

Regular Session, September 6, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Closed Session

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 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 County Manager Mick Berry, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris. Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado and County Attorney Debra Bechtel were absent.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Chair Isenhower offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of August 15, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone present, specifically acknowledging the press for disseminating information from the meeting.
6. Public Comments. None.
- 7.. Appointments. None.
8. Consent Agenda:
County Manager Mick Berry presented the following two items for Board consideration:
 - a. A request for the Board to approve an amendment to the Economic Development Agreement by and between Catawba County and GKN Driveline Newton LLC. Under the terms of the April 21, 2014 economic development agreement, timelines were established for filing paperwork. Due to GKN's delayed filing of paperwork and associated budgetary issues, a simple amendment extending the 90 day County payment processing period to 180 days is necessary. The following agreement applies:

September 6, 2016, MB#54

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AMENDMENT TO COUNTY OF CATAWBA AND
COUNTY OF CATAWBA GKN NEWTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

This amendment (the "Amendment") is made this ___ day of ___, 2016, to the Joint Economic Development Agreement (the "Agreement") dated April 21, 2014, executed by and between County of Catawba (the "County"), a North Carolina body politic, having a mailing address of Post Office Box 389, Newton, North Carolina, 28658, and GKN Driveline Newton LLC ("GKN Newton"), a Delaware limited liability company qualified to do business in the State of North Carolina, having a physical address with two manufacturing facilities in the Town of Maiden, North Carolina, and having an office address of 1848 GKN Way, Newton, North Carolina 28658.

County and GKN Newton mutually agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

Paragraph 7(b) is amended by modifying "County will, within ninety (90) days, pay to GKN Newton an economic development incentive payment" to "County will, within one hundred eighty (180) days, pay to GKN Newton an economic development incentive payment."

All other terms and conditions that are not hereby amended are to remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have set their hands and seals as of the day first above written.

County of Catawba,
A North Carolina Body Politic

Attest:
(SEAL)

b. A request for the Board to approve a request by Catawba County Planning and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) and adopt a resolution to amend the list of Map Review Officers. On July 17, 1997, the General Assembly ratified SB 875 - Maps and Plats Law. This law required all counties to appoint Review Officers who would review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for mapping. The law states that individuals have to be appointed by name, not by job title, so that any time a change occurs in staffing, a new Review Officer has to be appointed and approved by resolution of the Board of Commissioners and subsequently recorded in the Register of Deeds Office.

Catawba County Planning requested that Elinor A. Hiltz be added to their list of approved Map Review Officers. Catawba County Planning also requested that Lashana Marshburn is removed due to her leaving her position. The Western Piedmont Council of Governments requested that Leslie Meadows be added to the City of Claremont's list of approved Map Review Officers and Tom Drum be added to the Town of Catawba's list of approved Map Review Officers. The WPCOG also requested that Laurie LoCicero is removed from the City of Claremont's approved list and Elinor Hiltz be removed from the City of Claremont and Town of Catawba's approved list due to leaving their positions. The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION #2016-_____
APPOINTMENT OF MAP REVIEW OFFICERS

WHEREAS, S.L. 1997-309 (SB875) made a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the law was to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements from the Register of Deeds to a Review Officer; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by resolution, to appoint a person or persons to serve as Review Officer to review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to insure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by G.S. 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording.

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on January 19, 2016 adopted Resolution #2016-01 which included names of individuals who were appointed as Review Officers for representative jurisdictions in Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in Book 3325 Pages 1811-1813; and

WHEREAS, staffing changes have occurred in the Catawba County Planning Office and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, which necessitate an amendment to the approved list of Map Review Officers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Elinor A. Hiltz is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officer for Catawba County, Leslie Meadows is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officer for the City of Claremont and Tom Drum is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officer for the Town of Catawba as indicated in accordance with the appropriate General Statutes; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Lashana Marshburn is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for Catawba County, Laurie LoCicero is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for the City of Claremont and Elinor Hiltz is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for the City of Claremont and the Town of Catawba.

With the above change, the comprehensive list of Map Review Officers is as follows:

Catawba County: Jacky M. Eubanks, Susan Ballbach, Chris Timberlake and Elinor A. Hiltz
City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, David Leonetti, Shamaury Myrick and Ross Zelenske
City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright
City of Conover: Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed
City of Claremont: Leslie Meadows
Town of Long View: David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis
Town of Maiden: Travis Ramsey
Town of Catawba: Tom Drum
Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officers be recorded in the Catawba County Register of Deed's Office and indexed in the names of the Review Officers.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Chair Isenhower asked if any Commissioner wished for an item to be broken out of the consent agenda for individual consideration. None was requested. Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Departmental Reports.
 - A. Planning and Parks.
Planning and Parks Director Jacky Eubanks presented a request for the Board to award the planning and concept design contract for Mountain Creek Park to Wirth & Associates, Charlotte in the amount of

\$76,200. This will be taken out of the existing Mountain Creek Park Capital Project, with \$125,000 available.

Staff received Statements of Qualifications from nine firms interested in planning and designing the future Mountain Creek Park including: KCI Associates, TGS Engineering, Land Design, McAdams, McGill, Stewart, The Jaeger Co., Wirth and Associates, and Woolpert. A committee consisting of Planning and Parks staff, Purchasing staff, Management, and Dr. Karen McDougal, retired from Lenoir Rhyne University Biology Department, reviewed the qualifications. Out of the nine submittals, the following four were selected to make oral presentations to the committee: Land Design, Wirth and Associates, McAdams, and Stewart.

All things being relatively equal between multiple firms, Wirth & Associates was selected because of Gary Wirth's presentation and the energy, drive, and sincere desire to deliver more than promised to the project. Gary, as principal of Wirth & Associates, would be more personally involved in the day to day activities than principals from the other firms. Wirth & Associates has been involved in the design of Rocky Springs Nature Preserve Park in Lincoln County, Abersham-Fisher Farm Park in Mecklenburg County, Village Greenway in Concord and Mazeppa Road Park in Mooresville. Upon execution of the contract, Wirth and Associates will proceed with fact finding, followed by scheduling of the first public input sessions commencing in the 2nd Quarter of FY 16/17.

Scope of services to be completed by Wirth and Associates will include: Familiarization and site inventory - boundaries, mapping, photography; natural influences and manmade influences; Market research - demographic overview; analyze local, regional, and national trends in recreational facilities; forecast future attendance ; provide revenue projections from new passive/active recreational activities; Public meetings - facilitate up to four public meetings for purpose of receiving public input; presentations to the Parks Advisory Committee and Planning Board; Board of Commissioners (4th Quarter FY 16/17); Preliminary planning - vehicular circulation (driveways, parking areas, and bridges); recreational areas and activities (such as): adventure playground, Climbing tower, natural surface trails, mountain bike trails, canoe/kayak/paddle board access, fishing pier, primitive camping, outdoor classrooms, multi-purpose building, picnic shelters, swim beach, birding, pump track, splash pad and other; Preliminary cost estimates; Phasing Analysis; Final Master Plan and Website Development and Social Media Outreach.

Commissioner Barnes thanked Mr. Wirth for his attendance at the subcommittee meeting and this meeting. Commission Hunsucker confirmed that there was sufficient liability insurance. Commissioner Barnes then made a motion to award the contract to Wirth & Associates. The motion carried unanimously.

B. County Manager.

County Manager Berry opened a discussion with the Board regarding a strategic planning process. Staff discussed a draft outline of topics and process for the Board to initiate its vision and strategic planning process at the Board's Subcommittee meetings on Monday, August 29th. At this Board of Commissioners meeting the Board and staff were updated on where the county is in economic and demographic trends and the work that was done by the Board (survey and retreat) last year was revisited through powerpoint presentations from Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar and ICMA Fellow Danielle Verwaren. A series of Board workshops were proposed and agreed upon to deal with individual issues: Economic Development; Water / Sewer Infrastructure; Attracting and retaining Young Adults: Quality of Life Amenities – Parks and Environment, Quality of Life Amenities – Arts and Culture, K-12 Education and Post-Secondary Education; Broadband; and Community Marketing & Branding. Based on Subcommittees and Department Head recommendations, "Healthy & Safe Community" was added to the list. A tentative schedule of work sessions each month before the regular 9:30 a.m. board meeting, potentially from 7:30-9:15 a.m., and after the 2nd Subcommittee Meetings of the month (with the Chair joining) was agreed upon. Site visits to communities are already implementing best practices etc., and the inclusion of community partners in the visits will build the common vision and strengthen relationships. The addition of focus groups with students from our schools and CVCC, as well as returning college students on breaks, and young professionals and young people employed in manufacturing jobs and technical fields was suggested by Board members. The

tentative schedule for these work sessions is as follows: 09/26/2016 – Leadership style assessment; Roles/Responsibilities; 10/03/2016 – Economic Development; 10/10/2016 – Water and Sewer Infrastructure; 11/07/2016 – Pre-K and K-12 Education; 11/14/2016 – Post-Secondary Education; 12/05/2016 – Broadband; 12/12/2016 – Healthy & Safe Communities; 1/09/2017 – Arts and Culture; 01/30/2017 – Parks and Environment; and 02/06/2017 – Community Branding/Marketing. County Manager Berry stressed the need for flexibility through this process and the Board concurred.

10. Other Items of Business: None.

11. Attorneys Report.

Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart introduced Justin Edge who has been admitted to the NC Bar Association and is working in the County Legal Department under a Fellowship Program with the University of Indiana.

12. Manager's Report:

County Manager Berry advised the Board that one new classification (*Communications and Marketing Director – pay grade 83*) has been established and added to the existing pay plan.

This classification has been created to take the County's communications, branding, and marketing efforts to the next level. The position will serve as the chief storyteller for Catawba County, developing a central brand for the County and connecting that brand with community and internal partners whose stories reinforce that brand. The position will be a key leadership team member in attracting people and companies to Catawba County. Also responsible for coordinating County-wide communications efforts, this person will align departmental efforts with the overarching County story and filling the role of trusted advisor in providing strong strategic and tactical support as needed. Responsible for developing content, messaging, and design of the County's public-facing communication materials and tools (including written, audio, graphics, and video), this position will be charged with driving awareness of services and citizen engagement through traditional and non-traditional communications methods. The County has hired the recruitment firm of Accrue Partners to build a pool of qualified applicants for this position. This information was provided to the Board in accordance with Section 28-71 of the Catawba County Personnel Code, Amendment to the classification plan.

Assistant County Attorney Stewart then asked that the Board consider a Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. She did not anticipate any action to be taken when the Board returned to Open Session. Vice-Chair Beatty made a motion to go into closed session, which carried unanimously. The Board moved to closed session at 10:55 a.m.

13. Adjournment.

The Board returned to open session; Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk