



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, October 7, 2019

3:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Regular Session - 3:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 5 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford, Commissioner Karen Howard and Commissioner Andy Wilkie

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

[19-3238](#)

Vote on a request to approve the August 19, 2019 Work and Regular Session Minutes.

Attachments: [08.19.2019 Draft Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

[19-3249](#)

Vote on a request to approve the naming of three private roads in Chatham County

Attachments: [ENCLAVE WAY PETITION](#)
[ENCLAVE WAY MAP](#)
[SIPE FARM DR PETITION](#)
[SIPE FARM DR MAP](#)
[RIVERINE DR PETITION](#)
[RIVERINE DR MAP](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

[19-3251](#)

Vote on a request to approve an agreement between the County and E & J Randsell LLC. to purchase approximately 252 acres located in the Hickory Mountain Township at \$8,000 per acre, and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

Attachments: [Purchase Agreement E & J Randsell LLC](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mike Pool submitted the following comments:

Look at us now. Do you think people in the region watching the news are interested in coming to Pittsboro? Do you remember the words from Obama "you didn't build that"? Well, the four of you built a divided community. Just a few months ago the community was peaceful, downtown Pittsboro business were thriving on the weekend, but look at us now. Four of you participated in divisive democrat identity politics telling us how we need to feel about our veteran's war memorial. This vote divided the community and business owners have complained about the protest. I am not sure how this ends since you divided the county, one side is not going to be happy.

At the September 28th rally, the friends of our veteran's memorial typically gather in one or two spots and keep to ourselves. We were doing just that when your side marched into the middle of our group and started with a profanity laced tirade not only directed at us but at the Pittsboro police officers. They went as far as leading a chant "blue lives murder". Every citizen, downtown Pittsboro business owner and the chamber of commerce should be calling for your jobs for creating this disruption. Prior to your vote, the veteran's war memorial did not have the community divided and not one business owner has ever told me that the memorial hurts their business.

In the last commissioners meeting I requested you release the county lawyer recommendations on what you can do with the monument. If you remember I stated the people of Chatham County need to know if we need a new county lawyer or if the four that voted to move the monument violated their oath. For me the answer is becoming clear.

In reading the County lawyer Memorandum updated August 19, 2019 I have determined you need to release additional documents to the public, one being the May 3, 2019 memo from the county attorney and the proof the county has regarding ownership.

Regarding the county lawyer memo, on page 1 under item 1, second paragraph where someone other than the lawyer states "that there are no records, documents, or other evidence that the County ever accepted the Monument."

- Do you expect us to believe that the county was not involved in what the monument would look like and where it would be placed? Do you think that this material would have arrived on site and allowed to be constructed without consent?*
- Is there a document that says the county did not accept the monument?*
- What I have read in the Unveiling & Dedication ceremony is that the statue was presented by Mrs. H. A. London and received by Lieutenant O. A. Hanner. In this ceremony the veteran's war memorial was DEDICATED, someone PRESENTED the memorial and someone RECEIVED the memorial.*
- The county lawyer states that "based on documents we have seen thus far, and subject to further research in the County archives, it appears to us more likely that not that the monument is still owned by the Daughters". The word "appears" does not establish ownership. The lawyer also stated "Ownership is important and we will of course continue to look at that issue."*

I agree with the county attorney that ownership needs to be determined. I am requesting that the board release any document they have that shows ownership. If the board cannot produce this document, I request that the board terminate their action against the UDC as you have voted to have them remove something they say they do not own and you have not provided proof of ownership.

Calvin Megginson introduced himself as an organizing member of Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity. He expressed his support and appreciation for the work of the Board of Commissioners. The recent discussion regarding the removal of the Confederate monument has resulted in the exposure of wounds in the community. CORE is proposing a charrette, or an action to develop a plan for the removal of the statue based on community empowerment. Stakeholders from the community with a range of opinions are invited to participate. Mr. Megginson submitted a draft proposal to the Clerk and the Board.

Lisa Hudson submitted the following comments:

I would first like to say to Mr. Wilkie that most of my comments are not directed toward you. You came late to this fight, AND you were the only commissioner with the guts to stand up against Chatham for All.

To the other four of you: You don't have guts. You have gall. Y'all sat up there night after night so smug and pompous, and you feigned interest in the well researched and impassioned pleas that our side presented, knowing all along what your vote would be.

What a sham. A decision of this magnitude should not be made by four people, certainly not by four people pursuing their own agenda. It should be made by a vote of the people of Chatham County and I dare you to put it to a county-wide vote.

Don't you find it curious that before Chatham for All brought all this conflict and controversy and division to Chatham there was no conflict and controversy and division over the memorial? I do.

You sat up there and passed a new tax for no other reason except that you could. Then you sat around trying to think of what you could spend that new tax revenue on. Maybe you can spend it on another memorial that will appease Chatham for All. Some, or maybe one of you, mentioned a memorial to the lynchings that took place in Chatham. If you want to memorialize something so ugly, that's on you. Or maybe you can "reimage" a statue of a tutu wearing, tuba playing fairy, (or whatever that costume was supposed to represent). Again, that would be on you. BUT, if you tear down a memorial to our veterans, that will also be on you.

If you are successful in your imprudent decision to tear down the Confederate memorial, for my own sake I hope I live long enough to forgive you. But in turn I hope you live long enough to regret it.

Robert Butler submitted the following comments:

Chairman Dasher and members of the Board, will you please tell the citizens of this county why this meeting was moved from its normal time of 6pm to 3pm and stated that there would be no talk about the monument during public input? Was this your way to quiet the public voice that you so disagree with? Well, it's not going to work. You're doing nothing but wasting the taxpayers time and money with your self centered antics. The good people of Chatham County are having to pay attorneys to litigate against county attorneys that we've already paid for.

*Mr. Dasher, I'm sure you're familiar with Maya Little since she's the Antifa person that you support in your tweets to her. Are you aware, and I hope you were able to see the video where she cussed our local law enforcement like dogs. And Mr. Dasher, as far as you vilifying the good men of Chatham County for working on private property by calling them "D**ks", try joining us one day and tell that to our faces and where that gets you. We southern men don't sit behind keyboards and insult others. Hope you like "our flags" because you are going to be seeing a lot more of them.*

Peter Naylor is a resident of Hickory Mountain. Mr. Naylor stated that he is a resident of Hickory Mountain and wanted to comment on the purchase of 252 acres of land in the Hickory Mountain Township. Mr. Naylor detailed some of the biodiversity present on Hickory Mountain. He stated that he does not believe the area should be used for development because it would change the trees, flow of water and animals present. He expressed his desire for the commissioners to state the intended purpose of the purchased land and believes there should be a discussion.

Robbin Whittington supports keeping the statue in its current location.

BOARD PRIORITIES[19-3257](#)

Receive presentation from Cooperative Extension Poultry Agent Dan Campeau.

Attachments: [UPDATED dan's poultry slides BOC](#)

*Cooperative Extension Agent Dan Campeau gave a presentation to the Board.
(Presentation attached)*

Commissioner Crawford asked Mr. Campeau about the percentage of birds from Chatham County being processed at the Mountaire Plant. Mr. Campeau stated that right now it is a smaller percent but over the next 5-10 years there will be more birds coming from this area and Randolph County. Mountaire employs close to 1,200 people and generates 9-12 million dollars in salaries that are going to be spent in this county but it is a process that can take a while. Additionally, most Chatham County farmers already have contracts elsewhere so the plant is still bringing in birds from other locations.

[19-3254](#)

Receive presentation on Human Relations

Attachments: [10-7-19 BOC Human Relations Update Courtney](#)
[Diagram human relations collaborative structure February 18 2019](#)

Part-Time Analyst Courtney Cooper-Lewter gave a presentation on Human Relations to the Board.

Vice Chair Hales asked about the successful models that Ms. Cooper-Lewter used as a reference. Ms. Cooper-Lewter responded that some were in Durham, one was in Charleston, and one organization based out of D.C. that does social justice work with local governments across the country.

Commissioner Howard asked for clarification on the phrase credibility for the community. She asked if Ms. Cooper-Lewter was referring to the broader community as in Chatham County or the specific community that a person represents or deals with. Ms. Cooper-Lewter stated that she believes everyone should have credibility within the community they represent but the convener needs to have broad credibility with the larger community because it would help create more buy-in, especially from parts that are further away otherwise not normally involved. Commissioner Howard then asked for clarification on the word "convener". Ms. Cooper-Lewter said it would depend on how the human relations collaborative was organized but basically it refers to the convening entity and not necessarily to an individual.

At the conclusion of Ms. Cooper-Lewter's presentation, Commissioner Howard asked if Ms. Cooper-Lewter has had a chance to talk to some of the groups and organizations that may already be doing things in the community. Ms. Cooper-Lewter asked if Commissioner Howard was referring to bringing groups like CORE and the Hispanic Liaison together. Commissioner Howard said yes. Ms. Cooper-Lewter said she had not talked to them in that context but it's a possibility as well. Commissioner Howard asked if there was someone that could already be identified early on that could serve as a sort of touchpoint or somewhere online where something could be created. She

recommended maybe forming a database or establishing someone for groups seeking a safe space to dialogue to reach out to. Ms. Cooper-Lewter said they were welcome to point people in her direction.

Vice Chair Hales believes that the Council on Aging should be a part of this group and dialogue. She also stated that she would like to see more of a voice given to the other existing non-profits as well. Ms. Cooper-Lewter stated that Melanie Girard from the Council on Aging was part of the task force so they had been in contact.

Commissioner Howard said there are multiple conversations happening in the community right now revolving around the statue but there is also a deeper conversation being had. She would like a list compiled of the organizations and community groups having this conversation because she does not feel as though this should be a commissioner-led, government-mandated thing. It should be something the community supports.

[19-3250](#)

Receive presentation to review transportation planning in Chatham County.

Attachments: [Resource Page](#)
[Transportation Knowledge Powerpoint](#)

Planner Chance Mullis gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Commissioner Howard asked are the MPO and TARPO lines fixed or will they change with development? Regional Rural Planning Organization Representative Matt Day stated every ten years after the census is completed, the MPOs revise their boundaries.

Mr. Day said Pittsboro has their own transportation plan but eventually it will become part of the county plan.

Chair Dasher asked if most of these plans deal with traffic? Chance - traffic, bike/ped

Vice Chair Hales asked how Chatham towns are represented on the TARPO? Mr. Day responded that there is only one voting town member per county.

Vice Chair Hales asked if there is a federal component to TARPO. Mr. Day said no, there is federal funding for TARPO but there are no federal rules.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

Mr. LaMontagne wanted to report on CycleNC. He congratulated CVB Director Neha Shah on the great job she did. The event was tremendously successful and a major benefit to Siler City.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Vice Chair Hales had the honor of pushing in the new firetruck with Mayor Grimes in Siler City. It was a good event. She is glad the agency will soon be able to hire five new full time employees.

Commissioner Crawford once again reminded the Board about the upcoming regional TJCOG Summit being held at the Agriculture and Conference Center. The day begins

at 8:00 AM and the workshops and awards program begin at 9 AM. There will be a limited number of disposable water bottles available in an effort to make the event more ecologically friendly.

Commissioner Howard reported on a large event the Arts Council had at the plant. It was a great success and there were testimonies that spoke to what the arts are doing in schools. She thanked commissioners again for support. On Thursday, attending first A Ambassador. Friday executive board committee. Update on Coates center soon

Commissioner Wilkie attended a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee and reported that they are looking for input for the Moncure/Southeast Park. Input will be solicited November 7th and November 9th at the Moncure Fire Department.

CLOSED SESSION

[19-3253](#)

Closed Session to discuss items relating to attorney-client privilege and economic development.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Wilkie, to approve going out of the Regular Session and convening in Closed Session to discuss matters relating to economic development and attorney-client privilege. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Wilkie