



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Thursday, January 30, 2025

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Special Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 4 - Chair Karen Howard, Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores and Commissioner Amanda Robertson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the special meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Howard asked for a moment of silence which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the special meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Amanda Robertson, that the special meeting agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Howard, Vice Chair Kenlan, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Robertson

BOARD PRIORITIES

[25-0054](#)

Vote to appoint or reappoint board members to State and Regional Boards

Chair Howard lead a discussion for the state and regional board appointments. The Board of Commissioners reviewed each organization and recommended the following appointments:

*Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) - Delegate - Katie Kenlan
Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) - Alternate - Karen Howard*

Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees - Karen Howard

Central Pines Council of Governments Delegate - Amanda Robertson

Central Pines Council of Governments Alternate - Katie Kenlan

Central Pines Council of Governments on Aging - Katie Kenlan

Central Pines Council of Governments Adult Care & Nursing Home Committee - Katie Kenlan

Triangle West Planning Organization Delegate - Karen Howard

Triangle West Planning Organization Alternate - Katie Kenlan

North Carolina Department of Public Safety - Local Emergency Planning Committee - Franklin Gomez-Flores

Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization Delegate (TARPO) - Amanda Robertson

Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) Alternate- David Delaney

Research Triangle Regional Partnership Delegate - Franklin Gomez-Flores

Vaya Health Region 4 Board - Karen Howard and Jennie Kristiansen - DSS Director

A motion was made by Commissioner Amanda Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the appointments to state and regional boards as recommended was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Howard, Vice Chair Kenlan, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Robertson

25-0055

Receive a presentation and discuss George Moses Horton signs

Attachments: [20220616 Honorary Designation GMH Highway MEMO_corrected](#)
[RES - George Moses Horton 12-21-2021](#)
[Resolution Honoring George Moses Horton 2-21-2022 signed](#)

County Manager Bryan Thompson updated the Board of Commissioners on the history of the honorary designation on highway 15-501 for George Moses Horton.

Thompson stated several years ago, this item first came up in 2021, where a resolution was presented to the Board of Commissioners and approved. That resolution specifically called for the entire stretch of highway 15-501 to be renamed and called for the Town of Pittsboro to rename Hillsboro Street within the city limits to George Moses Horton Boulevard. In 2022 the same resolution was amended to no longer request the renaming of the road, but to have an honorary designation with signs and this resolution was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Thompson stated after the approval County Manager LaMontagne asked Emergency Management Director Steve Newton to come back with an action plan for the implementation of the resolution. Mr. Newton reported back some limitations based on the resolution. North Carolina Department of Transportation has a five-mile limitation and the area is twenty-two and a half miles. Another limitation is the individual to be honored could not be deceased greater than seventy-five years. Thompson indicated that we are seeking a waiver. Then the last requirement would be that we receive permission from the family, including an agreement with the family.

Thompson stated that Mr. Newton has presented in his memo an alternative to this which would require a new resolution to be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The alternative would be welcome signs at both ends of Chatham County, at the Orange County line and the Lee County line. We would work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on the design, and we would pay for them.

Thompson stated that staff is looking for direction. The Board of Commissioners discussed the signage and would like to move forward with the welcome signs. Thompson stated that staff would bring back the required resolution to the next meeting.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk to the Board Jenifer Johnson had nothing to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Bryan Thompson updated the Board of Commissioners on a few legislative items including the executive order to freeze federal funding. Staff has begun to reach out to the various departments to identify any items that may be effected.

Thompson stated that House Bill 24 related to down zoning and is a statewide measure was introduced today, and staff is monitoring that one as well.

Thompson stated that the Chatham County Schools Joint Board meeting will be on February 25 at 6:00pm in the school administration building. The legislative breakfast will be on March 3rd at the conference center. The winter managers' conference will be next week, and the three managers will be there.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Robertson stated that she had a couple of days of training including the essentials of county government, where she learned a lot. She also attended the Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Kenlan stated that she was able to meet with some of the volunteers on the senior tar heel legislative committee. She attended the Sheriff's Office first annual awards public ceremony.

Commissioner Gomez-Flores stated that he attended the Board of Health meeting where there was a presentation from the Health Alliance. They identified goals and activities.

Chair Howard stated that she is looking forward to meeting with the Chatham County Board of Education and this week she's met a number of times with Triangle West, who is unveiling new branding. Howard stated that she also had the opportunity to attend several Martin Luther King Jr. events.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Howard called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, that the meeting was adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Howard, Vice Chair Kenlan, Commissioner Gomez Flores, and Commissioner Robertson