



Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Attendance

Randy Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Donnie Potter, Commissioner
Donald Duncan, County Manager
David Lackey, County Attorney
Abby Rich, County Clerk

Absent

Robbie Wilkie, Commissioner

Call to Order

Chairman Church called the October 14, 2024, meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Public Comment Period

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

Invocation

Pastor Nicky Waters of Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church provided the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Robbie Wilkie led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

The County Manager informed the Board of two amendments to the agenda. The first amendment was the removal of the original item 6, an Ordinance for Nuisance Abatement. This item was replaced with a letter request for Republic Services for capacity increase. The second amendment to the agenda was the addition of an Item-a, a Resolution for Pastor Nicky Waters. Item-b would be the original Item 1, the Recognition of Retirees.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. Recognition of Retirees

Item 1a- Pastor Waters was invited to the podium as Chairman Church read the resolution for those in attendance.

Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

Item 1b- Retirees Randy Knauf (Economic Development), Chanda Watson (Health Department), Adam Minor (Sheriff's Office), and George Durfor (Emergency Medical Services) were recognized for their years of service with Caldwell County. Each retiree was presented with a retirement clock.

2. RESTART Testimony and Updates

RESTART Director Jason Powell came to the podium to present updates from the RESTART program. After his presentation, Director Powell introduced Angel Fox, who came to the podium to tell the Board her story of recovery.

3. Homelessness Response Team

Ben Willis with WPCOG came to podium to present updates from the Homelessness Response Team.

4. Celebrating Veteran's Day

Chairman Church read the resolution for Veteran's Day for those in attendance. Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Blackberry Homestead Subdivision – Phase 2, Final Plat

Planning Director Shelley Stevens came to the podium to present for the Blackberry Homestead Subdivision, Phase II. Ms. Stevens told the Board that this is 12 lots that are adjacent to the 5 lots that were previously approved for Phase I. Patrick Warren is the applicant for the subdivision. The property is located on Blackberry Road off of Highway 321 in Northern Caldwell County. Ms. Stevens noted that a small portion of the subdivision will lie in Watauga County. Watauga will regulate the portion of the property that is in its county limits. The total acreage is 14.02 acres in Caldwell County and 6.22 acres in Watauga County. Ms. Stevens informed the Board that at the time of the Planning Board review, there were a few minor items needed and one larger item, the bond. The applicant was able to resolve these items. The Planning Board's recommendation was approval of the final plat, contingent upon receipt of the missing items.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to approve the Blackberry Homestead Phase II as presented.

6. Ordinance for Nuisance Abatement- 2969 Collettsville Road

Republic Services representative, Tracey Nester came to the podium to request a capacity increase for volume at the Caldwell County Landfill in relation to increased debris as a result of Hurricane Helene. The County Manager indicated that the landfill is receiving double the normal capacity and neighboring counties and communities to the west are sending more debris. There was a brief discussion held about an exception w/ NCDEQ. Commissioner Branch suggested a 6-month capacity increase and then revaluation of the need. The Commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to increase capacity for as long as the State of Emergency is in effect in no event less than 6 months, at which time the Board will revisit the matter, and subject to DEQ approval. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Tax Reval 2025

Chairman Church opened the public hearing and with there being no individuals signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed.

8. Cajah's Mountain Interlocal Agreement

The County Manager provided that this is a revision to the interlocal agreement held with the Town of Cajah's Mountain. The revision would transfer the property located behind the Cajah's Mountain EMS Base to the Town of Cajah's Mountain for development. Commissioner Branch asked if the County would have any involvement with determining the individuals who can live on the property, as he does not wish to be involved with those decisions. By transferring the land, the County would not have involvement with these decisions.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to approve the amended interlocal agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Conveyance of Surplus Property to Cherokee County

Chairman Church read the resolution for those in attendance. Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

The Chairman turned the meeting over to the County Manager to review the items on the Consent Agenda.

10. Occupancy Tax Flow Through for Chamber of Commerce

This budget amendment is to reflect additional revenue in Occupancy Tax for the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce. This is a pass through of the County's budget. The amount of the revision is \$150,000.

11. Scanner Purchase for Scanning Department

This budget amendment is for the purchase of a new scanner. The amount of the budget revision is \$7,400.

12. Code Enforcement Abatement Funding

This budget amendment is the in the amount of \$5,000.

13. Library Grant Funding

This budget amendment is for \$79,330 that was remaining in unspent funds from the previous year and \$6,024 in funding that has come from the State for the upcoming year.

14. GFMS Project Interest Earnings- Closeout

This budget amendment will close out this multi-year capital project in the amount of \$25,418.17.

15. Reappointment of Ronn Abernathy to JCPC

Ronn Abernathy requested reappointment to the JCPC.

16. Appointment of Nicole Huffman to JCPC

Nicole Huffman requested appointment to the JCPC.

17. Approval of Fireworks Application for Town of Sawmills

The Town of Sawmills requested approval for a fireworks show on October 19th, 2024.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

17-2024

VETERANS DAY 2024



WHEREAS, on November 11th each year, our nation honors the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, these veterans have dedicated their lives to the protection of our freedoms, security, and the values we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the courage, commitment, and selflessness exhibited by those who have answered the call to serve, often at great personal sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty as a community to acknowledge and express gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caldwell County are encouraged to come together in remembrance and appreciation for our veterans, both past and present; and

WHEREAS, we reaffirm our commitment to support and honor our veterans through various programs and initiatives that foster their well-being and integration into our community;

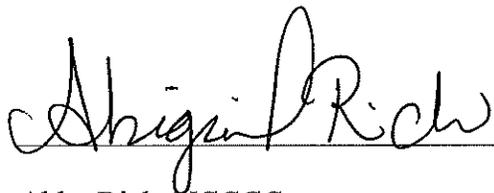
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize November 11th as Veteran's Day in and encourage all residents to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and moments of silence in honor of our courageous veterans.

Adopted this the 14th day of October, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Church", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

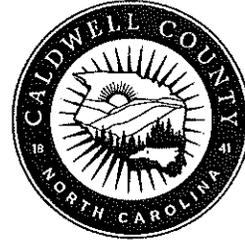
ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Rich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Abby Rich, NCCCC
County Clerk

RESOLUTION

18-2024



RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-279

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County owns personal property in the form of automobiles

- A. 2009, Ford Ranger, VIN # 1FTZR45EX9PA29714
- B. 2011 Ford F-150, VIN # 1FTEX1EM3BFC07128

WHEREAS, these vehicles are currently utilized by the Caldwell County Animal Care Enforcement Division, but will soon be taken out of service; and

WHEREAS, the vehicles will have Caldwell County removed from the striping, but will retain the dog boxes that are currently installed in the back of the vehicles; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-279 authorizes a county to convey real or personal property by private sale to a nonprofit corporation if the city or county is authorized by law to appropriate money to the corporation; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County agrees to convey these personal properties for the sum of \$1.00 each to Cherokee County Government, for the intended public use of this property in the service of all Cherokee County citizens; and

WHEREAS, if these personal property items are to be sold or otherwise disposed of, all proceeds are remitted back to Caldwell County, or the vehicle may be returned and disposed of by the County.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVE THAT:

1. The County Manager is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey title to aforementioned personal property, with the caveat that any proceeds generated from sale be returned.
2. The County Clerk shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution.

Adopted this the 14th day of October 2024.



Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Chair
Cherokee County Government

ATTEST: 

Abby Rich, NCCCC
County Clerk

RESOLUTION

19-2024



HONORING PASTOR NICKY WATERS

WHEREAS, Nicky Waters graduated from West Lenoir School of Ministry in 1991 with a Bachelor of Divinity in Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Waters became the pastor of Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church in June of 1996 where he has led the congregation for the past 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Waters is a dedicated member of the community and currently serves as the Chaplain for Hudson Fire Department and as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Hudson Fire Department; and

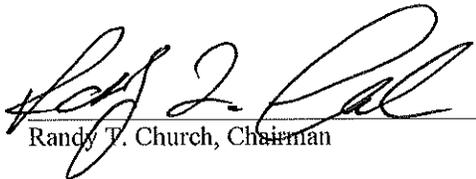
WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024, Caldwell County was heavily damaged by Hurricane Helene, which left several citizens without power, food, water, and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, after seeing the great needs of his community, Pastor Waters worked with several individuals and organizations to provide relief in the form of debris clean up, organizing volunteers, donation coordination, and other forms of relief efforts; and

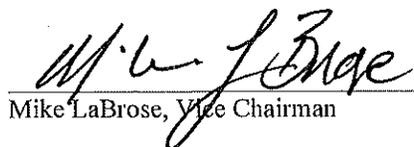
WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners would like to honor Pastor Nicky Waters for his outstanding response to his community during this time of need; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Commissioners thanks Pastor Waters for his commitment to the citizens of Caldwell County and the citizens of Western North Carolina and commends him for the tremendous outpouring of generosity displayed during this time of distress.

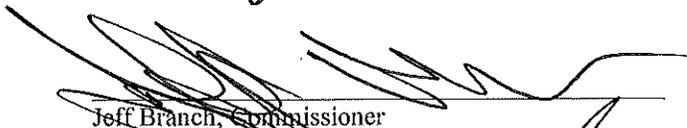
Adopted this the 14th day of October, 2024.


Randy T. Church, Chairman


Robble Wilkie, Commissioner


Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Attest: 
Abby Rich, County Clerk


Jeff Branch, Commissioner


Donnie Potter, Commissioner

