



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, November 1, 2021

4:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Work Session - 4:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

CLOSED SESSION

Present: 5 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Karen Howard

[21-4073](#)

Vote on a request to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

RECESS

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Rollcall

Present: 5 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Karen Howard

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dasher called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Doug Sedlak

Commissioners, This is my third visit. Three visits necessitated by lack of response to a County study I sent you. A scientific study demonstrating that Vaccine Passports discriminate against disabled, biracial, Hispanic, and Black Countians. Fortunately in this case you Follow the Science. You don't deny discrimination is happening. However last meeting, Commissioner Hales falsely claimed there is NOTHING the County can do about private entities discriminating. That's untrue Commissioners. There are many Many MANY ways the County can battle discrimination. As I stated, our Health Department regulates private entities to protect Public Health. Like Health inspections. Structural Racism is a FORMAL County Health Crisis - Health Crises gives authorities like Director Zelek virtually unlimited power to combat them. Thus the Health Department can eliminate this structurally racist practice - asking for your papers and ID and disproportionately driving off Hispanics and Blacks - by banning it. Come on, we KNOW it's racist - we DON'T do this to voters, do we? The County must contact the Justice Department Civil Rights Division too. The disabled get it worse, in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Further, you Commissioners and our Health Department are a Bully Pulpit. Speak for the People, Commissioners. Say this is wrong. Speak out. The Shakori Hills Festival just announced draconian discriminatory policies. Pick up the phone, Commissioners. Call the promoters AND the sponsors. Tell them discrimination has no place in Chatham. Read them our anti-discrimination ordinances. Tell them you and the Health Department will battle this Public Health issue. You Commissioners can keep Chatham great. But you MUST act. This is Jim Crow 2.0 with disabled Countians kicked to the curb too. You MUST ACT, Commissioners, or be part of the problem. The problem? white Supremacy rearing its ugly head in our beloved Chatham. Nip it in the bud, Commissioners.

BOARD PRIORITIES

21-4069

Receive the Annual Report from the Climate Change Advisory Committee

Attachments: [ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2021](#)
[INTRO to Climate Protection - Chatham County](#)

Climate Change Advisory Committee Co-Chair Charlie Cooper gave the annual report to the Board. (Annual Report and Presentation attached)

Anita Dukes and Charlie Cooper have co-chaired the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC). There were five new members and two vacancies to be filled. The CCAC focused on climate change and mitigation strategies with reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, green building standards, regenerative agriculture practices, and best practices for the county's tree cover in the face of development. The committee was involved with the greenhouse gas inventory for the county and studied Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers equitable accessibility across the county. Mr. Cooper said the CCAC would like ordinances that would make EV readiness a requirement for new residential structures. The committee prepared a tree protection ordinance model for the Board to consider.

The acceleration of climate effects have moved faster than experts predicted, so the

committee chose to focus on two areas: the storing of carbon in trees through regenerative agriculture and electrification of transportation. The committee would report to the BOC on December 20th ten recommendations of things to be prioritized.

Commissioner Howard and Vice Chair Hales thanked the committee for their work.

Mr. Cooper expressed his thanks to Environmental Quality Director Kevin Lindley and his staff for the support they provided the committee. He also thanked Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray for helping the committee get vacancies filled and worked with them to ensure the BOC gets the information it needed.

The committee's preparation for December 20th meeting would have an overall goal of a carbon negative county. The current carbon dioxide sequestered for the county is currently 1.1 million. Mr. Cooper stated it would be difficult to sustain the current level with future development.

Vice Chair Hales said news station WRAL had reported average highs and lows of twenty years average low in NC region has increased temperature four degrees. She suggested a discussion at the January Commissioners Retreat about the future of the county, including climate change, using the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Commissioner Howard stated the Board had an opportunity with Plan Chatham to incorporate practices and strategies into the work of county stakeholders. She asked if the county had seen some positive environmental impacts from more people working from home during COVID and how the county can maintain some of the options around transportation that arose during the pandemic.

Commissioner Crawford asked the committee to forward to the Board any model they had come across for tree preservation ordinances. He also stated he supported the idea of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) made the standard the conservation subdivisions going forward. He stated it was important to get these policies in place before explosive growth occurs in the county. He said he supported the start of county fleet transition to EV and hybrid vehicles as soon as possible and use technology to retrofit the buildings. A green job summit would be an excellent idea in partnership with Central Carolina Community College (CCCC).

Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray thanked the co-chairs of the committee for their work. She said the CCAC's vacancies are for the municipalities – asked the Board if they had any recommendations let her know.

[21-4071](#)

Receive presentation of the FY 2023-2029 Capital Improvements Plan

Attachments: [InitialPresentationToBOC- 2023-2029](#)

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

Mr. Thompson said the presentation would not be a detailed overview of CIP. There would be a more thorough overview at the work session on November 16th. He stated the Board would hold a public hearing on the Recommended Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) on Monday, November 15th at 6:00 PM at the Historic Courthouse and would hold a work session on Tuesday, November 16th to review the CIP.

[21-4072](#)

Introduction to ordinance amendments to comply with Senate Bill 300.

Attachments: [Ordinance Continuing Misdemeanors](#)

County Attorney Bob Hagemann reviewed the item.

Mr. Hagemann stated that a violation of county ordinances was a class 3 misdemeanor unless the governing board provided otherwise. Senate Bill 300 changed that. A violation of local ordinance was not a misdemeanor unless the ordinance specifically provided that it was. The new policy would take effect December 1st. Mr. Hagemann and the Sheriff's Office Attorney Rik Stevens identified from law enforcement perspective which ordinances the Sheriff preferred remained criminally enforced. It was a policy neutral set of proposals.

Mr. Hagemann stated the Board could not adopt these amendments on first introduction. The Board would vote on the amendments at the November 15th Board meeting. If the changes were approved, they would become effective December 1st.

Vice Chair Hales asked whether the section of the noise ordinance that provided the penalty for breaking the ordinance applied to the whole noise ordinance. Mr. Hagemann stated that the chapters already provided for criminal enforcement but they were in a catch-all provision at the bottom of the chapter. There was some debate among county attorneys about whether a catch-all provision is sufficient. County staff has decided to go into the provisions that described the conduct and stated the penalty for violation of the provision.

Commissioner Crawford asked if the intent of the General Assembly was to make every county's standards across the state the same. Mr. Hagemann stated that was part of a comprehensive criminal reform bill that had bipartisan support.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray stated that the Seaforth High School ribbon cutting is on November 10th at 6:00pm. She reminded the Commissioners that the next Board of Commissioners regular meeting is on November 15th and the CIP Work Session is on November 16th at 9:00 am at the Agriculture and Conference Center. She stated the UDO consultants want to have a work session with the Commissioners on December 8th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Ms. Ray will be out of the office November 17th-19th attending the School of Government's Clerks Academy. She encouraged all to attend Saturday, November Chatham 250 celebration event Saturday November, fireworks event and the chat teens will be at the Chatham Rabbit to collect items for the time capsule.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The county manager had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Gomez Flores stated he is attending the last Hunt Institute meeting this weekend. He also stated Chatham Hospital has reached out to him about joining the Board.

Commissioner Howard stated it was encouraging to be at the first of the Hunt Institute

meetings talking about post-secondary educational opportunities in North Carolina.

Vice Chair Hales stated that the Animal Resource Center had its grand opening last week. It was wonderful to see what has been in the process for six years. She also stated that Love's Creek Stewards will be meeting this Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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