Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Church began the meeting at 6:03 PM for public comment.

Regular Session was called to order at 6:07 PM after public comment.

Public Comment Period
Mr. Gabe Pipes came to the podium to speak during the public comment period. Mr. Pipes is the new site director for Fort Defiance in Lenoir, NC. Mr. Pipes told the Board he had been in his position for a few months and wanted to come by and introduce himself. Mr. Pipes then gave a brief background about Fort Defiance and stated they have been working with a class at Appalachian State University. This class will be coming to Fort Defiance on April 29th at 6:00 PM to showcase a new exhibit. Mr. Pipes stated the staff believes that they have found the original Fort of Fort Defiance, and they may be able to mark off this property and possibly recreate the Fort. Mr. Pipes told the Board he would be sending an email with an invitation to the event on April 29th and mentioned they would also be having a 4th of July event. The Board thanked Mr. Pipes for coming.

Invocation
With Pastor Brown's absence, Vice Chairman LaBrose led the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Robbie Wilkie led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public
The County Manager informed the Board that there were multiple amendments to the agenda. The first of these would be Item 5a, a Proclamation for Clean Caldwell 2024, the second would be Item 5b, a Proclamation for Line Workers Appreciation week, the third would be Item 23a the Reappointment of Chris Barlowe to the Planning Board, and the fourth would be the addition of a closed session for Economic development.
Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. National Public Health Month

Caldwell County Health Director, Anna Martin, came to the podium to read the Proclamation for National Public Health Month.
Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.
Chairman Church thanked the Health Department for all they do and noted that by being on the Board of Health, he sees a lot that goes untold.

See Proclamation 03-2024

2. Child Abuse Prevention Month

Caldwell County Clerk, Abby Rich, read the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Proclamation 02-2024

3. Local Library Week 2024

Caldwell County Public Library Director, Leslie Griffin, came to the podium to read the proclamation for Local Library Week 2024.
Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Proclamation 05-2024

4. Supporting the Reclassification of Telecommunicators

Caldwell County Communications Director, Ronnie Rombs, came to the podium to present the Resolution for Supporting the Reclassification of Telecommunicators.
Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the resolution.
Commissioner Wilkie said that the employees in this department do a good job, and he appreciates all of these employees.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Resolution 04-2024

5. 2024 Telecommunicators Week

Caldwell County Telecommunications Director, Ronnie Rombs, came to the podium to read the Proclamation for 2024 Telecommunicators Week.
Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the proclamation as read.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Proclamation 04-2024

5a. Clean Caldwell 2024

Commissioner Potter read the Proclamation for a Clean Caldwell 2024. Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
Chairman Church mentioned that the information for this event is on the County's website and we are looking for volunteers to sign up.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Proclamation 06-2024

5b. Line Workers Appreciation 2024
Chairman Church read the Proclamation for Line Workers Appreciation Week 2024.
Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Proclamation 07-2024

6. Conveyance of Surplus Property to Nonprofit Organization
Emergency Services Director, Dino DiBernardi, came to the podium to present information about the conveyance of surplus property to Little River Fire and Rescue. The vehicle is a 2002 Chevy Tahoe to be sold for the amount of $1.00 with the contingency that if Little River ever decided to sell the vehicle, it could be sold and the earnings given back to Caldwell County or transferred back to the County for the County to surplus. The vehicle does not have any striping or emergency lights on it.
Commissioner Branch made the motion to approve the resolution.
The motion carried unanimously.

See Resolution 03-2024

7. Forestry Service Truck Upfitting
Emergency Services Chief Dino DiBernardi, along with Forest Service members Harley Andrews and Jason Noble, came to the podium to request a budget revision for the up-fitting of a Forest Service Truck. Chief DiBernardi provided brief background information about obtaining the truck.
Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the budget revision.
The motion carried unanimously.

8. RA-20 to GB Rezoning Request
Planning Director Shelley Stevens came to the podium to present information about a rezoning request to change a parcel of land from Residential Agriculture to General Business. Derrick Dollar, owner of Hogwild BBQ, is the owner of the 5.022 acre property located on Connelly Springs Rd. in Granite Falls. (NC PIN: 2755036304) Ms. Stevens told the Board that this request is in alignment with the comprehensive plan. Ms. Stevens also provided maps to show where the property is located and noted there is no evidence that this rezoning would harm the health, safety, or welfare of the community. Commissioner Branch asked if anyone had complained about the rezoning. Ms. Stevens provided that no one had said anything.
Chairman Church declared the public hearing open. With there being no individuals signed up to speak, the public hearing was declared closed. Commissioner Branch made the motion to approve the rezoning as presented by the Planning Director.
The motion carried unanimously.

The Board thanked Ms. Stevens.

9. Ordinance Revisions and Adoption
The County Manager told the Board that these ordinance revisions were a large effort by staff and our contracted legal team with Teague and Campbell, led by Attorney Debra Bechtel. The County Manager also provided special thanks to County Clerk, Abby Rich. The County Manager reviewed the list of ordinances that had been added,

revised, and removed from the code. Those Ordinances added were Alcoholic Beverages on County Property, Begging and Soliciting Prohibited, Minimum Housing and Non-Residential Buildings, and State of Emergency. Those Ordinances revised were Animal Care and Enforcement, Building Code Inspections, Concealed Weapons on County Property, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Life Safety, Noise Regulations, Racetracks and Dragstrips, Public Water Systems, and Septage Collection, Transportation, and Disposal. Those Ordinances removed were Cable Television Systems, Alarm Systems, Massage Businesses, Hazardous Waste Management, Cemeteries, Health and Sanitation, Parking Regulations, Phase II Stormwater, and Public Safety.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing open. With there being no individuals signed up to speak, the public hearing was then declared closed.

Chairman Church offered to entertain a motion for all of the ordinances to be adopted in the reading of one motion. Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt these ordinances in the reading of one motion. The County Manager reminded the Chairman that the proposed ordinances will go through two readings, with this one being the first. The County Manager also informed the Board that changes and adjustments can be made up until the second reading of these ordinances.
The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the Chapters: Alcoholic Beverages on County Property, Begging and Soliciting Prohibited, Minimum Housing and Non-Residential Buildings, State of Emergency, Animal Care and Enforcement, Building Code Inspections, Concealed Weapons on County Property, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Life Safety, Noise Regulations, Racetracks and Dragstrips, Public Water Systems, and Septage Collection, Transportation, and Disposal, and that we repeal any other ordinances under Alcoholic Beverages on County Property, Begging and Soliciting Prohibited, Minimum Housing and Non-Residential Buildings, State of Emergency, Animal Care and Enforcement, Building Code Inspections, Concealed Weapons on County Property, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Life Safety, Noise Regulations, Racetracks and Dragstrips, Public Water Systems, and Septage Collection, Transportation, and Disposal, and that the County Manager has the authority to make any typographical error changes, non-substantial corrections, and any numbering, renumbering, or formatting as a result of codification.
The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to repeal the Cable Television Systems Ordinance, Alarm Systems Ordinance, Massage Businesses Ordinance, Hazardous Waste Management Ordinance, Cemeteries Ordinance, Health and Sanitation Ordinance, Parking Regulations, Phase II Stormwater, and Public Safety Ordinances.
The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

10. Approval of Application Submission for BJA Adult Court Grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting to submit a grant for recovery court. The grant will add to the RESTART program and the amount is $900,000 with a local match of $300,000.

11. Approval of Grant Submission for 2024 SAMHSA Outpatient Treatment Program

This item goes along with the previous grant application. This grant application is for an outpatient treatment program and would help the County establish long-term mental health treatment. Commissioner Wilkie asked if this grant was opioid funded. The County Manager told Commissioner Wilkie that these are federal dollars outside of opioid-related funding.

12. Approval of Submission for DPS MAT Grant Local Sheriffs

The Sheriff's Office is requesting to submit a grant for approval for Medically Assisted Treatment inside the Sheriff's Office in the jail. This would allow the County to begin treating individuals while they are in the jail to assist with the prevention of repeat offenders. The County Manager told the Board that this will be a future requirement in DOJ administrative law coming from the State.

13. Approval of Grant Submission for Operation Underground Railroad Grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting to submit a grant application to fund technology to be used to investigate human trafficking. The grant amount is $25,000.

14. Approval for Submission of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) America 250 North Carolina Local Grants County Committees Application

Approval is requested for submission of a grant application to the North Carolina Department of Natural Cultural Resources to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

15. Budget Revision - Town of Gamewell Sewer Funds

These funds are a pass through in the County's budget and the County remits these funds back to the Town of Gamewell.

16. Replacement of Wrecked Patrol Vehicle

A Sheriff's Office vehicle was involved in an accident last year and the County received $11,500 from the insurance claim. This budget revision will allow for the purchase of a Ford Explorer for the Sheriff's Office.

17. Health Department Public Health Services Grant Funding

The Health Department has received $50,000 in additional funding for vaccines.

18. Health Department Food and Lodging Grant

This is an incentive grant in the amount of $7,600 to be spent on equipment and staff in Environmental Health. This grant encourages a higher percentage of health inspections to be completed.

19. Caldwell County Schools Lottery Funding Flow Through

These funds pass through the County's budget and the amount of these funds is $99,000.

20. Approval of Legal Contract for County Attorney

This is the contract for legal services with Wilson, Lackey, Rohr, and Hall and will begin in April and will extend through to June 30th of 2025. The contract will be renewed with the County's budget every year.

21. Legal Fees for Contract Services

This budget revision in the amount of $49,000 goes along with the previous item for contracted legal services. The revision also assists with covering increased legal fees for ordinance revisions.

22. DSS Donated Funds

DSS is requesting to increase its County budget appropriation for donated funds in the amount of $50,000.

23. Reappointment of Dr. Jeff Church to the Planning Board

Dr. Jeff Church is requesting reappointment to the Planning Board.

23a. Chris Barlowe is requesting reappointment to the Planning Board.

24. Appointment of Suzanne Kymer to the Council on Aging

Suzanne Kymer is requesting appointment to the Council on Aging.

25. Amity Creek Fireworks Application

Amity Creek is requesting to have a fireworks display at an upcoming wedding on April 14, 2024.

26. Town of Sawmills Fireworks Application

The Town of Sawmills is requesting to have a fireworks display at their upcoming Spring Festival on May 11, 2024.

27. Letter of Support for VAYA Health

VAYA Health is asking to be a vendor to the State to provide behavioral and mental health services, as well as other services. Commissioner Potter said the State has narrowed its selection down to four organizations across the State. The organization selected will handle several health services statewide. Commissioner Potter continued by saying this letter is to show the County's support in VAYA being the organization that is selected and VAYA is the only candidate that is a North Carolina agency.

28. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2024, Meeting

Approval of the March 11, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

There were a few updates shared between the County Manager and the Board for upcoming events.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as the County Manager had presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session:

At 7:12 PM Chairman Church made the motion to enter the Closed Session pursuant to § 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss an economic development incentive with the County Attorney, County Manager, Deputy County Manager, County Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Economic Development Staff, and any other personnel that may attend.
The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church told the public there are no decisions expected to come from the

Closed Session.

Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to exit the closed session at 7:44 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn at 7:44 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.