



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 2, 2022

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

ATTENDANCE

Present: 4 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores and Commissioner Robert Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Karen Howard

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Gomez Flores invited everyone to pause for a moment of silence after which he asked everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Gomez Flores welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

The Board added an agenda item to the consent agenda to adopt a resolution amending the 2022 Board of Commissioners' regular meeting schedule.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Hales, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard

[22-4274](#)

Vote on a request to approve renewal of the three-year contract service for \$165,000.00 with ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute), Inc. and authorize the county manager to execute the agreement.

Attachments: [County of Chatham EA renewal-ESRI](#)
[EsriRoutingForm Signed](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Hales, 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 Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard

[22-4283](#)

Vote on a request by the Chatham County ABC Board to confer a raise in salary to Matt Williams, the General Manager of the county system.

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

Aye: 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard

[22-4284](#)

Vote on a request to appoint Christine Harrelson to the Chatham County ABC Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Hales, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Roy Brooks said hazardous conditions were caused by Scott Smith in regard to a private road. Mr. Brooks would like a written response. On Masonary Lane off Old US-1 across from the chipper mill, half a mile south of the Wake County line to the right-of-way is on his property was the location. He does not understand how there was heavy industrial back there without a hearing. Commissioner Hales said staff would ask planning and zoning staff to investigate. Lindsay Ray has Mr. Brooks' contact information.

Nita Dukes submitted written comments that will be forwarded to the commissioners.

ABC Chair, Walter Harris, addressed the Board. Mr. Harris thanked the Board for passing the consent agenda and for the raise and appointment. The store in Moncure should be up and running sometime in July. The state March reports showed the ABC stores were up six percent from last March. Chatham was up forty one percent and driving the state.

Commissioner Hales asked if the store at the gas station would be closing. Mr. Harris said they were relocating to Pittsboro Moncure Road on the Pittsboro side of US-1. Mr. Harris said they have been working for the past four years on underage drinking and it has not been about sales.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[22-4281](#)

Receive presentation of the 2022-2023 Recommended Budget

Attachments: [Recommended Budget Presentation--BOC Initial Presentation FY2023 Final](#)

Dan LaMontagne said he was pleased to bring the Board a recommended budget today. He thanked the budget team, Bryan Thompson, and all the finance staff.

Bryan Thompson gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Mr. Thompson said this was a high-level overview. The budget message and document would be uploaded to the County website after the meeting and staff hoped to have it translated into Spanish by May 11th. He thanked Tony Messer and Darrell Butts for their work to get the school budget information compiled.

Some of the expenses in the next budget would be contractual increases, cloud-based software, data governance and LiDAR. Also, the Turf Management Plan would increase for preventative maintenance.

An employee pay adjustment was recommended with a seven percent pay increase for employees who met expectations. There was also a recommendation to increase 401K contribution by half a percent from four and a half percent to five percent.

Mr. Thompson gave credit to the budget team, especially Lisa West, for a project over the summer that pulled the fee schedules from all the departments into one comprehensive fee schedule document.

There would be new and increased fees for Environmental Health and improvement permits.

*Residential two bedrooms would be increased from \$120 to \$150.
Residential three bedrooms would be increased from \$200 to \$225.
Residential four bedrooms would be increased from \$275 to \$300.
Residential five bedrooms would be increased from \$330 to \$350.
Residential six or more bedrooms would be increased from \$400 to \$400 plus additional \$50 for each bedroom above six.
Pool Permits increased from \$175 to \$200.*

The Senior Games would be a ten-dollar early registration rate, fifteen-dollar standard rate, and a five-dollar bagged lunch. The facility rental would be one hundred and twenty dollars per week. Sitter background checks would be eighteen dollars. Medical Transport would be two dollars each way.

Next steps for the Budget would be two public hearings held on May 16th at the Historic Courthouse and May 17th at the Wren Library in Siler City. The Budget work sessions will be held May 24th, 25th, and 26th at the Agriculture Center.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. LaMontagne, the budget and finance teams and all the departments for their articulations of the justifications needed for the budget.

[22-4282](#)

Vote on a request to approve to proceed with a working group to draft recommendations for a Tree Protection ordinance. The working group would be made up of representatives from the Planning Board, Climate Change Advisory Committee, Environmental Review Advisory Committee and the Appearance Commission. These advisory

committees included this issue as a priority for the UDO.

Chair of the Environmental Review Advisory Committee, Elaine Chiosso, reviewed the specifics of the request.

The Advisory Committee Working Group would look into drafting a Tree Protection Ordinance. Members would be made up of members from the Climate Change Advisory Committee, Environmental Review Advisory Committee, and Planning Board. Ms. Chiosso thought it would be great to have a representative from the Grand Trees of Chatham organization. The Appearance Commission declined to participate at this time. The committee made up of six to twelve people would follow the open meetings laws and report back to the Board of Commissioners. Once this draft recommendation was in the hands of the Board of Commissioners, the Board would choose whether it would be a standalone ordinance before the Unified Development Ordinance was approved.

Chair of the Planning Board, George Lucier, thanked the Board for the consideration of this request. The Planning Board had not formally discussed this but would be in attendance at the Planning Board meeting tomorrow night. Many Planning Board members have expressed their interest in a Tree Protection Ordinance.

Co-Chair of Climate Change Advisory Committee, Charlie Cooper, also supported this request along with the entire committee. The Climate Change Advisory Committee also had not formally discussed this proposal. Three members have said they would like to participate. They have a model ordinance that was put together by John Graybeal. Mr. Graybeal drew heavily from the Nichol School model and that could be a starting point for the ordinance.

Commissioner Hales asked if anyone had talked to the Grand Trees of Chatham organization. Ms. Chiosso said not yet.

Commissioner Dasher asked what the consultants' scope of work for the Unified Development Ordinance was and if the Board was getting ahead of this work. Mr. LaMontagne said the consultants had only done the audit at this point and areas of interest. It was a little too early to say.

Commissioner Hales supported moving forward with the working group. Commissioner Logan would be in favor of moving forward with the working group and would like to see what they are looking at so he would be more familiar.

Ms. Chiosso said they would go back to their own committees and ask for representatives. They would need guidance on how to proceed with Open Meetings Law. Mr. LaMontagne said the group would sit down with Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray and he after the group was formed. He suggested a smaller number of group members.

Ms. Chiosso said she thought the group could have something in six months to present to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Dasher had some concern that the Unified Development Ordinance process was intended to consolidate these ordinances. Commissioner Hales said to make sure the Unified Development Ordinance consultant was informed.

Ms. Chiosso said as far as the General Assembly goes, the County would see what happens with the legislation.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Logan,

that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard

CLERK'S REPORT

Lindsay Ray said the month of May had seven meetings for the Board. The budget public hearings would be held May 16th at the Historic Courthouse and May 17th at the Wren Library in Siler City. The public was encouraged to submit written comments to the Clerk's office, if unable to attend the public hearings. The budget work sessions will be held May 24th, 25th, and 26th at the Agriculture Center.

The June 5th regular meeting had been revised to begin at 1PM instead of 2 PM.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Dan LaMontagne missed the Chamber Development Briefing to attend the State Energy Conference with Environmental Quality Director, Kevin Lindley. Chatham was recognized for the SolSmart gold certification award as one of the early awarded entities in the State. The conference focused on solar energy, electrification of fleet vehicles, and energy conservation.

He thanked the Board for their guidance on the budget at the January retreat and thanked the staff.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Dasher had nothing to report.

Vice Chair Gomez Flores said elections were underway.

Commissioner Hales said early voting does include Sundays. She attended the opening of the Three Point Center last week. She was pleased to see the facility for adolescent adopted females that opened under this new organization. They trained the girls on how to do the work with wild mustangs to work through their own trauma. The girls were ages twelve to seventeen and the facility was along the Rocky River. She was able to connect the facility with the Arts Incubator and some Chatham County therapists. They were working with the school system.

Commissioner Logan thanked Mr. LaMontagne, the budget, and finance staff for their work on the preparation of the budget. He knew the tremendous amount of work it took to develop a budget.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Logan

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Howard