



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 1, 2023

6:00 PM

Agriculture and Conference Center

Presentation of the Recommended Budget

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center

Present: 5 - Vice Chair Mike Dasher, Commissioner David Delaney, Chair Karen Howard, Commissioner Katie Kenlan and Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Howard asked for a moment of silence to remember those affected by gun violence after which she invited everyone in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Vice Chair Mike Dasher, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4737](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve a Utility Easement on County Property for the City of Sanford to Extend Utilities for the Vinfast Project and Authorize the County Manager to Sign Pending Legal Review

Attachments: [EXHIBIT A](#)

[Chatham County- Utility Easement](#)

[Donation Agreement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Flores, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, that this Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4743](#)

Vote on a request to approve competitive bid exemption and sole source

for Webb Squared

Attachments: [Webb Squared Proposal 04.11.2023](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

End of Consent Agenda

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[23-4745](#)

Vote to adopt a resolution proclaiming April 30 through May 6, 2023 as Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioner's Week

Attachments: [Resolution Clerks Proclamation](#)

Chair Howard called Clerk Lindsay Ray to the podium to present the agenda item to the Board.

Ms. Ray said that last year, the NC Association of County Clerks Association discussed making the IIMC Municipal Clerks Week proclamation more inclusive of county clerks. They asked the IIMC to consider changing the name of the annual proclamation to Professional Clerks Week. The NC Association was very appreciative of the IIMC for hearing and discussing the request and the IIMC changed the name of the annual proclamation to Professional Municipal Clerks Week. The NC Association was disappointed in that outcome and decided that it would develop its own proclamation honoring County Clerks to Boards of Commissioners in North Carolina.

Chair Howard asked Ms. Ray to share with those in attendance and those watching remotely what a county clerk to a Board of Commissioners does. Ms. Ray said the clerk is the liaison between the public and the Board of Commissioners and between the staff and the Board. County clerks wear many hats and often the job description cannot capture all of a clerk's responsibilities. Ms. Ray said she personally feels her most important responsibility is to be an ambassador for the Board as well as the entire organization. Being an ambassador means being an educator and sharing information with staff and residents.

Chair Howard read the resolution into the record. Chair Howard continued by saying that the clerk is the communication link between the Board, the residents, and the organization and Chatham's clerks do it incredibly well.

A motion was made by Commissioner Delaney, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #23-23 proclaiming April 30 through May 6, 2023 as Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioner's Week, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[23-4749](#)

Presentation of recommended Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson gave a presentation to the Board.

Mr. Thompson thanked the budget team and all the staff who were responsible for getting the recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners tonight. The County is using new technology for the budget document, a web-based platform that is more accessible and engaging.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 in Pittsboro at 6:00 PM and Tuesday, May 16, 2023 in Siler City at 6:00 PM.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Lindsay Ray thanked the Board for adopting the resolution recognizing NC County Clerks Week. She has known for a long time that she is the luckiest County Clerk in the state to work for such a supportive Board. She thanked the Board for being a model to other Boards around the state.

Ms. Ray reminded the Board of the following upcoming meetings:

- May 15th – Work and Regular Sessions at the Agriculture and Conference Center*
- May 16th – 6 pm Budget Public Hearing at Siler City Town Hall*
- May 23, 24, and 25th – 9 am Budget Work Sessions at the Agriculture and Conference Center*
- June 5th – There will be a Work Session and Regular Sessions with the 6 pm Regular Session dedicated to receiving an update on the Small Area Plan.*

The Clerk's Office sent several emails to the commissioners about reappointments, and they need the commissioners' input/responses by this Friday to ensure the appointments make it on the June 20th agenda.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Dan LaMontagne attended the NC Energy Conference last week. The conference covered electric vehicles, solar energy, and efficiencies for local government buildings. Environmental Quality Director Kevin Lindley & Planner Brandon Dawson also attended.

The Chamber Development Briefing was held last week. He thanked Chair Howard for her presentation.

The County is in the middle of Senior Games. He and several other staff competed.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Delaney met with Elaine Chiosso, the outgoing chair of the

Environmental Review Advisory Committee, in March. The committee says it has been difficult to find members who could routinely attend the meetings. He encouraged the other commissioners to make sure applicants are committed before making any appointments. Elaine was later re-elected as chair and the ERAC will focus on the watershed protection Chapter 9 of the UDO at upcoming meetings.

Commissioner Delaney said the Climate Change Advisory Committee recommended the purchase of software to help project the needs of the County. They continue to track opportunities for the state and schools to convert to EV buses. There is an EPA bus grant program. Chatham County does not have an EV school bus but there are opportunities out there.

Commissioner Delaney said the Board of Elections approved two new precincts. Due to population growth, especially in the Pittsboro area, Pittsboro has been separated into two precincts and the Manns Chapel precinct was also split into two precincts. At their April meeting, they approved some language and concepts they would like to introduce to the Board of Commissioners in a memorandum in the coming month.

Commissioner Gomez Flores attended the Board of Health meeting last week. They were introduced to the new staff person who will oversee the Health Department's use of the opioid settlement funds. Commissioner Gomez Flores also attended the NC CORE briefing in High Point two weeks ago.

Commissioner Kenlan said it was an honor to kick off the Senior Games and the Silver Arts Awards. She looks forward to supporting the Council on Aging and their future transition from a nonprofit to a Chatham County department.

Chair Howard said the Chamber Development Briefing was well attended. Tomorrow she will attend the Oil and Gas Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores