

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
January 16, 2024 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Yoder, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Overholt. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Tipton, media, and citizens. Absent: Vice-Chairman Melton.



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Polk, NC
Sheila Whitmire Register of Deeds

BK **490** PG **1737-1740**

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Overholt.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Melton

Chairman Yoder led the Pledge in the absence of Vice-Chairman Melton.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. Items may be added or removed at this time.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

5. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of December 4, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Amended Grant Project Budget Ordinance for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Final Allocation. (Use of funds approved by Board of Commissioners 2.21.2022)

C. Sheriffs Department Monthly Activity Report for November and December 2023.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were two citizen comments on agenda items.

7. Annual Appearance Commission Beautification Awards - Joe Cooper, Chairman of the Polk County Appearance Commission.

Joe Cooper, Chairman of the Polk County Appearance Commission presented the following beautification awards:

1. The Kudzu Warriors for their continued efforts to help eradicate kudzu. Founder Greg Miner received the award.

2. Laughter Pond in Mill Spring for the improvements which include the planting of trees and plants and the replacement of the fishing dock. Members of the Polk Central Elementary 5th grade class helped with the plantings, while Polk County Parks and Recreation managed the project. Laura Baird with Polk County Parks and Recreation accepted the award.

3. Tryon Theater for their outdoor mural atop their building depicting Morris the Horse and a mountain landscape. Theater manager Evan Fitch accepted the award.

4. Polk Central Elementary Schools pollinator garden which will attract and feed insects that are necessary to pollinate our plants. Champions of Wildlife sponsored the garden. Andrea Walter, 5th grade teacher at Polk Central Elementary School, some members of the 5th grade class, and Alexis Hinchliffe of Champions of Wildlife accepted the award.

8. Legislative Congressional District Lines Update - Cliff Marr, Elections Director.

Cliff Marr, Elections Director provided an update on the new Congressional District Lines. He stated all of Polk County was previously in the 11th Congressional District but now is split between the 11th and the 14th with a majority of voters being in the 14th Congressional District. He went on to say the map of district lines presented can be found on the Polk County GIS page and further information regarding voting ballots and districts can be found by calling the Polk County Board of Elections Office, or visiting the NC State Election website. He also announced the move to the new Board of Elections Office, located at 231 Ward St., is complete and an Open House will be held on February 5, 2024 from 2pm - 4:30pm.

9. Request to schedule two Public Hearings. One for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment and one for revisions to the Watershed Protection Ordinance - Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director. (A copy of the proposed revisions to the Watershed Protection Ordinance is available for review in the County Managers Office)

Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director presented a proposed text amendment to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance requested by a citizen to add Automobile, truck, farm equipment & farm implement sales and service to the Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District as a Permitted Use, as well as the Planning Boards Recommendation. The applicant requested the use to be a Permitted Use, but the Planning Board recommended making it a Special Use Permit for this district. She also presented the proposed updated Watershed Protection Ordinance based on the March 2023 revised model ordinance issued by the State, along with the Planning Boards recommendation. She requested two Public Hearings to be held prior to the

next meeting to receive citizen input.

Commissioner Moore moved to schedule a Public Hearing on February 5, 2024 at 5:00 pm to receive citizen input on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, followed directly by a Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the the proposed revisions to the Watershed Protection Ordinance., seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

10. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Polk County Government and North Carolina State University - Scott Wellborn, NC Cooperative Extension.

Scott Wellborn, NC Cooperative Extension, presented the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between NC State University and Polk County, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He stated that the agreement had not been updated since 2006.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement and grant the County Manager signatory authority, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

11. Polk County Animal Control Ordinance Amendments - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg presented the proposed amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance. She explained the changes are minimal, clarifying text pertaining to the containment of dangerous animals and correcting some grammatical errors. Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

12. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one comment on non-agenda items.

13. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Applications for Consideration: Polk County Planning Board - Kimberly Daniel (At Large), Warren Eadus (Tryon Township), Anwar Timol (Cooper Gap Township)

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

14. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners collectively thanked those in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
Absent: Melton

15. Closed Session

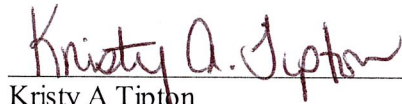
- A. Commissioner Overholt moved to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney-client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Melton.
- B. Commissioner Moore moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Melton.

16. Adjournment

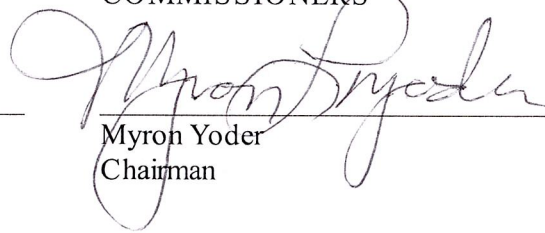
Commissioner Overholt moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Melton

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Myron Yoder
Chairman