

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Frankie Meads
Charles H. Jordan
Sean Lavin
Barry Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board
Mike Cox, County Attorney
Shelley Cox, Planning Director

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

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Griffin requested the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Approval of Plan for Senior Center Crosswalk; 2) Approval of Nonprofit Grants; and 3) Approval of River City Community Development Commissions' Request to Reallocate Funds.

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR GENERAL NUISANCES:

Chairman Dixon declared the meeting to be a public hearing on the proposed ordinance for general nuisances. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Dixon explained that at the last meeting the Board held a public hearing on proposed amendments to the County Public Health Nuisances Ordinance to address the accumulation of rubbish, trash, or junk, obstruction of drainage ways, and amending the height for growth of weeds and grass from 24" to 18", and voted to adopt the proposed ordinance by a vote of five to two.

Since upon the first reading all members of the Board must be present and voting in the affirmative in order for an ordinance to be approved, the Board could not give final approval to the ordinance because all members did not vote in the affirmative. The Board can vote to adopt the ordinance tonight by a simple majority vote.

Commissioner Meads reiterated that he does not think the Board should change the height restriction on grass. He also feels that language should be added regarding distances between other properties. Planning Director Shelley Cox noted that there is a provision in the grass ordinance that states the ordinance is not for property that is used for active farming or woodlands, which narrows it down to residential.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked how staff will monitor a nuisance prior to sending a letter. Planning Director Shelley Cox said the ordinance will be dealt with on a complaint basis. Staff will go out to the site, investigate, and confirm that there is a legitimate complaint. If there is, staff would then notify the property owner that they must comply.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to adopt the following amendment to the County's Public Health Nuisances Ordinance to

regulate: the growth of weeds and grass, accumulations of rubbish, and the like, and obstruction of drainage ways:

**AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
NUISANCES ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE
ACCUMULATION OF “RUBBISH” AND DRAINAGE WAYS**

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has a Public Health Nuisances Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of rubbish, trash or junk can be a public health and safety issue; and

WHEREAS, the obstruction of drainage ways can also be a hazard to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County annually receives numerous complaints regarding the accumulation of rubbish and the like and obstructive drainage ways; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners finds that the accumulation of rubbish and the like and obstructive drainage ways are dangerous and prejudicial to the public health and safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has decided to regulate the accumulation of rubbish and the like and obstructive drainage ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Pasquotank that the Public Health Nuisances Ordinance is amended as follows:

Section 1 of the General Nuisances Ordinance is amended as follows:

Section 1. CERTAIN CONDITIONS DECLARED NUISANCES

The existence of any of the following conditions on any lot, whether improved or not, or other parcel of land within the county limits is hereby declared to be dangerous and prejudicial to the public health or safety and to constitute a public nuisance:

(A) *Growth of weeds and grass.* The uncontrolled growth of noxious weeds or grass causing or threatening to cause a hazard detrimental to the public health or safety. In no event may the grass or weeds on any portion of a lot located in a platted subdivision and not used for active farming or woodlands exceed the height of 24 18 inches.

(B) Accumulations of rubbish, and the like. Any accumulation of rubbish, trash, or junk causing or threatening to cause a fire hazard, causing or threatening to cause the accumulation of stagnant water or causing or threatening to cause the inhabitation therein of rats, mice, snakes, or vermin of any kind which is or may be dangerous or prejudicial to the public health.

(C) Obstruction of drainage ways. The placement of rubbish, trash, yard debris, soil, vegetation, or other items impeding the flow of water and/or causing or threatening to cause the obstruction of drainage ways.

Section 2. This amendment is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 14th day of September, 2020.

The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioners Meads voting against the motion.

3. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Charles Jordan reported that the Appointments Committee met today and has made the following recommendations:

Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority – Reappoint Bill Durham and Ralph Jones to additional five-year terms.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to accept the recommendations from the Appointments Committee to approve the reappointments as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2020 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Purchasing Body Cameras for Sheriff's Deputies

On July 13, 2020, the Finance Committee recommended moving forward with a grant application to cover 50% (\$16,643.50) of the cost (\$33,287) associated with the purchase of thirty three (33) body cameras from Kustom Signals using capital reserve funds for the match; and using capital reserve funds for the full cost to purchase body cameras, in the event that the grant was not approved. After the meeting, the Sheriff's Office determined that the grant deadline had passed. Grant match funds are available within the Sheriff's Office budget, which can be used to purchase the body cameras in lieu of capital reserve funds.

c. Approval of Senior Center Crosswalk

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the Senior Center Crosswalk, as presented by Amanda Boone, Elizabeth City Public Utilities Director, provided that an additional sign/warning signal be installed that will inform the driver of a vehicle making a right-hand turn off of Water Street that a pedestrian is utilizing the crosswalk. The sign will be activated by the pedestrian pushing a button prior to crossing.

d. Approval of Award of Nonprofit Grants

The Board previously approved a \$100,000 allocation for a Nonprofit Grant Program (NGP), which was increased by \$20,000 at the August 3rd Board meeting using the remaining funds from the \$250,000 Small Business Grant Program. The Finance Committee has recommended the following allocations:

	Agency	Funding Amount
1.	Albemarle Commission – Senior Nutrition Program	\$3,000
2.	Albemarle Alliance for Children	\$3,000
3.	Albemarle Area United Way	\$3,000
4.	Albemarle Family YMCA	\$3,000
5.	Albemarle Hopeline, Inc.	\$3,000
6.	American Legion	\$3,000
7.	Arts of the Albemarle	\$3,000
8.	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Albemarle, Inc.	\$3,000
9.	ECPPS Education Foundation	\$3,000
10.	Elder Help	\$3,000
11.	Elizabeth City Cosmopolitan Club	\$3,000
12.	Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.	\$3,000
13.	Elizabeth City Habitat for Humanity	\$3,000
14.	Food Bank of the Albemarle	\$3,000
15.	Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle	\$3,000
16.	Port Discover	\$3,000
17.	River City Community Development Corp.	\$3,000
18.	The Salvation Army	\$3,000
19.	Beloved Haven	\$3,000
20.	Dream Hunt and Fishing Program	\$3,000
21.	Green Saves Green	\$3,000
22.	Museum of the Albemarle	\$3,000
23.	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work	\$3,000
24.	Birthday Presence, Inc.	\$1,000
25.	Diamond Development, Inc.	\$1,000
26.	Eastern Star Church of God & Christ Feeding Program	\$1,000

e. Approval of River City Community Development Commission's Request to Reallocate Funds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from River City Community Development Commission to reallocate \$3,000 from their Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget. Due to COVID-19, River City CDC was unable to host a Workcamp this summer. They requested that the funding be reallocated to the completion of the Mary Walker House, which will allow them to acquire the remaining materials and supplies necessary to wrap up the project, and make it accessible to the YouthBuild students who are faced with homelessness.

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

5. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Overman attended the monthly DSS meeting. He noted that they are back to meeting in person. He reported that DSS has only had one staff member test positive for COVID-19. They continue to do a great job helping our community.

Commissioner Lavin said he hopes that schools will reopen soon.

Commissioner Jordan met with the City of Elizabeth City Planning staff to discuss the Wellfield Convenience site expansion. He said the next step is to go before the City Council in a couple of weeks for a public hearing. He attended the Trillium meeting. They are in the process of restarting Medicaid Transformation. The implementation date is July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Meads stated that the Animal Control Board is in need of additional members. They are having a hard time obtaining a quorum.

Commissioner Perry attended the Health Board meeting (virtually). Most of their discussions were focused around COVID-19. He also attended the Jail Board meeting. They discussed pay increases for their employees. Additionally, he attended the COA Board meeting. Lastly, he attended the Special Projects Committee meeting where relocation of the Confederate monument was discussed. The Committee voted to have the County Attorney draft a letter to the Daughters of the Confederacy giving a final notice and deadline to respond to provide any input/discussion on relocation.

Vice-Chairman Griffin noted that aviation continues to move forward in the community. Elizabeth City State University's numbers are growing. The airport is installing a classroom in the parking lot at ECSU. Workforce Development is working hard with displaced workers.

Chairman Dixon asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD