

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the commissioners' conference room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those commissioners present were as follows: Chair R. Dan Brummitt, Vice-Chair Leo Kelly, Jr., Commissioners Yolanda J. Feimster, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: Commissioners Sean A. Alston, Sr. and Carolyn Faines.

Also present were County Manager C. Renee Perry, Deputy County Manager/CFO Katherine Bigelow, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom. County Attorney Jonathan S. Care was absent.

Associate Minister Mary Anderson, Shiloh Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

Mr. Frankie Nobles, Vance County Employee Engagement Team Chair, was next on the agenda to recognize the new employee of the month. He introduced Deputy County Manager/CFO Katherine Bigelow to present the award. Ms. Bigelow noted that employees are nominated by their peers, and this month's recognition goes to IT Director Randall Medlin. His peers noted that he is extremely dependable, has exceptional problem solving skills, and always has a positive attitude. He is truly an asset to the county. Mr. Medlin will receive a \$100 gift card and a designated parking space for the month. He was presented a certificate of appreciation and the board congratulated him on receiving this recognition.

Tax Administrator Porcha Brooks was next on the agenda and presented the following untimely exemption applications for approval. She stated that if the applications had been submitted by the deadline, she would have approved them at the staff level.

Untimely Exemptions

Name	Exemption Requested	Tax Administrator's Recommendation
Glenn R. Alston 145 Sam Brummitt Road Parcel 0600B01003	Disabled Veteran	Approve Application
Linwood and Cynthia Martin 3316 US 158 Bypass Parcel 0409 01027	Disabled Veteran	Approve Application
Ann Skipwith 9571 Hicksboro Road Parcel 0329 02001B	Elderly Exemption	Approve Application
Joyce A. Taylor 1599 Ruin Creek Road Parcel 0215 01041	Elderly Exemption	Approve Application

Charlotte Tucker 513 Mason Street Parcel 0100 02009	Elderly Exemption	Approve Application
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Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the exemptions as requested.

As advertised, a public hearing was held to gain citizen input on a rezoning request for a parcel located at 23 Ridgeway Drewry Road (Parcel 0587 01003). Ms. Pamela Fleming is the owner/applicant of the property. Interim Planning Director Michael Harvey stated that the request is to amend the zoning map and to rezone the 0.94 acre parcel from Residential Low Density (R-30) to General Commercial (GC-1). Mr. Harvey noted that the Planning Board reviewed this request at its January 2024 regular meeting and recommends approval. The board determined the request was reasonable and in the public interest by promoting additional economic development activities within the county, allowing for the logical expansion of existing non-residential development activity in the area, and would continue to promote a diverse economic tax base.

Mr. Gary Hux stated that he was not opposed to the rezoning, but would like the Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic study in this area and possibly install a traffic light at the intersection.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to speak on this matter, Chair R. Dan Brummitt declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the rezoning on the basis that it is reasonable and consistent with the county’s land use plan and is in the public interest.

As advertised, a public hearing was held to gain citizen input on a rezoning request for a parcel located at 3620 Raleigh Road (Parcel 0224 03005). Mr. Steve Bennerson is the owner of the property and Synergy Building Group, LLC is the applicant. Interim Planning Director Michael Harvey stated that the request is to amend the zoning map and to rezone the 21.98 acre parcel from Light Industrial (LI) to General Commercial (GC-1). Mr. Harvey noted that the Planning Board reviewed this request at its January 2024 regular meeting and recommends approval. The board determined the request was reasonable and in the public interest by promoting additional economic development activities within the county, allowing for the logical expansion of potential retail and office land use activities in close proximity to residential land uses, and would continue to promote a diverse economic tax base.

Mr. Woody Evans did not speak in support of or in opposition to the rezoning. He stated that the Department of Transportation needs to repair many issues in this general area before more development takes place. He also suggested that fencing be placed around the Dollar General to alleviate noise.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to speak on this matter, Chair R. Dan Brummitt declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the rezoning on the basis that it is reasonable and consistent with the county's land use plan, and is in the public interest.

KARTS Director Randy Cantor appeared before the board and provided an update on services. He first informed the board that he began his tenure with KARTS in July 2023 and has over 31 years of both urban and rural experience. He provided information on the current fleet and operations staff; future fleet; a breakdown of trips over FY 2022-23; and current year ROAP disbursement. He noted that KARTS has been approved for a three-year Micro Transit trial grant beginning in the 4th quarter of this year. In FY 2026, KARTS will apply for 5310 Operational Grant Funding for elderly 65+ and disabled. Mr. Cantor also stated that he is working to have the garage equipped to turn brake rotors in-house, perform front-end alignments in-house, and transmission repairs. After a brief question and answer session, the board thanked Mr. Cantor for his report.

Water District Board

Chair R. Dan Brummitt called the Water District Board to order.

LKC Engineering – Phase 1B, Contract 1 Award of Bid. Mr. Logan Parsons with LKC Engineering appeared before the board with a recommendation to award the bid for Phase 1B, Contract 1 – Water Mains. The scope of work for Contract 1 is approximately 23.6 miles of new water lines and appurtenances for Phase 1B. He stated that the project was initially advertised for bids in March 2023, and due to the minimum number of bids not received, was re-advertised in April 2023. One bid was received from H.G. Reynolds in the amount of \$8,785,559 which exceeded the project budget. Fortunately, funds were appropriated from the state for this project in the amount of \$4,000,000. Utilizing the existing project funding from USDA and Owner contribution, paired with the new funding, the project now has sufficient funds to award the full scope of the project bid. He noted that H.G. Reynolds has provided written concurrence to hold their bid pricing until the end of February 2024. LKC Engineering recommends awarding the bid

to H.G. Reynolds subject to final USDA and DEQ approval. He stated that if all goes smoothly, construction should begin in June 2024.

After brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, to award the bid for Phase 1B, Contract 1 to H.G. Reynolds in the amount of \$8,785,559 contingent upon final authorization and approval from USDA Rural Development and the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure.

The December 2023 monthly operations report was presented to the board for information. Chair R. Dan Brummitt adjourned the Water District Board.

County Manager's Report

Resolution – Black History Month. County Manager C. Renee Perry stated that February has been observed nationally as Black History Month. Vance County has traditionally encouraged its citizens to participate in related events that create a greater awareness and appreciation of contributions made by African-Americans. Recommendation: Adopt the resolution in support of the designation of February as Black History Month in Vance County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., vote unanimous, to adopt the following resolution in support of the designation of February as Black History Month in Vance County:



RESOLUTION
by the
Vance County Board of Commissioners
in designation of
February 2024 as Black History Month in Vance County

WHEREAS, for 96 years in the United States, at least some part of the month of February has been observed in recognition of black history and the many accomplishments and contributions made to society by African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the second week of February was selected by Carter Woodson, a noted Washington, D.C. author, editor, historian, and publisher, to defend black humanity and highlight the accomplishments of his ancestors; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 the entire month of February was included in the bicentennial celebration of the United States, and every single American President has since designated February as National Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, the Vance County Board of Commissioners has annually established February as a special month to recognize and celebrate the essential roles of African-Americans throughout Vance County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners sincerely desires for all citizens to thoroughly understand and appreciate value added to the local economy and overall community by African-Americans of all socio-economic levels.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vance County Board of Commissioners does officially designate February 2024 as Black History Month in Vance County, and in doing so, does recognize the accomplishments and countless significant contributions made to society by individuals of African heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vance County Board of Commissioners does encourage businesses, churches, civic organizations, schools, and citizens of all races and color to actively participate in the observance and celebration of Black History Month in Vance County during the month of February 2024.

This, the 5th day of February, 2024.

**R. Dan Brummitt (signed)
R. Dan Brummitt, Chair**

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Board of Commissioners' Goals for FY 2024-25. Ms. Perry presented the following goals as prioritized by the board during its retreat. She recommended that the board take formal action to approve the goals as presented.

1. Locate potential land sites for new EMS station and new EMS substation in northern part of county.
2. Renovate existing jail or construct new jail and begin process for locating funding.
3. Upon completion of fire study, determine next steps as recommended by the board of commissioners.
4. Begin construction of Phase 1B of the county water system and offer public information/signup meetings with a goal of increasing signups 20% above the current level.
5. Work with the City of Henderson to build better relationship for services offered.

Continuation Goals:

1. Begin planning and identifying opportunities for distributing and utilizing opioid settlement funds and support educational programs that seek to reduce drug dependency.
2. Retain or assist in the creation of 150 new jobs and \$10 million in new investment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Yolanda Feimster, vote unanimous, to approve the FY 2024-25 goals as presented.

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment. Ms. Perry noted that at its January meeting, the board held a public hearing to review proposed text amendments to the zoning ordinance to expand the current list of allowable Industrial land uses, focusing primarily on permitted uses within the Light Industrial (LI) and Office Institutional (OI) general use zoning districts. The intent of the amendments is to make Vance County more competitive with respect to economic development recruitment activities and expanding the local industrial tax base. During the meeting, staff and the county attorney identified additional modifications to the definitions sections designed to incorporate terms from state regulations associated with landfill operations. The amendment package has been updated as recommended by the attorney and was presented for final action.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, to adopt the revised/updated zoning ordinance text amendment as recommended by staff and the county attorney.

Board of Equalization and Review. Ms. Perry noted that this matter will be taken to the Planning/Environmental Committee for review.

Deputy County Manager/CFO’s Report

Surplus Property. Deputy County Manager/CFO Katherine Bigelow stated that Animal Services has a truck (VIN# 1GCEC14X88Z195332) that the keys were burned in a fire a few years ago. She would like to scrap the remains. Elections has three filing cabinets that are in need of replacement and are not in working order. Recommendation: approve the property presented as surplus and authorize the disposal of said property accordingly as allowed by state statute.

Motion was made by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, to declare the property as surplus and authorize the disposal of said property accordingly as allowed by state statute.

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Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: December 2023 Tax Refunds and Releases, departmental monthly reports, and the minutes of the January 8, 2024 regular meeting.

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TAX OFFICE REFUND AND RELEASE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

TAXPAYER NAME	TAX YR	REAL	PERSONAL	SOLID WASTE FEE	REASON
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2005	8.43	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2006	8.43	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2007	8.43	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2008	8.18	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2009	8.20	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2010	8.20	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
RUSSELL WILLIAM H	2010	41.01	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2011	8.20	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
HOWARD LT JR HEIRS	2012	8.20	0	0	TAXES LOST TO FO
CARRAWAY CHADWICK SETH	2021	0	22.40	0	PERS PROP BILLED
CARRAWAY CHADWICK SETH	2022	0	21.32	0	PERS PROP BILLED
THOMPSON JOSHUA DANIEL	2023	0	440.67	0	REG VEH BILLED I
ASCENTIUM CAPITAL LLC	2023	0	20.19	0	REMOVE LATE LIST
AYSCUE LISA D	2023	0	162.82	0	CORRECT VALUE

Miscellaneous

Appointments. The following appointments were presented to the board for consideration:

Henderson Planning Board – 3 year term

Reappoint Paul Crews

Henderson Zoning Board of Adjustments – 3 year term

Reappoint Danny Wilkerson

Vance County Planning Board – 3 year term

Reappoint Thomas Shaw, Ruth Jones and Benny Finch

Granville Vance Public Health Board

Appoint Gary Smith to fill vacant medical doctor position.

Perry Library Board of Trustees

Appoint Tomika Jones to fill vacant position.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr. and unanimously approved.

As there was no further business, at 7:00 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Yolanda Feimster, seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed March 4, 2024.



R. Dan Brummitt, Chair