



Chatham County, NC

Legislation Text

File #: 24-5387, **Version:** 1

Vote to appoint Reginald Horton and reappoint Sharon Day to the Agricultural Advisory Board for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2027

Introduction & Background: The Chatham County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) was established by the Board of Commissioners to administer the county's Voluntary Agricultural District program; oversee updates and implementation of Chatham County's Farmland Protection Plan; and advise the Board of Commissioners on matters related to agricultural, horticultural, and forestry activities within the County.

By ordinance, the AAB may consist of up to nine members. Currently the Board has six duly nominated and approved members.

At their meeting of June 11, 2024, the Agricultural Advisory Board unanimously approved the nomination of Reginald Horton, a Chatham County farmer, for membership. The board also unanimously approved the nomination of Sharon Day, whose current term expires on June 30, for an additional three-year term.

Discussion & Analysis: Through its endorsement of the "Plan Chatham" Comprehensive Plan, the Board of Commissioners has endorsed efforts to preserve Chatham County's agricultural landscapes and resources through programs such as the Voluntary Agricultural District and implementation of the Farmland Protection Plan. An active, robust, and diverse Agricultural Advisory Board is a crucial element in this process, as the AAB plays an important liaison role between the county government and the communities they represent. This motion enhances the diversity and leadership of the AAB by adding a dynamic new member from the Chatham County farming community and extending the term for another.

How does this relate to the Comprehensive Plan: A primary goal of "Plan Chatham" is to "preserve, protect, and enable agriculture and forestry." The Agricultural Advisory Board is the primary citizen advisory board overseeing this goal.

Budgetary Impact: There is no budgetary impact for this motion. Members serve voluntarily without compensation.

Recommendation/Motion: Motion to appoint Reginald Horton and reappoint Sharon Day to the Agricultural Advisory Board for three-year terms expiring on June 30, 2027.