

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**APRIL 18, 2022**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman  
Charles H. Jordan, Vice-Chairman  
Cecil Perry  
William “Bill” Sterritt  
Sean Lavin  
Jonathan Meads

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barry Overman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sparty Hammett, County Manager  
Tommy Wooten, Sheriff  
Aaron Wallio, Major  
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin. Vice-Chairman Jordan gave the invocation and Commissioner Jonathan Meads led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Griffin welcomed those in attendance.

**1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Vice-Chairman Jordan requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of request for Occupancy Tax Funds for the Potato Festival; 2) Approval of request for Occupancy Tax Funds for the Juneteenth Festival; and 3) Approval of resolution converting Community Relations Commission to the Human Relations Commission.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Cecil Perry to amend the agenda to add Items #1-3 to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. COMMENTS BY CHRISTINA WILLIAMS:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Christina Williams of 3611 Union Street to address the Board. Ms. Williams spoke regarding restructuring. She urged the Governance Committee to hold public forums again and consider putting the board restructuring issue to the voters in a referendum. She provided a history of African Americans who have been elected to the Board of Commissioner, noting that the problem is not that black candidates cannot win, because in the last ten years every candidate who has run for commissioner has won. She said the problem seems to be that there are no black candidates running for office.

**3. COMMENTS BY SHANNON HAMAR:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Shannon Hamar of 1400 Elder Street to address the Board. Ms. Hamar read an excerpt from the August 2, 2021 Board of Commissioners minutes regarding formation of a Citizen’s Advisory Council. Additionally, she read an excerpt from the Board’s September 13, 2021 minutes regarding the Peace Initiative.

**4. COMMENTS BY LOUISE BRICKHOUSE:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Louise Brickhouse of 3152 W. Main Street Extended to address the Board. Ms. Brickhouse read an article from the April 5, 2022 Daily Advance titled “County Names 13 Member Citizens Advisory Council.”

**5. COMMENTS BY ANGIE BOYLAN:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Angie Boylan of 907 N. Poindexter Street to address the Board. Ms. Boylan questioned the makeup of the 13 member Community Advisory Council, as well as the political affiliation of the Task Force members that selected the members. She said their party affiliations do not represent the makeup of the County. She asked why members were not required to fill out applications, go through an interview process, or have a background check.

**6. COMMENTS BY BETSY MEADS:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Betsy Meads of 2008 Johnson Road to address the Board. Ms. Meads said she is here tonight to protect the County taxpayers and the employees of the Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Office. Since the direction of the Citizens Advisory Council was started on a Pasquotank County Finance Committee recommendation, an employee’s lawyer may surmise that Pasquotank County is bank rolling this council. Someone has to assume responsibility for the legal liability that the CAC could create. She feels that best practices were not used in forming the council, because County Managers and Boards do not have oversight authority over Sheriffs Offices.

**7. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

Vice Chairman Jordan explained that at the last meeting the Board accepted the nomination of Shannon Baylor-Henderson to the Parks and Recreation Board. The nomination was held over to two weeks to allow for additional application, and none were received.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Cecil Perry to appoint Shannon Baylor-Henderson to the Parks and Recreation Board. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

*a. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2022 Commissioner Meeting*

*b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax refunds and solid waste fee releases:

**Tax Refunds**

|    |  | County | City   |
|----|--|--------|--------|
| 1. | Tonya Leatrice Brothers                            | 113.26 | 93.33  |
| 2. | Cardi LLC  | 881.90 | 847.54 |
| 3. | Glenn Pendleton Family Farms Inc.                  | 144.50 |        |
| 4. | Kelsey Lynn Ku’uipo Metzger & Joshua Blake Metzger | 345.41 |        |
| 5. | Mark Stephen Napolitano                            | 101.72 |        |

**Solid Waste Fee Releases**

|    |                         | Parcel ID # | Reason for Release |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Josselin Romelia Celis  | P119-14     | Vacant             |
| 2. | Roberto Alejandro Celis | 40-A-453    | Vacant             |

*c. Approval of Budget Amendments*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following budget amendments:

**Sheriff**

|          |                  |                       |           |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Increase | 010.0220.4532.00 | Other Grants          | 23,761.00 |
| Increase | 010.4310.5261.00 | Departmental Supplies | 23,761.00 |

**Emergency Management**

|          |                  |              |           |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Increase | 010.0220.4532.00 | Other Grants | 35,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.4330.5600.00 | Grant Funds  | 35,000.00 |

**Soil & Water**

|          |                  |                     |           |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Decrease | 010.6900.5991.00 | Contingency         | 10,856.00 |
| Increase | 010.4960.5440.00 | Contracted Services | 10,856.00 |

*d. Approval of Extension of Contract for Operations of the C&D and LCID Landfills and Transfer Station*

The Finance Committee has recommended extending the existing contract for Operations of the C&D and LCID Landfills and Transfer Station with Stevenson Sand, Inc. and R&D Excavating Company, Inc. for an additional year.

*e. Approval of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds for the Potato Festival*

The Finance Committee has recommended sending a letter of support for Elizabeth City Downtown to request \$5,000 in occupancy tax funds for the 2022 Potato Festival.

*f. Approval of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds for the Juneteenth Festival*

The Finance Committee has recommended sending a letter of support for the River City Community Development Corporation to request \$5,000 in occupancy tax funds for the 2022 Juneteenth Festival.

*g. Approval of Resolution Converting the Community Relations Commission to a Human Relations Commission*

The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of the following Joint Resolution with the City of Elizabeth City to convert the Community Relations Commission to a Human Relations Commission:

**RESOLUTION**

**DISSOLVING THE ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK COUNTY  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION  
AND  
ESTABLISHING A HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to N.C.G.S 160A-492, and believing that all citizens have equal rights and each person should show due respect toward another and be courteous at all times, the City of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County established in 2003 the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Commission is to promote the equal treatment of all individuals; to discourage discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identification, nations origin, age, disability, family status or veteran status; to protect each person's lawful interests and personal dignity so as to make available their full productive and creative capacities, and to promote harmony and equal opportunity among all people; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County desire to form a new Human Relations Commission to succeed the Community Relations Commission to provide a better structure to achieve the goals of the governmental bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Human Relations Commission will have access to state resources for training and conferences; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation with the State Human Resources Commission, by-laws will be adopted that define the roles and responsibilities of the new Human Relations Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Commission shall be titled the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Human Relations Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners and the City of Elizabeth City Council hereby approves this Resolution to dissolve the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Commission and establish the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Human Relations Commission.

**ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022 by the Board of Commissioners for Pasquotank County, North Carolina.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Sean Lavin to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Sterritt said this past weekend the SPCA put on a Poker Run Fundraiser, as well as a cornhole tournament. Before the event even took place, they had raised \$3,700. He reviewed their other annual fundraisers. He attended their monthly meeting and noted that they are in pretty good shape financially. They recently removed 77 cats from a small home. He is very proud of what they do for the community. He added that the employees there are only paid approximately \$9 per hour.

Commissioner Sterritt provided an update on the trail behind COA. At this time, they have raised \$77,000, which should be enough to complete the project.

Commissioner Meads attended the EMS Board meeting, as well as a dinner at the Albemarle Resource Center. Sheriff Wooten and Commissioner Overman attended as well. They discussed training and parenting classes that they offer.

Commissioner Lavin attended his first meeting for the newly restructured Parks and Recreation Board. They discussed the Northern (Newland) Park, activities planned for the spring, and improvements they want to do for their programming. He attended a Newland Drainage District meeting. They are starting to see a lot of improvements in the drainage in that area. Two Saturdays ago there was a lot going on downtown, including the opening day for Little League Baseball, the NEAAAT Science Expo, and the ECSU Viking Pitch.

Vice-Chairman Jordan attended several activities over the last two weeks including the Library Board meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board meeting, a luncheon for the Committee of 100, an event at 2 Souls Wine Bar, the Green Clean Express carwash grand opening, a reception for Judge Newby, and opening day of the Little League Baseball season.

Chairman Griffin said his meetings are scheduled for later in the month.

Commissioner Perry said he has worked in Pasquotank County for forty years and been on the Board for approximately eighteen years. He has worked with people from different cultures and denominations. He said he often talks about how everyone needs to learn how to work together. He has seen more divisiveness over the past year from this Board than he has in all his time serving. He stated that in order to improve government everyone needs to be included. He said the reason he is a commissioner is because his community asked him to serve. He has asked many times that the Board be restructured to allow for more African American representation. For many years, he was the only African American serving.

Commissioner Perry explained that African Americans represent almost 40% of the populations. He thinks it is only fair to have another minority majority district. He said right now the way we are populated if anybody on the Board is in a district other than the one he is in and has a disagreement with you, you can be voted out. He said he can't be voted out because he is in a minority district. He asked what is so wrong with asking that another person of color be on the Board. He answered nothing. He said he does not care about race, but he cares about right and wrong, and the Board needs to work together and stop worrying about Republican, Democrat, and race. He said we all basically serve one God.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Jonathan Meads, seconded by Sean Lavin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

---

CHAIRMAN

---

CLERK TO THE BOARD