

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 19, 2007**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2007 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman George Graham; Vice-Chairman Paul Taylor and Commissioners, Claude Davis, Jackie Brown Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey, and Claude Stroud.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager; Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager; Robert Griffin, County Attorney; Lashanda Aytch, Clerk to the Board; and members of the general public and the news media.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Mr. Graham along with the Board congratulated Mr. Scott Stevens on his appointment as the City Manager of Kinston. Mr. Stevens thanked the City Council and the community for their support. Mr. John Jarrell, City Engineer introduced Mr. Scott Walston of NCDOT (Transportation Planning Branch) regarding the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Walston stated state lawmakers in 2001 changed from Thoroughfare plans to Comprehensive Transportation Plans, which improves safety and congestion in local communities. Comprehensive Plans add multimodal components to the old Thoroughfare Plan. The state requires that a land development plan is included in the Comprehensive Plan. Since 1997 the city along with NCDOT have been working on a mutually agreed upon Thoroughfare Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will be a firm agreement between the city, county and NCDOT. Preserving Battlegrounds is a major concern for the county, that is why NCDOT has bypassed all Battlegrounds in doing the Comprehensive Plan. Natural Impacts studies will be done at each battlefield site on Hwy. 70 to ensure its protection. In the old Comprehensive Plan, bike routes were cut out, the new plan will include bike routes. Mr. Jarman asked if the new plan had to be approved by the County Commissioners. Mr. Walston stated if the county would like to endorse the plan it would be very good. Mr. Walston stated it would be great to have everyone in the community joining together and supporting one transportation plan. Mr. Jarman stated the Transportation Committee would like the City and County to endorse the plan. Mr. Walston thanked the Board for allowing him to address them.

Ms. Jackie Brown presented the Kinston High School Men's Basketball Team with Certificates of Recognition for their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the 3A State Basketball Championship. Ms. Brown read the certificates aloud for members of the Board and the viewing public. Mr. Craig Hill, Principle of Kinston High School, thanked the Board for recognizing the young men for a terrific season. The men have represented Kinston-Lenoir County and Kinston High School very well. Mr. Hill stated he expects many great things from the young men on and off the basketball court. Mr. Wells Gullledge thanked the Board for recognizing their accomplishments this past year. Mr. Gullledge stated this year could not have been as successful with a great coaching staff; Mr. Gullledge thanked each of his coaches for their hard work this past season. With hard work and determination, hopefully Kinston High School can excel again next season. The Board wished each team member success in their future endeavors.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Harper pulled Item No. 6 for discussion. Mr. Hollowell stated the county has high insurance claims coming in. The Ordinance Amendment will assure there will not be an over expenditure in that particular line item. Monies are being taken out of the insurance fund fund balance, which has a balance of \$1.9 million. This amendment will decrease this fund to \$1.3 million in reserves. Hopefully the entire \$600,000 will not have to be utilized. Mr. Hollowell stated a conference call is scheduled with MedCost later this week to review how the county's insurance fund is progressing for the rest of the fiscal year. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved the Consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: March 5, 2007 Aytch/Jarman  
Budget Retreat Meeting Minutes: March 5, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: (\$24,549): Decrease Jones/Hollowell
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (W.I.C. PROGRAM): Huff/Hollowell  
Increase: \$1,610
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (Adult Hlth – Hlth Promotions) \$5,975 Huff/Hollowell
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health – Child Health/Child Serv Coord. Program: \$6,630: Increase Huff/Hollowell
6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Insurance Fund: Employee Insurance: \$642,000: Increase Hollowell/Jarman

## **PUBLIC HEARING/PROCLAMATION/RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 7 was a Public Hearing Regarding the Renaming of Southwest Creek Bridge in Honor of Retired Sheriff Robert “Leo” Harper. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham the public hearing opened at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Stroud stated Mr. Harper has done a great job for the community and this is a well-deserved honor. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the public hearing closed at 4:31 p.m.

Item No. 8 was Resolution Supporting the Renaming of the Southwest Creek Bridge to the Robert “Leo” Harper Bridge. Mr. Jarman stated the Resolution has been modified to state the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) still has to approve the renaming of the bridge through proper procedure, the final decision rest with NCDOT. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud, and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Social Services, introduced Ms. Renee Kennedy, Child Welfare Supervisor, regarding the upcoming activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Kennedy thanked the Board for supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month and began reviewing the upcoming events which are: Community Awareness/Flag Raising Ceremony held at Lenoir Memorial Hospital on April 2, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.; The Blue Ribbon Campaign, local florist will have the blue ribbons for sale in recognition of the month; Night out with the Kinston Indians will be held on April 10, 2007, there will be 64 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants at this event, each of them wrote essays regarding Child Abuse Month. The winner of the essay contest will throw the first pitch at the baseball game; a Candlelight Vigil will be held at Vernon Park Mall on April 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis, and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Honoring the Services of Ms. Fay Quinn. Ms. Brown read the resolution aloud for the viewing public and members of the Board. Ms. Quinn stated she has enjoyed her employment at Social Services, Ms. Quinn stated DSS has been a family to her throughout her years of service.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Honoring the Services of Mr. Charles Hannibal. Ms. Brown read the resolution aloud for the viewing public and members of the Board. Mr. Hannibal thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide his years of service.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Honoring the Services of Ms. Betty Lou Rhodes. Ms. Rhodes was not present at the meeting.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving Contract and Purchase Order with Anza Mailing Systems (NeoPost): \$7,980. Mr. Jones stated it was a continuation of the mailing system contract but with a different vendor. Three bids were received and the department went with the lowest responsible bidder. DSS has been with Pitney Bowes for a number of years but Anza was the lowest bidder. Mr. Jones stated in utilizing Anza the department will be working with a different piece of equipment, but the same service will be provided. Mr. Jarman stated by utilizing the new company the county will be able to save money and try out a new organization that could potentially save the entire county thousands per year. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Adopting the Jail Health Plan for Lenoir County Inmates. Major Hill addressed the Board stating that every county in the state is required to have a county health plan if the county operates a jail. This resolution and attached plan follows state guidelines and has been approved by the Sheriff and Mr. Joey Huff, County Health Director. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved. Major Hill stated the jail population as of Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> was 168 inmates. Mr. Graham stated the county would have to take corrective action soon in regards to the jail situation.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Fire Works Show at the Kinston Indians Stadium on April 9, May 4, May 28, June 14, July 4, July 20, August 3, and August 24, 2007. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown, and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Land by the Lenoir County Board of Education. This Resolution approves the Board of Education to purchase the land that the future Contentnea/Savannah School will be built on. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper, and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Item No. 17 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments. There were no current applications to present.

| <b><u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u></b> | <b><u>APPLICANT/<br/>CURRENT MEMBER</u></b> | <b><u>TERM EXPIRATION</u></b> |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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**CURRENT VACANCIES:**

**Lenoir County Health Board – One (1) Vacancy; (1) Veterinarian**

**Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy**

**JCPC – One (1) Vacancy; 1-Juvenile Attorney**

**Lenoir County Planning Board – District 1, 3, & 6**

**CJPP – Four (4) Vacancies**

**Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**

**Lenoir County Transportation Committee – At Large Member – Business Community**

**AMENDMENT A:** Resolution In Support of Extending the Existing Three Lane Section of SR 1578 (Airport Road) from SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) to SR 1579 (Academy Height Road) and Widening SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) to Accommodate Separate Left and Right Turn Lanes on SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) Leaving the Alside Company. Mr. Jarman stated this resolution would approve the widening of the above referenced road and the addition of a turn lane to alleviate traffic problems at the Alside Manufacturing facility. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Ms. Brown, Amendment A was unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION -**

Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Graham, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 4:56 p.m. and the following cited: Number four (4). To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County. No action was taken in closed session. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, a second by Mr. Harper and unanimous approval, closed session was adjourned and open session reconvened at approximately 5:14 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER/COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Item No. 18 was a memo from Mr. Jarman regarding Items of Interest. Mr. Jarman stated he would be attending the NCACC District Meeting on April 4, 2007 at the Jones County Civic Center at 10:00 a.m.; Mr. Taylor stated he would attend this meeting as well. The City has selected three dates to meet with the County for the annual Joint City/County Meeting. The Board collectively agreed to meet with the City on April 18, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch  
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager