

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

JUNE 7, 2021
OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Powell
Kyle W. Puryear
C. Derrick Sims
Charlie Palmer
Patricia Gentry

Heidi York, County Manager
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board
S. Ellis Hankins, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Person County Office Building Auditorium.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence for the 6,000 young men that died 77 years ago, in 1944, in France, now referred to as D-Day. Chairman Powell offered an invocation and Commissioner Sims led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Powell requested a Closed Session #1 to be added to the agenda related to economic development and for Item #3 for consideration to Grant or Deny a request to appropriate an estimated \$1,899,000.00 to assist Project Famous to locate in Person County, NC, and to execute an economic development agreement at the appropriate time to be moved on the agenda to follow the added Closed Session #1.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda with the adjustments as requested by Chairman Powell.

PUBLIC HEARING:

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 RECOMMENDED BUDGET:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to open the duly advertised public hearing to hear public comments for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Recommended Budget.

Chairman Powell asked the Clerk to the Board to announce who had signed up and to limit each individual to two minutes each.

The following individuals appeared before the Board not necessarily speaking in favor or in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Recommended Budget:

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Mr. Joseph Woody Jacobs of 107 Old U.S. 501, Roxboro said technology was no longer just one vehicle for success, it is the vehicle all possible success depends on and businesses demand technology innovation in response to a radically changing world. Mr. Jacobs stated broadening the horizon by investing in Advanced Technology makes the boldest ambitions achievable and the new future is on the horizon here in Person County. Mr. Jacobs asked the Board to build the future for Person County faster than the competition.

Ms. Meredith Summey of 1512 Echo Road, Durham, and Human Resources Director for Polywood representing 325 employees to date stated her excitement about the possibility of an Advanced Technology Center noting how important it is to businesses to have employees trained which saves time and money.

Mr. Charles Harvey of 426 Holly Springs Drive, Timberlake advocated for the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) as an industrial revolution 5.0 demands advanced technology and artificial intelligence for its workforce. Mr. Harvey asked the Board to invest in the ATC with a shared commitment for Person County's future.

Mr. John Seepe of 277 Barefoot Landing Lane, Semora inquired why the ask for an Advanced Technology Center was being considered along the 501 corridor and not located on PCC's campus. Mr. Seepe stated the Airport was operating in the red, costing the county.

Ms. Cindy Lynch of 395 Union Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills asked the Board to take a look Person Industries' expenditures and why the Recycling Center was operating at a loss of a half a million.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to close the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Recommended Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING:

REQUEST TO APPROPRIATE ESTIMATED \$1,899,000.00 TO ASSIST PROJECT FAMOUS TO LOCATE IN PERSON COUNTY, NC, AND TO EXECUTE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to open the duly advertised public hearing for a request to appropriate an estimated \$1,899,000.00 to assist Project Famous to locate in Person County, NC, and to execute an Economic Development Agreement at the appropriate time.

Economic Development Director, Sherry Wilborn stated this public hearing was being held for consideration to appropriate an estimated \$1,899,000 to assist Project Famous to locate a manufacturing operation in Person County, NC. This competitive, confidential project proposes to invest \$61.6 million and to create 300 jobs over five (5) years with an annual average wage at or above \$47,120.

Ms. Wilborn said the Project, if implemented, has the potential to stimulate the attraction of new, and the expansion of existing, businesses within the County, to stimulate commercial activity, to generate additional tax revenue, and to enhance the tax base and economic vitality of the County. The financial incentive would come in the form of an annual cash grant over a ten (10) year period payable only after jobs and investment benchmarks have been met.

Ms. Wilborn requested the Board to approve an appropriation of County General Funds to assist Project Famous to locate or expand in Person County with a financial grant incentive over a ten (10) year period at an estimated total cost of \$1,899,000.00 and to authorize the Board Chairman to execute a written agreement at the appropriate time that complied with applicable legal requirements as advised by the County Attorney.

There were no individuals appearing before the Board to speak in favor of or in opposition to the request to appropriate an estimated \$1,899,000.00 to assist Project Famous to locate in Person County, NC, and to execute an Economic Development Agreement at the appropriate time.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to close the public hearing for a request to appropriate an estimated \$1,899,000.00 to assist Project Famous to locate in Person County, NC, and to execute an Economic Development Agreement at the appropriate time.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PETITION RZ-02-21 REQUEST BY GEORGE ANDERSON, ON BEHALF OF PROPERTY OWNERS JEFFREY AND MARYBETH CECIL FOR A REZONING/MAP AMENDMENT FROM RESIDENTIAL TO RURAL CONSERVATION ON 4.5 ACRES (TAX MAP & PARCEL A4-15) LOCATED ON KELLY BREWER ROAD:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear and **carried 5-0** to open the duly advertised public hearing for Petition RZ-02021, a request by George Anderson, on behalf of property owners Jeffrey and Marybeth Cecil for a rezoning/map amendment from Residential to Rural Conservation on 4.5 acres (Tax Map & Parcel A4-15) located on Kelly Brewer Road.

Lori Oakley, Planning Director stated after the public hearing was advertised and letter mailed to the adjacent property owners, the applicant on May 28, 2021 requested to withdraw the rezoning request, petition RZ-02-21. By withdrawal of the application, there was no need to entertain public comments and no action was required upon closing the public hearing.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to close the public hearing for Petition RZ-02021, a request by George Anderson, on behalf of property owners Jeffrey and Marybeth Cecil for a rezoning/map amendment from Residential to Rural Conservation on 4.5 acres (Tax Map & Parcel A4-15) located on Kelly Brewer Road.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Dr. Mike Lewis, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer with Trillium Health Resources, a local management entity (LME) that manages Medicaid mental health dollars for counties said Person County's current LME, Cardinal Innovations was going to merge with another LME from Asheville, NC. Dr. Lewis requested the Board to give Trillium Health Resources an opportunity to serve as Person County's LME with its wide array of services; he said Trillium currently serves as the LME for 26 counties.

Mr. John Seepe of 277 Barefoot Landing Lane, Semora noted his experience as the County's GOP Vice President attending the recent NC Republican State Convention in Greenville hearing from many GOP leaders. He requested the Board to work with each other showing respect, integrity of the process and communicating with citizens.

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Mr. Avie Lester, Sr. of 7495 Virgilina Road, Roxboro, NC 27574 addressed the Board, on behalf of Person County NAACP and concerned citizens seeking information and a more definitive timeline with regards to plans to remove the confederate memorial from its present location on the courthouse grounds. Although this matter has come before this body previously and received positive support for removal, no action has occurred. Mr. Lester requested a public response for a status update about the plans for the removal of this Confederate memorial.

Ms. Cindy Lynch of 395 of Union Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills asked the Board about an item on the agenda to establish term limits for the Animal Services Advisory Committee. As written, Ms. Lynch said it appeared to be a three-year term limit meaning to her how many times a citizen can serve is one 3-year term and was not sure this was the intent.

Mr. Chance Sanford of 400 Clayton Road, Roxboro responded to Mr. Lester's comments noting the previous iteration of the Board of Commissioners voted to remove the statute under NC General Statute as it caused a public safety hazard. Mr. Sanford noted the County did not want to pay for the removal and relocation with county funds and it was up to the public to raise those funds. Mr. Sanford stated to date over \$5,000 has been raised and he estimated \$25K needed. Mr. Sanford invited anyone wishing to chip in to do so noting that he did not agree that the public should have to raise the funds. Mr. Sanford said before moving forward and progressing to the future, to fix some of the past transgressions.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

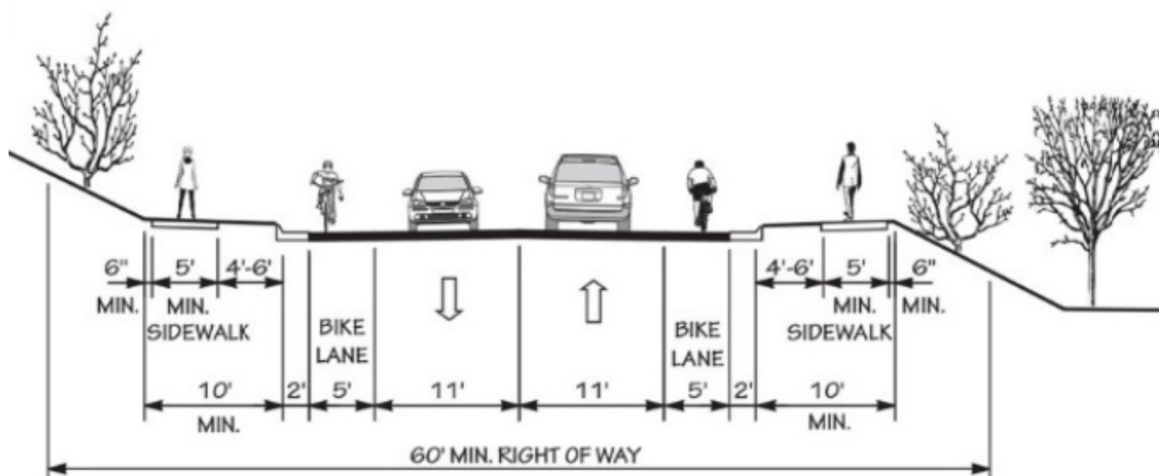
- A. Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2021,
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2021,
- C. Budget Amendment #18,
- D. Budget Amendment #19,
- E. American Rescue Plan Act Grant Project Ordinance Resolution, and
- F. Joint Use Agreement Renewal: Person County Recreation, Arts, and Parks Department and the Person County Board of Education

NEW BUSINESS:

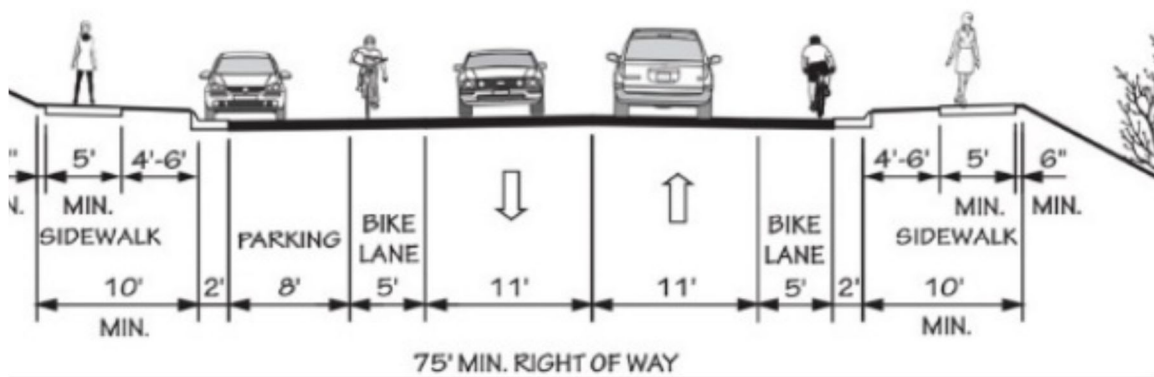
MORGAN STREET ROADWAY RECONFIGURATION:

John Sandor, PE, District Engineer with Division 5, District 2 Office for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) stated by request of the City of Roxboro he was there to gain the County's support as Morgan Street was due to be resurfaced this fall and it presented an opportunity to incorporate changes from the Semora Road intersection to the Chub Lake intersection. Reports of speeding have long been received by NCDOT along this section of road in town. The context of the road is a mix of residential/school/park/offices. There are several driveways accessing the road as well as several intersections with many local streets. In recent years, NCDOT constructed a mini-roundabout in an effort to help slow speeds along this corridor as well as address a crash problem at the intersection of Long Ave. There are also sidewalks on both sides of the street as well as several mid-block crosswalks.

Mr. Sandor said there is currently over 30 feet of pavement and the road is striped with three lanes. The proposal is to consider restriping this road during the resurfacing project in the next 18 months to eliminate the center turn lane and introduce either on-street parking or bike lanes to help reduce the "wide" feel of the road, which is known to cause speeding. Below are two concepts that show the cross-section of the road which could be applied here. The below cross-section that shows on-street parking in this application could not include the bike lanes due to there not being enough pavement.



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Mr. Sandor said roadway reconfigurations similar to the above options have been implemented across the country on like roads and have yielded great success with low cost. Studies have shown improved safety as well as reduced speeds. Capacity would not be changing with this recommendation, only the loss of the center turn lane. Where vehicles currently have a lane to wait to make a left and not block traffic, will now block traffic. Mr. Sandor added the current facility could accommodate a park option on one side with a bike lane on the other side.

Commissioner Palmer, a resident on Morgan Street noted his frustrations and concerns about the vehicle speeds increasing since the roundabout was installed to which Mr. Sandor was sorry the roundabout had not affected to calm traffic as intended.

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Animal Services Director, Kelli Oakley, on behalf of the Animal Services Advisory Committee requested that the Board of Commissioners establish terms for four citizen-at-large positions, effective July 1, 2021. The advisory committee requested that citizen positions 1. (Kay Farrell) and 2. (Cindy Martin) initially be a two-year term, and citizen positions 3. (Heath Gill) and 4. (Cathy Williams) be a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2021. Thereafter, three-year terms would apply to all members appointed to citizen positions. Upon approval by the Board, Ms. Oakley said the citizen term provisions would be added to the Animal Services Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear and **carried 5-0** to establish terms for the four citizen-at-large positions on the Animal Services Advisory Committee, as presented.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Powell reported his recent conversations with Representative Yarborough, Representatives of Ted Budd's Office, the Governor's Office, and Representative Thom Tillis regarding Person County receiving its share of federal funding to be used primarily for economic development and broadband.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager, Heidi York reported the Board approved a Project Ordinance for the American Rescue Funds in the Consent Agenda; she stated her plan once the budget for the upcoming year has been adopted, will be brought before the Board to provide input on how the expend those funds by the deadline of 2026.

Ms. York reminded the Board that their first budget work session was scheduled for June 8, 2021 starting at 2:00pm in the Commissioners' Boardroom; she asked if commissioners had specific questions or would like departmental directors available to answer questions, to please let her know.

Ms. York recognized the transition Person County will be facing with Cardinal Innovations, the county's current LME noting she will be keep the Board abreast as updates are available.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Puryear thanked the Person County Veterans Council for a great Memorial Day event to honor all fallen heroes noting it was a very sensitive day to the County's gold star families.

Commissioner Palmer thanked the Administrative staff for the hard work on getting the budget ready for the Board's review.

Commissioner Gentry concurred with Commissioner Palmer's comments noting the state mandates the county processes in the budget and other areas, i.e. the public hearing for a confidential project.

Commissioner Sims thanked all individuals that made public comments; he thanked staff for putting the budget together noting the budget work sessions will be a time to work together toward an adopted budget.

Commissioner Sims requested Board consideration for the June 8, 2021 budget work session to begin at 3:00pm to accommodate his personal appointment to ensure he would arrive in time; the Board consented for the time change to be 3:00pm.

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CLOSED SESSION #1

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session at 7:59pm, per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for the purpose of discussion of matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager, Heidi York, Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves, Economic Development Director, Sherry Wilborn and County Attorney, Ellis Hankins.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session #1 to order at 8:05pm.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 8:16pm.

Chairman Powell called the open session back to order at 8:16pm

CONSIDERATION TO GRANT OR DENY REQUEST TO APPROPRIATE ESTIMATED \$1,899,000.00 TO ASSIST PROJECT FAMOUS TO LOCATE IN PERSON COUNTY, NC, AND TO EXECUTE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve an appropriation of County General Funds to assist Project Famous to locate or expand in Person County with a financial grant incentive over a ten (10) year period at an estimated total cost of \$1,899,000.00 and to authorize the Board Chairman to execute a written agreement at the appropriate time that complied with applicable legal requirements.

Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves requested Board consideration to take formal action to change the location of the Board of Commissioners' regular scheduled meetings and to notice and distribute such if the Board desired to move its meetings back to its Boardroom 215.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to move the Board of Commissioners' regular scheduled meetings back to its Boardroom 215 effective immediately and for the Clerk to the Board to post and distribute notice of such action.

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RECESS:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear and **carried 5-0** to recess the meeting at 8:20pm until June 8, 2021 at 3:00pm for a budget work session.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

Gordon Powell
Chairman