point should remove Lee's name from the barracks. The study of his generalship and life are better reserved for the classroom and the battlefield. Likewise, when you return the UDC statue, you ensure that Chatham's government, public voice does not honor - or even appear to honor - the whole confederacy and the years of this nation's state-sanctioned enslavement practices.*

*In my career I have become a resident of 9 states. I have also lived in Germany, Bosnia, Croatia, and the Netherlands for three years. I have learned that we have more to gain from dwelling on our common humanity than our different histories. Central North Carolina had a rich human heritage long before European settlement. From Revolutionary days through the Civil War to the present, what we now call Chatham County has had an unbroken chain of residents supporting the United States Constitution's high - but imperfect - ideals. We should look for every opportunity to find common ground in our humanity, to do well by each other, to educate our children well, and to improve American democratic governance.*

*Today, this county's national and global ties are strong. Chathamites found global technology companies, establish non-profits to provide STEM mentorship to young women in Africa, run the diversity and inclusion programs of global companies, and conduct cutting-edge biotechnology research. While many rural North Carolina communities are in decline, Chatham has the resources and capacity to thrive. I hope your decision will help foster the collaboration and global perspective we need to enable that future here in Chatham, For All.*

*Michael Hobbs submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Michael Hobbs. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to talk about this. Emotions are strong on this question. One reason, southerners are proud - proud of*

*their hometowns, proud of their state, and proud of their heritage. I am a native North Carolinian. I can trace the lineage of my name to an Abraham Hobbs who came to North Carolina in the 1690s. That is a part of my identity, a part in which I hold pride. Many people feel these bonds of family, and bonds to a place that lead us to nurture a feeling of allegiance to our predecessors. Some people feel that removing these monuments is akin to neglecting those who came before us - an erasure of history.*

*I am fortunate. It is a privilege for me to be able to trace my family's history. Commissioner Howard said something at the last public input session that spoke to me. She, along with many of our black neighbors and friends, cannot trace their lineage. Their history has, quite literally, been erased. It was erased by splitting families, erased by stealing names, erased in lost graves. Who erased their history? My ancestors did.*

*Commissioner Petty was exactly right. He said you were hearing two different stories about why that monument was put up. One story said it was to commemorate the North Carolinians who died in the Civil War. The other story was, as you described it, about slavery. He said that depending on which story was correct, the answer of what to do with this monument was easy. That's exactly right. Our Confederate monument, along with the others, was erected during a time in which my ancestors violently stripped black Americans of voting rights, of representation and of prospects to improve their lives.*

*These monuments were erected by a social and political class intent on demonstrating their ability to impose their will. This is a history I did not learn as a child of the South. It is a history that I came to know as an adult. It is a hushed history. We can start to change that. We can choose to open ourselves to a deeper understanding of our shared past. When we do that, our choices become clearer. We, in Chatham County, can tell a powerful story of reconciliation, a story of which~ our descendants can be proud. Thank you.*

*Alirio Estevez submitted the following comments:*

*Remember "Hen Jones"? He was an African American gentleman who was lynched in our county, Chatham County, at a place near Silk Hope in 1898. No? Maybe you remember Lee Tyson, John Patishall, Jerry Finch and his wife Harriet? They were four African American citizens who were lynched south of this town in 1885. Don't remember? Probably you don't, because there are no memorials, no monuments to honor them, to remind us of the atrocities committed by people who felt superior to any other race, by people who believed the South should have prevailed in the Civil War, by people who strongly supported the ideals of the Confederacy.*

*The statue in front of the court in our county is a deep and open wound created to honor a hateful era, the era of slavery and Jim Crow. An era which no North Carolinian should be proud of; an era in which several white people considered themselves as the superior race, chosen to rule the world, an era in which everybody else should obey their commands, wishes, and desires. This statue was erected with the main purpose to remind African American people of their place in the society according to white supremacists' rules. This statue was built during the nadir of race relations when white men had disenfranchised African Americans, had created laws to humiliate them, and to deny their humanity. This statue was, and is, a symbol to show white supremacist power.*

*Hopefully, soon we will be able to remove this statue and give it back to its owners. Why is this issue important today? Because today this statue is in front of the old court, a symbolic place where everybody should feel welcome and respected, a place where no discrimination of any kind should be permitted, a place where justice should be served. But today, this statue transmits intimidation to any member of a minority group. It is a symbol telling me, telling us that white men are the only ones who can impart and receive justice, that white men are the only ones who have the right to be here. And that is wrong.*

*I love Chatham. I love this county! And I'd love to see this statue returned to the UDC so my children, our children, our grandchildren feel welcome here, feel that Chatham loves and accepts every one of them.*

*Bruce Davis submitted the following comments:*

*I am Bruce Davis and I have been a citizen of Chatham County for 26 years. My North Carolina genetic roots go back centuries through the Coreys, Tuckers, Taylors, Andersons and my unnamed African ancestors. However, all current Chatham County residents have an equal right to a say in this matter. The core issue that we are debating is "place". Where is the proper "place" for a monument to treason, sedition and insurrection? It is a fact of history that the members of the Confederate Army that we have been asked to honor since 1907 all committed treason against our United States of America. And, I say this as the descendant of several confederate army veterans.*

*The act of Treason by my ancestors is not included in the story lines of the revisionist history that has evolved into present day "history lore" about the Civil War. Each person participating in an army is individually responsible for their own actions and, for me, nobody who participated in the Confederate Army gets a pass from having been a person who tried to break apart our United States of America. In reconciliation the blessing of forgiveness can be extended to our confederate ancestors, but not honor. The monument is not a memorial to any Veterans of any United States of America military service. It is a monument to members of a Treasonous Confederate Army.*

*In America groups can honor whomever they want. But, I do not think we should continue to honor that act of Treason, that act that attempted to make permanent the enslavement of one people to the benefit of another through the monument's continued presence in its current location. Thank you for your considerations.*

*Keith Roberts submitted the following comments:*

*I was deeply offended, as was the rest of the group supporting the monument, when a commissioner stated that you could tell who wanted to keep the monument because they didn't make eye contact with her. I did not do it on purpose. Most of us are not used to speaking in front of so many people. I felt like I was in a cattle gate waiting for my turn at slaughter. Each of us only have 3 minutes to say what we want to say and I, for one, don't remember looking at anyone except the paper in front of me. I didn't want to lose my place. I'm sure the opposition has spoken many times before, since some are lawyers and many others are used to being in front of the public.*

*Also, the comment was made about a mind being made up beforehand and that, by us not making eye contact, only reaffirmed the decision. I find this appalling, since the*

*whole point of last month's discussion was to have an open mind about the statue and listen to the people.*

*I have heard how this statue reminds the opposing side of slavery and how it disgusts them to see it. I noticed that those speaking, seemed to have done alright for themselves. Many of them have fine homes in the Northern part of Chatham. I wonder if the statue could be what inspired them to overcome their obstacles of disgust, and be successful? Perhaps it could be an inspiration for them. They should look at the statue and let it remind them on how far they have come from those times, and let it be a reminder so that no one forgets their struggles, and never forget their accomplishments. Those of us on the other side of the issue can look at it as a memorial to our American ancestors who fought and died bravely, and who deserve to be remembered as well. I guess it could be called a war memorial.*

*The last thing I would like for you to remember is how ISIS destroys artifacts that would preserve historical memories and why we should take heed. I would like to read a statement made by Joy Pullmann, who is the executive editor of the Federalist.*

*Telling the truth about our ancestors should not mean discounting everything they ever did, for if we do that for any person, including ourselves, we all have nothing to do but go home and weep. If we discount achievements because those who perform them are imperfect, there will be no achievements, only darkness that creates a world of always tearing down and never building up, and the end of it is annihilation. In life is both great joy and great sorrow, and both deserve their due. That is what monuments are for.*

*Chatham Journal did a poll and found that 75.6% or 4,196 people voted to keep the monument where it is. Only 24.4% or 1,345 people voted to remove it. Think about what the majority of people want.*

*Will Sexton submitted the following comments:*

*Take the west exit out of the circle here and drive for 15 miles. When you reach US 421, drive north on that road for, I don't know, 600 miles or so, and you'll clear the northern side of Indianapolis. Hang a left there, drive another 15 miles or so west, and you'll arrive in the town of Pittsboro. Pittsboro, Indiana was co-founded by a Chatham-born Quaker named Simon T. Hadley in 1834. He followed members of his family and his faith to the so-called "free states" north of the Ohio River. Many went before him, from Chatham, Guilford, and Randolph. They were motivated by, among other things, their opposition to slavery. Many would follow, including some, after the Civil War, in flight from violent retribution for taking a stand of pacifism.*

*This struggle has been part of Chatham's story for centuries. It has inspired and provoked real and courageous acts of dissent, and it has literally moved people. This past January marked 115 years since the Daughters announced their intention to place a monument in our town. But they were only continuing another story, one that many in the South began to tell themselves on April 9, 1865, about that war, how it began, and how it was lost. Woven into every page of that story was not courageous dissent, but the enduring myth of white supremacy. In symbolic terms, it was on a pedestal of white supremacy that the Daughters stood up their monument with it, they enshrined, in our public square, in the shadow of our county's seat of law and justice, the Lost Cause narrative of that war. The story of the Lost Cause is what you heard this evening during*

*the presentation, and continue to hear from those who speak in support of the statue. That narrative has not changed in 115 years.*

*But there are some things that have changed since then. Decisions about the town's public space in 1914 excluded the voices of the victims of the system of bondage that led to that war. It excluded the victims of the brutal Jim Crow regime that replaced it. But today we can include and hold up the voices of those who have inherited and still bear the weight of that brutality. We can honor those who never had the opportunity to speak against these abominations, and who never even thought it possible just to remove the hateful and one-sided symbols from our public spaces.*

*The Daughters and those who supported them had a vision for the center of our town, and they saw it through in 1907. We can have our own vision for this space. We don't have to travel a different route through town to avoid it, as some have suggested. We don't have to move away and establish an entirely new Pittsboro to start shaking off that old story. Let the historians study and teach the Lost Cause. Let's write a new story.*

*Vickie Atkinson supports returning the statue to the UDC.*

*Mary Honeycutt submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Tom Honeycutt submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Rosalyn Darling supports removing the statue and returning it to the UDC.*

*Barbara Pugh submitted the following comments:*

*Good evening, I am Barbara Pugh representing the Winnie Davis Chapter of the UDC, proud to represent the women of the UDC who came before me. My sincere thanks are extended to you, Commissioners, for having Gene Brooks, Chatham County Historian and historical commentator, on the agenda of the meeting tonight. Gene's knowledge of history and his ability to share with others gained my respect for him many years back. There was an extensive renovation of the Courthouse in 1988. In the process the Board of County Commissioners had the soldier atop the monument removed and needed repairs made at taxpayer expense. They were fulfilling their responsibility to take care of county property. Now thirty years later, I would respectfully request that you be responsible and graciously allow it to remain as a historic landmark of the county on the Courthouse grounds and in the Town of Pittsboro Historic District. I appreciate your time.*

*Linda Briggs supports keeping the monument in its current location.*

*Ronnie Lambert submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Ronnie Lambert, lifelong resident of Chatham County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I truly feel that this monument represents and honors the many soldiers that served and died for the cause that they believed in. It's to those that were denied a proper burial, wherever they were laid to rest and to those buried in mass graves at numerous battlefields far from home. As we've read in letters written home, the soldier's greatest fear was to be forgotten in death.*

*There exists a roster of Chatham County's 1800 Civil War Veterans. The burial site column in this roster has many unfilled boxes. There are some folks here tonight that have spent countless hours searching the back woods of Chatham and surrounding counties for abandoned cemeteries in hopes of finding any of these missing soldiers so they can be remembered. Many of these cemeteries were accidentally or intentionally destroyed due to urban sprawl. This monument represents and honors these soldiers as well.*

*Was the War Between the States about slavery, as so many would have you believe today? I think not. In 1862, long after the war had begun, Abraham Lincoln strategically delivered his Emancipation Proclamation. The war was then transformed from a fight between the North & the South and preserving the nation into a battle for human freedom. Was the intent of the UDC to promote slavery, white supremacy or racism when they raised funds & erected this monument? I think not. It was to honor these veterans so they would not be forgotten.*

*It's unfortunate today that we have folks that want to revise and teach history or even erase history. I'm a firm believer that if we alter history and don't learn from history, history will indeed repeat itself. These history revisionists just pick & choose small pieces of history that fits their narrative. Just as those that interpret the Holy Bible to fit their lifestyle today. Commissioners, I mean no disrespect but none of you grew up in North Carolina, let alone in this county. In your hearts and in good conscience, how can you determine what's to be done with this monument since it doesn't mean anything personal to you but means so much to the descendants of these soldiers?*

*Have you seen the survey results held by Chatham Journal Newspaper regarding what should be done with the monument? If not, I have five copies for you. In my humble opinion, this monument needs to remain in front of the Historic Courthouse, for it would be the honorable thing to do. May God be with you as you make this historic decision. Let us not forget these brave men from Chatham County! Regards and thank you for your time.*

*Parker Stockdale supports the statue remaining in its current location.*

*James Kainz submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Kirstin Kainz submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*James Coplan submitted the following comments:*

*My name is James Coplan and I am a resident of Chatham County. As Commissioners, you function as judge and jury, insofar as the fate of the statue is concerned. In a criminal trial, the prosecution must establish guilt "beyond a shadow of a doubt." The defense need only cast the smallest shadow of doubt, in order to secure a verdict of "not guilty." Those who favor retention of the statue have succeeded in casting that shadow. However, this not a criminal trial, but a civil matter. In a civil trial the prosecution need only establish that the preponderance of the evidence leans in the direction of guilt. In lawyer's terms, "50% plus a feather." This is the criterion you should apply when determining the fate of the statue. The debate as to what was in people's minds when the statue was erected is interesting, but will not help you make a decision. Rather, it is sufficient to show that the preponderance of the evidence - 50% plus a feather- supports the proposition that (a) slavery is an abomination, and that (b) the civil war was initiated by the Confederacy to preserve slavery. That slavery is an abomination should be evident on its face. As proof, I wager that no one who has come before you would willingly sell themselves into slavery.*

*As to the cause of the war, I refer you to South Carolina's Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union.*

*The Declaration begins by noting (quote): "The right of property in slaves" was recognized by the US Constitution, which also stipulated (quote): "the rendition of fugitives from labor."*

*It then cites (quote) "an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slave holding States to the institution of slavery, [which has] has led to a disregard of their obligations ..... In many of these States the fugitive is discharged from service or labor claimed, and in none of them has the State Government complied with the stipulation made in the Constitution ...*

*And concludes (quote), "We, therefore, the People of South Carolina .... [declare] that the Union heretofore existing between this State and the other States of North America is dissolved ....*

*The same logic is repeated in the declarations of secession of several of the other Confederate states. Thus the burden of proof - "50% plus a feather"- has been met. The statue unavoidably honors not just the men who died for the Confederacy, but the cause for which they died- the preservation of slavery. This being established, your way forward should be clear. Thank you for your time and attention.*

*Emily Moose submitted the following comments:*

*Good evening and thank you for listening. My name is Emily Moose, and while I support the work of Chatham For All, I am speaking as an individual resident in that capacity alone. Much has been said about the divisive nature of this conversation, and some blame that on those who question the statue as a representative of our County's values. But the statue was intentionally divisive from the beginning. Every attempt to recast history by United Daughters of the Confederacy--whether through textbooks, laws, or statues like ours, was intended to divide us--to tell us that the color of our skin should measure our status in this country, and to prevent the white people whose ancestors fought the "rich man's war" from realizing that their interests could be more aligned with their neighbors of color.*

*I wouldn't be here if I didn't hope this conversation could bring us together. This is not about feelings, it's about values. To my neighbors who want to honor fallen ancestors or learn from the past, I do not judge you, I respect you, and would welcome the statue's relocation for that purpose to another location outside of our civic space. I hope that with what we know now, we can unite around the fact that memorials go well in cemeteries, and monuments should uphold shared values. How can we claim to uphold "liberty and justice for all" while this statue unequivocally rejects those values outside of our courthouse?*

*On April 15, you heard a compelling historical, moral, peaceful and legal case for removing this statue from our civic space and returning it to its owner, the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In its current location, it does not represent the values to which we pledge allegiance when we make decisions together as citizens. While it is just a statue, and removing it will not fix structural inequalities, it has power, and there is a long-term case for changing the face of our County. As a kid who grew up in the South, seeing these statues and hearing the views their sponsors promoted, I know the subtle message it sends to children. It looks with nostalgia on a time where some Americans had the legal rights of humans, and others were treated as property. It tells us that this was a stable, normal structure, erasing the horror, violence and dehumanization this structure required. It tells us that the defense of that structure is something to celebrate fighting and dying for. I know some prickle at the term "white supremacy," but what else do you call this? We know too much to use our civic space to pass that message on to the next generation.*

*I have deep respect for veterans. I am a descendant of Confederate veterans, but I am also a descendant of veterans who served to defend a united America and the values we hold dear: liberty and justice for all. I have friends, family and loved ones who put their lives on the line for what they thought would deliver a fairer, more just, and more representative world. This is not a monument to all veterans. This is a monument to a specific cause, and one which after an untold amount of horror, bloodshed and pain, that divided a country and continues to do so to this day. As a descendant of veterans, as an American, as a parent and as a human being, I respectfully ask you to return this statue to its rightful owner. Thank you.*

*Vickie Shea submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Doreen Donovan submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate Statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Kathy Zinn submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Katherine A. Zinn. I live at 125 Thrift St. in the town of Pittsboro, where I have lived since October, 2009. Prior to that, I lived in Virginia for almost 40 years. I was raised on Long Island, New York. I am here to speak about the statue of the Confederate soldier in front of this courthouse and its possible removal. Having spoken to several African American natives of North Carolina, including in this county, I am aware of the deep pain the presence of this statue has caused their community. To them, it is a reminder of the 400 years of enslavement that their community has experienced. It is a reminder of the violence done to their ancestors, friends and perhaps, even to themselves. Except for the last point, the statue is a reminder of those things to me, as well. I am aware, however, that my feelings, as a White Northerner, are not comparable to theirs, or even germane, in the matter of considering what to do with the statue.*

*I once heard an African American college professor speaking to a White woman who insisted that keeping Confederate monuments standing was about her heritage, for her and her family. "Well, Ma'am," the professor replied, "your family's heritage was my ancestors' enslavement." That said it all for me, about the immorality of continuing to allow this statue to stand alone, in front of our courthouse. I am also aware, however, that many people, albeit mostly white people, feel great pain at the possible removal of the statue, which, for them, they insist, primarily means heritage and history. So I propose another solution: Leave the statue of the Confederate soldier where it stands. Add to it, a statue of enslaved African people, with explanatory signage about both, giving the full historical context of the statue.*

*There will be pain if this is done. There will be pain if the statue is removed. There will pain if the statue remains, with no explanatory context. Pain is not the issue. The full historical truth of the basis of the Civil War is the issue for us all.*

*James Ward submitted the following comments:*

*My name is James Ward. I'm a resident of South Orange County. My family, the Daniels, settled this County in the mid 1700s. I own a little property in Chatham, so I am interested in what goes on here. We all complain about the polarization plaguing our politics and society. This situation did not begin in Washington, D.C. It began in communities like Pittsboro and Chatham County and actions such as calling for the removal of hundred-year old Confederate statues does nothing more than exacerbate old wounds and create more polarization.*

*These statues and other memorials such as names of towns, streets and schools are symbols of the history and culture of Southern society. I might even say that, believe it or not, for a long time they were considered part of the charm of small Southern communities that brought many people to this region. These symbols also memorialize our ancestors, our grandfathers and grandmothers, our blood kin who lived through a harsh, terrible time in our history. Removing these memorials is not*

*only a crime against our culture, but it is a direct insult to thousands of descendants of Confederate ancestors. Many of us believe that it is part of a determined effort by so called social justice warriors to commit actual cultural genocide.*

*All this controversy should have been entirely unnecessary. Those calling for the removal of the Confederate soldier statue could have first pursued a compromise of some sort. But in their self-righteous zeal to take down the statue they seem to have bought into the ultra-leftist rhetoric about the "legacy of slavery" "white privilege" and a broken nation that is "racist and misogynistic", as one writer has said. In taking this course they have enraged thousands of their fellow citizens in this community and state.*

*I urge the Board to make a decision on this issue that will sincerely consider those citizens who support the statue and that will honor and respect their history and heritage. They have the right to their own culture and symbols just like anyone else. Thank you for your time.*

*Andy Palay submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Andy Palay and I have been a resident of Chatham County for almost 4 years. While I am a member of Chatham for All, this is my personal statement. As you can tell from my accent I am not a native southerner. I was raised in Wisconsin. With the events over the past decade I have looked at the history behind these confederate monuments and now realize how successful the UDC was in spreading their myths about the Civil War throughout our nation. My school taught me about the "War Between the States" being fought over states rights, as if this was just an internal squabble divorced from horrors of slavery. We regularly sang "Dixie" in our music classes extolling the heritage of old south. These myths are an American issue that keep us from reconciling with our true history.*

*It is easy to understand these myths by remembering how we started this meeting. We stood up, put our hands over our hearts and recited the Pledge of Allegiance which encapsulates the ideals that this country has strived for since its inception. So let's see how the soldiers who fought for the confederacy lived up to these ideals. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America" - I guess not. "And to the Republic for which it stands" - once again no. "One nation, under God, indivisible", Clearly they thought God was on their side, but just as clearly they thought there were two nations.*

*That leaves us with the most telling phrase, "with liberty and justice for all". Many claim that these soldiers did not choose to fight for slavery, but this is belied by the many thousands of North Carolinians who enlisted in the Union army or joined anti-confederacy groups like the Red Strings. Even if we accept that these Confederate soldiers fought out of a sense of duty, it is clear from history, that the UDC was honoring these soldiers for their fight to preserve, in the UDC's own words, "our southern heritage". In other words for the fight for white supremacy, the main rationale for secession.*

*So it is time to put these myths away along the monuments that were erected as part of selling of the "Lost Cause" fairytale. The Civil War was a war to preserve the institution of slavery and the monument sitting in front of our courthouse was erected as part of a continuing effort to subjugate our fellow citizens. We can not change our history but we can recognize it by removing this statue from our public lands and*

*returning it to the UDC. Then we can start honoring the wonderful parts of southern heritage that brought my wife and me to our new chosen home, that of love, compassion and an inclusive sense of community. Thank you.*

*Jeannie D'Aurora submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Jeanie D'Aurora and I'm a resident of Chatham County and I'm speaking for my 82 year old Holocaust survivor sweetheart who is somewhat emotional about these things having barely survived the Holocaust. My family came to this country fifteen generations back on my mother's side, arriving in Jamestown in 1619. Men in our family fought and died on both sides of every single war.*

*So I am here to support returning the statue which stands in front of this Courthouse to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it as soon as soon as possible to a Confederate cemetery or museum or other appropriate non-public space.*

*When I was collecting signatures on a petition supporting removal of the statue, a few people said they couldn't sign the petition, because these Confederate hero statues are our history and should remain where they are because history trumps the objections and sensitivities of some or even the majority of people. Also part of our history here in Chatham County are the more than 6,200 enslaved black people at the start of the Civil War.*

*The "Jim Crow" laws which prevented black people from voting and separated them from whites, and supported housing and job discrimination and an unfair legal system are also part of our history here in Chatham County.*

*Incidentally these "Jim Crow" laws were much admired by Hitler, particularly the anti-miscegenation laws that prohibited interracial marriages and the laws that discriminated against black people and segregated them from whites. Hitler's lawyers used them as models for the Nuremberg Laws – the legal groundwork for the persecution of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. This touches me personally because the man I love, born in 1936, lost most of his family in the Holocaust – including his father.*

*The purpose of placing a Confederate statue in 1907 right out there in front of this Courthouse and many other courthouses across the State and the South, was to intimidate black people and send the clear message that they would get no justice here.*

*A careful study of history shows us these were not monuments to past heroes, but to a white supremacist future.*

*Sadly, lynchings are also a part of our history. Approximately 160 documented lynchings were carried out in North Carolina. At least seven here in Chatham County – six men (Richard Cotton, Jerry Finch, John Pattisall, Lee Tyson, Henry Jones and Eugene Daniel) and one woman, Harriet Finch.*

*Perhaps in the interest of including all of our history, we need to erect a lynching memorial something like this one (submitted to commissioners) where images of three men who were lynched are sculpted on a wall. Such a memorial would help us remember our history of racial terrorism and do better in the future. Thank you for your time and attention and consideration of my remarks.*

*Andy Pugh submitted the following comments:*

*Thank you for allowing me to address you this evening. My name is Andy Pugh, a lifelong Chatham resident and have worked throughout the state as a technical consultant in the construction and agricultural industries. I also farm in Chatham County as many generations before me have. This is an embarrassing time for the county. We are here for no other reason than the political agenda of a few that can't find a worthwhile cause to fight. We have created a solution to a problem we don't have in Chatham County. I ask you, commissioners, to use your time in office wisely and task yourself to be the change and not to succumb to the misguiding and wrongful information that has brought us where we are now. We are giving credence to a group that classifies a humanitarian group (the UDC) as a hate group and this same group associates anyone with a dead relative who died or fought in the war as a racist.*

*Please take your time in office seriously and take this opportunity to bring the county together rather than drive it apart. We can all agree that if taking a single solitary statue down would fix anything, then we would all be for it. But we all doubt that it would happen. One thing we may consider is there is room on the grounds for memorials for those who are yet to be honored and that is something both sides can get behind. This is our chance to do some good and make the best of a ridiculous situation.*

*I, for one, am in favor in leaving the statue in place as intended for those defending their home and their country. Let's keep in mind that true history cannot always be found on the first page of a Google search.*

*Phil Bors submitted the following comments:*

*My name is Philip Bors and I support the removal of the confederate statue in front of our courthouse. I've lived in Chatham County for 25 years and helped raise my children here. But the opinions of people who contribute to this community and just moved here in 2019 matter just as much.*

*In the past month*

- You've heard a lot about the statue, that it's a public monument speaking to us from the time of its 1907 dedication more than anything.*
- You've heard that Confederate statues went up as part of a broader campaign to create a more noble narrative about the war, and incorporate that into our text books. The campaign complemented Jim Crow laws. These laws were created to keep to people of color from participating in society and segregate them from the opportunities for well-being and even basic safety.*
- You've also heard about the pain the statue represents to so many in our community for so long and still today.*

*The Supreme Court has said that permanent monuments on public property represents government speech, even if they are privately owned or donated. People reinterpret the meaning of these monuments as our historical perspective changes over time, as we should. The interpretation we were taught repeated or echoed the Lost Cause narrative.*

*The statue is not just a romanticized and benign relic. The atmosphere of white supremacy had real consequences, right here. The Confederate statue's dedication came 22 years (1885) following the mass lynching of four people just one mile South of*

where we are, and 14 years earlier than the lynching of Eugene Daniel near where Jordan Lake is now.

We have an opportunity now to remove this symbol of our Jim Crow past. We should follow the lead of other communities that removed statues from their public grounds. And we have an opportunity to serve as a role model to others. This moment is a call to conscience for our community. Please do what is right by removing it from our most public place and returning the statue to its owner, the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Pam Smith supports putting up a statue of George Moses Horton. He was a black poet and his statue would be a compromise. She believes removing the statue will cause a great divide.

Howard Fifer submitted the following comments:

Good evening Commissioners. My name is Howard Fifer and I am a member of Chatham for All, but speak to you this evening as an individual resident of Chatham County. I would like to take this opportunity to continue the conversation about the monument in front of this courthouse. In that spirit I would like respond to some of the claims I have heard by folks who would like the monument to stay right where it is, a position I do not agree with. One such claim is that the Civil War wasn't about slavery, it was about states rights. In response I say that the desire to preserve slavery was the cause for secession. Secession documents from several states cite slavery as their reason for leaving the Union. The Vice President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens, said that the new government's cornerstone rested "upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man" and that slavery is the "natural and normal condition" of African-Americans.

Another claim heard is that the monument can't be racist because I want to keep it and I am not racist. I accept that about you, but personal beliefs can't change the history of the Confederacy, which was founded upon a belief in white supremacy-nor can your personal beliefs change the effect a symbol has on others. I have also heard it said that my ancestor bravely served the Confederacy in the Civil War. He didn't own slaves. He was just defending his home. Removing the monument disrespects him and the ancestors of others in this community. In response I point out that this request to the commissioners is not about the personal motivations or deeds of one soldier. It is clear in their Constitution and secession documents that as a government the Confederacy endorsed slavery and white supremacy. It is worth noting that many Confederate veterans attended "Blue and Gray" reunions after the Civil War. These reunions brought veterans from both sides of the war together for reconciliation and celebration of their collective identity as Americans.

To follow in their footsteps we must have this conversation. To me, our democracy is based on equality under the law, and local governments should not prominently display a monument that undermines that concept. It affects each and every one of us. Thank you.

Robin Lyons submitted the following comments:

I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank

you.

*Reamey Winn supports the statue remaining in its current location.*

*Anthony Bright submitted the following comments:*

*Please let me start by saying that I truly feel that I understand both sides of this issue. My dad's family are long term residents of Chatham, 200 years +, and I have relatives on his side that fought for the South. But he married a lovely young lady from WVA, who became my mom, who told me of brothers fighting brothers in that terrible war. So I likely have relatives from both sides. So, as a neutral party, let me say that if you are here tonight, and are NOT a CURRENT resident of Chatham County, "Welcome". However, please understand that we have enough doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs here already, and along with a little common sense we can handle this issue without your help.*

*In addition to families on both sides of the war, my grandfather was a moonshiner. He paid for the birth of my mom with 5 gallons of white lightning. But let me be clear, I am not ashamed of any of my families' history. It's history. It's in the past. It cannot be changed. It can only be learned from-. so that the positive experiences can be repeated and the negative ones are not. Example: Have you ever took a trip and made a wrong turn? And then took the same trip at a later date and made the same wrong turn again? You didn't remember your history.*

*The Civil War was the worst war in the history of our nation. There were approximately 620,000 American casualties. That's almost as many as all of the other wars we have fought - combined. In addition, the war was fought on American soil, right here. The stains from the blood of those soldiers have faded, but they still remain in the dirt we travel on today. Unfortunately, I believe that we are closer to another Civil War today than we might want to admit. There seems to be two sides that are determined to grow further apart. It seems as though our national and state leaders do not seek compromise - and maybe that's because their constituents do not want compromise.*

*But I believe the citizens of Chatham County are different. We are special. The real "Chathamites" have a desire to get along with each other - to compromise. We need to lead - not follow. So I therefore reiterate my call that on August 23rd of this year, on the 11th anniversary of the original dedication, the current Chatham County Commissioners should place an additional new and large plaque on the pedestal, and rededicate the monument to ALL of the heroes of the United States Civil War who died fighting for the causes in which they believed.*

*Lee McLean supports the removal of the statue as soon as possible.*

*Audrey Schwankl supports the removal of the statue.*

*Monica Jarnagin supports the removal of the statue.*

*Scott Gilmore supports the statue remaining in its current location.*

*Phil Morris submitted the following comments:*

*I am here to support returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible. Thank you.*

*Allie Hansen asked that the Board consider supporting a temporary relocation of the monument until a time in which it and all of Chatham can otherwise fund the creation of other statues that reflect the entirety of our history.*

*S.P. Eckers supports the statue remaining in its current location.*

*Adele Kelly supports returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible.*

*Leigh Sherman supports returning the Confederate statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or otherwise removing it from town center as soon as possible.*

*Chip LeRoy supports the statue remaining in its current location.*

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

### **[19-3057](#)**

Vote on a request from the Chatham County Republican Party to approve the appointment of Ernie Andrew Wilkie as Chatham County Commissioner representing District 5.

*Chatham County Republican Party Chairman Terry Schmidt addressed the Board. Ms. Schmidt stated the Republican Party unanimously recommends Mr. Andy Wilkie to fill the commissioner vacancy for District 5.*

*Andy Wilkie addressed the Board. Mr. Wilkie lives outside of Goldston on a family farm. He has one daughter and a four year old grandson who live in Orlando, Florida. He is a graduate of Chatham Central High School. After high school he joined the Army Reserves and served six years at Fort Bragg as a paratrooper and a parachute packer instructor. He graduated from Appalachian State University in 1973 with a degree in Social Studies. After college he started work with Headstart. A year later he bought a convenient store in Sanford and owned and operated it until he retired. He belongs to the Chatham County Historical Association, the Chatham Arts Council and is a member of the American Legion. In 1992 he started Project Help in Sanford which was modeled after the PTA stores in Chatham County. He also started a scholarship at his high school in memory of a classmate who was killed in the Vietnam War. This year they will award four \$3,000 scholarships.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Hales,**

to approve the appointment of Andy Wilkie as Chatham County Commissioner for District Five. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard

### **MANAGER' S REPORTS**

*Mr. LaMontagne told the Commissioners that no problems were found during the Harris Plant Drill but rather, several best practices were found to recommend to other communities. The County erosion control program received recognition of excellence from the Department of Environmental Quality for the third time since 2008.*

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

*Vice Chair Hales has attended lots of meetings and has more coming up.*

*Commissioner Crawford reminded the Board that the TJCOG Regional Summit is coming up in October and Chatham County will be hosting people from neighboring counties and municipalities. There will be workshops on systems analysis; he is looking forward to that.*

*Commissioner Howard thanked the commissioners for coming to the district meeting last week. They heard some interesting things about the potential for broadband in Chatham.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Howard