

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**AUGUST 21, 2023**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

-----  
Gordon Powell  
C. Derrick Sims  
Kyle W. Puryear  
Charlie Palmer  
Jason Thomas  
-----

Katherine M. Cathey, County Manager  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board  
Michele Solomon, Clerk in Training  
S. Ellis Hankins, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 9:00am in the Commissioners' Boardroom 215 in the Person County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Vice Chairman Sims offered an invocation and Commissioner Puryear led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

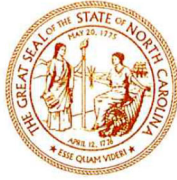
Chairman Powell added to the agenda the NC Governor's Proclamation recognizing Child Support Awareness Month to follow the approval of the agenda.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda as adjusted.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION:**

Chairman Powell read the State of North Carolina Proclamation signed by Governor Roy Cooper proclaiming August 2023 to be recognized as Child Support Awareness Month. Social Services Director Carlton Paylor spoke on behalf of Person County Child Support.

August 21, 2023



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**

GOVERNOR

**CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH**

**2023**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, children are entitled to financial support from their parents; and

**WHEREAS**, children who do not receive adequate financial and emotional support from their parents may experience greater difficulty in becoming happy, healthy, and productive residents; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina Child Support Services is dedicated to serving families and children across our state; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina continues to improve its efforts at child support collections; in State Fiscal Year 2022-2023, almost \$650 million was collected, providing support for more than 355,000 children; and

**WHEREAS**, many concerned and dedicated judges, district attorneys, clerks of court, sheriffs' personnel, and child support professionals work to establish and enforce child support orders for North Carolina's children, one of our state's most vital resources;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August, 2023, as "**CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



*Roy Cooper*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

**August 21, 2023**

Chairman Powell gave thanks and recognition to current Clerk to the Board Brenda Reaves on her upcoming retirement. All board members reiterated what Chairman Powell had said and thanked Ms. Reaves for her time and dedication to the board and citizens of Person County.

Chairman Powell said he met with representatives of Duke Energy on August 16, 2023 in reference to Duke Energy's updated Carbon Plan, related to the closings of coal fire plants at Roxboro/Hyco Plant in 2034 and Mayo Plant in 2031. Chairman Powell stated that he was pleased and excited to share with Person County citizens a press release by Duke Energy dated August 17, 2023. Chairman Powell stated the good news for Person County was that Duke Energy announced construction of a hydrogen-capable natural gas plant at the Roxboro location, otherwise known as Hyco Plant. The point at which these plants will cease coal fired production in Person County has been of major concern for several years due to the huge economic impact closures would cause on Person County. Knowing the local impact on our economy, the Board of Commissioners, Economic Development Commission, and other county entities began an intensive effort to encourage Duke Energy to continue power production in Person County. When House Bill 951 was passed into law, Chairman Powell said the carbon reduction plan guidelines made it clear that coal fired plants in Person County would be shut down at some point in the future. Knowing that Person County could not sit back and watch Duke's six-decade presence in the county fade away, a concerted effort was begun to strategize as to how to proceed into the future. A plan of action began to evolve and resulted in Person County being recognized as an intervener with the NC Utilities Commission. The strategy progressed with consultation with the county attorney, a utilities attorney and a utilities lobbyist along with County Commissioners, Economic Development officials and other concerned organizations within the county. Chairman Powell stated his gratitude to all who worked diligently together as a team to get Person County to this point. He said it was not easy, but undeniably worth the effort. Chairman Powell publicly thanked all who contributed to achieving this milestone announcement. This press release does not mean that it is the end of the line in working with Duke Energy. It is a major first step to ensure continued power generation in Person County, but there is more work to be done. Duke Energy has a plan for the future and Person County is in it. Duke Energy has been the greatest corporate citizen to Person County and the Board wants their continued presence for decades to come. Chairman Powell said the future economic security was bright for Person County, illuminated by power generated by Duke Energy facilities. The journey with Duke Energy is not over. It has only just begun. He added he looks forward to the future with Duke Energy as a partner in making Person County a focal point of new technology in power production for many generations to come.

**INFORMAL COMMENTS:**

There were no comments from the public.

**DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2023,
- B. Budget Amendment #4,
- C. Approval of Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults FY24 Agreement for the Provision of County-Based Services,
- D. Home & Community Care Block Grant Funding FY24,
- E. Home & Community Care Block Grant Final Reports FY23, and
- F. Lease Renewal of Maxway Building (Tax/Register of Deeds)

**NEW BUSINESS:****APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE BOARD:**

County Manager Katherine Cathey stated in accordance with General Statute 153A-111, the board of county commissioners appoints the county clerk. Brenda Reaves, the current Clerk to the Board, will retire Sept. 1, 2023. Her last day of work with Person County will be Aug. 31, 2023.

Ms. Cathey noted following a competitive recruitment process, the Board of Commissioners selected Michele Solomon as the next Clerk to the Board. She will also serve as Executive Assistant to the County Manager. She began work in her new position on Aug. 15, 2023.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to appoint Michele Solomon as Clerk to the Board, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman Powell reported the following:

- Attended a luncheon to welcome 22 new teachers to Person County Schools,
- Roots & Wings was awarded a \$25,000 grant from Duke Energy,
- Attended coffee hour at Golden Coral of Roxboro for a Solar Power meet & greet,
- Advised that he met with Duke Energy officials last week, and asked the County's Public Information Officer (PIO) if an announcement was made regarding Duke Energy through the county website and social media to which PIO Kim Strickland affirmed it had been made on Friday.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

County Manager Katherine Cathey reported the Recreation, Arts & Parks Department received \$360,000 from the PARTF Grant to be used to develop an extensive trail system at the County Farm Park.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:**

Vice Chairman Sims reported he attended the Duke Energy meetings, noting Duke Energy wants to be here in Person County.

Commissioner Palmer reported he attend the Economic Development Commission's seminar led by Charles Hayes and found it very informative.

Commissioner Thomas wanted to express thanks to emergency personnel, Fire, Rescue, EMS, and the Sheriff's Department with so many situations last week.

Commissioner Puryear commented on the good corporate relationship with Duke Energy and that he was looking forward to the next stage.

### **CLOSED SESSION #1**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session #1 at 9:24am per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Brenda Reaves, Clerk in Training Michele Solomon, County Attorney Ellis Hankins, Assistant Finance Director Tracy Clayton, General Services Director Ray Foushee, Doug Brock, Senior Managing Director, Newmark, Doug Carter, President and Managing Director, DEC Associates, Inc. and Andrew Carter, Director, DEC Associates Inc.

**August 21, 2023**

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session #1 to order at 9:25am.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 10:24am.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 10:24am.

---

Michele Solomon  
Clerk to the Board

---

Gordon Powell  
Chairman

**August 21, 2023**