

Regular Session, May 2, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Catawba County Council for the Arts 743 05/02/16

Emergency Services

Pyrotechnics Permit Application 743 05/02/16

Proclamations

Tourism Month 742 05/02/16

Emergency Medical Services Week 742 05/02/16

Public Service Recognition Week 742 05/02/16

Social Services

Community Child Protection & Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report 743 05/02/16

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 2, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Sherry E. Butler and Dan A. Hunsucker.

Also present were Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado, County Attorney Debra Bechtel and County Clerk Barbara Morris. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy was absent.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Sherry E. Butler offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting and Closed Session of April 4, 2016, the Special Meeting and Closed Session of April 10, 2016, the Special Meeting and Closed Session of April 22, 2016, and the Amended Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with Hickory City Council of March 21, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their interest in the business of the County.
6. Public Comments. None
7. Presentations:
 - a. The Board issued a proclamation declaring May 2016 as Tourism Month in Catawba County to recognize how the travel and tourism industry is vital to the County's economic stability and growth, and its contribution to Catawba County's cultural and social well-being.
 - b. The Board issued a proclamation declaring May 15-21 as Emergency Medical Services Week to recognize the value and accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services providers.
 - c. The Board issued a proclamation declaring May 1-7 as Public Service Recognition Week to recognize that local, state and federal government employees serve Americans every day. Most public servants feel called to the profession, to work on the public's behalf, to build strong communities through every day service. Catawba County employees touch the lives of all residents by providing a wide range of services specified in the proclamation

8. Appointments.

Commissioner Butler recommended the appointment of Adam Stewart for a first term on the Catawba County Council for the Arts. This term will expire June 30, 2019. This recommendation came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Departmental Reports.

A. Emergency Services.

Assistant Emergency Services Director Mark Pettit presented a request for the Board to Board confirm approval of a Pyrotechnics Permit for Wanda Gayle C. Jarrett. Ms. Jarrett submitted a Pyrotechnic Permit application for a fireworks display to be conducted on April 23, 2016, at 3742 S. Hwy 16 Maiden, North Carolina. This display was part of a memorial for Ms. Jarrett's son, Michael Jarrett, who recently passed away. Michael performed fireworks displays throughout the County for several years and is being honored by his family. The display occurred at 10:00 p.m. and lasted approximately 30 minutes. There was no Board of Commissioners meeting held between the time of application and the scheduled event. Therefore, the Board was polled and approved Chair Isenhower executing the required permit.

Ms. Jarrett contracted with Zambelli, which had a valid "Outdoor Pyrotechnics Display Operators Permit" through the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshal. Based on the application, all statutory requirements would be met. If at any time, any requirement of the permit was not satisfied, the County Fire/Rescue Division would have immediately revoked the permit. Commissioner Butler made a motion to confirm this approval. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Social Services.

Social Services Director John Eller presented a request for the Board to approve the annual report of the work of the Community Child Protection & Fatality Prevention Team. This annual report is to update and keep the Board informed on activities to date. The Annual Plan will be submitted to the State upon Board approval.

The Catawba County Child Protection Team was established in 1992 as the result of an executive order by Governor James Martin. North Carolina later mandated a Child Fatality Review Team and Catawba County elected to combine the two into a single team as allowed under State guidelines. That combined team first met in 1995 and has met quarterly since inception, except for specially called meetings.

This report addressed the work of the Community Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team. The Child Protection Team has the legal responsibilities for reviewing cases of child fatalities when the family is known to the Department of Social Services and identifying areas in Protective Services needing improvement in order to maximize the safety of the community's children. The Child Fatality Team's purpose is to provide a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to study cases of childhood death in Catawba County in order to attempt to reduce child fatalities. The local directors of Social Services and Public Health have specific responsibilities for each team. Efforts continue to be made for the group to review additional individual Child Protective Services issues and satisfy the State's agreement with the Federal government to use Child Protection Teams as a review mechanism in the Child Protective Services arena.

The Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team has worked diligently in 2015 on supporting the Project Lazarus initiative regarding prescription drug abuse among parents and children as a contributory factor in situations involving medical/law enforcement/child protective services and courts; assessing fatalities with serious injury perpetrator data; focusing on human trafficking, which is a growing concern on the I-40 corridor; focusing on laws and penalties for those who fail to report child abuse and neglect; promoting awareness regarding the dangers of distracted driving among teens; promoting safe sleeping practices among caregivers with small infants, and supporting mental health first aid which helps communities address de-escalating someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis, and the ability of caregivers to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders; and exploring criminalization and early CPS involvement concerning prenatal substance use and substance positive newborns.

Commissioner Butler made a motion to approve the Community Child Protection & Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Items of Business: None
11. Attorney's Report: None.
12. Manager's Report: None.
13. Adjournment. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk