

Board, Ms. Bonnie Huntley administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Elect, Mr. Lawrence Gatewood.

Closed Session:

Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, to go into closed session for personnel, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn to come out of closed session, motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, Commissioner Sims addressed issues of County Commissioners driving county owned vehicles. Commissioner Sims stated it was legal to provide these Commissioners vehicles and rumors to the contrary were not of proper merit. The vehicles have since been returned and he really appreciates what the Commissioners have done, they have helped the County in significant ways. He thanked them for their service. Commissioner Sims added that as he understands them, “the rumors and untruths going through the public are incorrect.”

Commissioner Sims made a motion that from henceforth that the ordinance reflect that no Anson County Commissioner is to be assigned a vehicle, for any purpose or reason, if there is travel necessary, they will do so per diem mileage, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

Interim County Manager James opened the floor for Chairman Nominations.

Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ross Streater to serve as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Sims.

Commissioner Woodburn moved to close the floor for Chairman Nominations, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim County Manager James called for the vote with all present Board members voting in the affirmative.

Interim County Manager James opened the floor for Vice-Chairman Nominations.

Commissioner Sims made a motion to nominate Commissioner Woodburn to serve as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Sikes.

Commissioner Sturdivant moved to close the floor for Vice-Chairman Nominations, seconded by Commissioner Streater. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim County Manager James called for the vote with all present Board members voting in the affirmative.

Commissioner Ross Streater was elected as Chairman.

Commissioner Jarvis T. Woodburn was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:

Commissioner Woodburn moved to approve the agenda with two corrections to item 11 A, November 13, 2018 minutes, and added item 11C, audit contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Company to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sikes seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of County Manager:

Chairman Streater introduced Mr. Barron S. Monroe, II, as the new Anson County Manager. Mr. Monroe addressed and thanked the Board members, County Attorney and Clerk for their assistance and information aiding his transition. Mr. Monroe introduced his family and stated that these are the people that matter most and who he works so hard for. Mr. Monroe thanked the Board, thanked his family for coming, and thanked the Commissioners for giving him the opportunity to work for Anson County.

Commissioner Sims asked Mr. Monroe, where he did his graduate work; Mr. Monroe answered UNC-Chapel Hill.

Commissioner Gatewood thanked Mr. Monroe for being at the meeting and for being a serious minded candidate for County Manager. Commissioner Gatewood stated he is sure Mr. Monroe is a very fine young man who presents himself extremely well and hopes that the Board has selected the very best candidate available. Commissioner Gatewood said he hopes he is a leader, as the County certainly needs one, and hopes that he will stay with Anson County for many, many years. Commissioner Gatewood stated that however, in good faith to himself, he cannot vote for Mr. Monroe for several reasons. Commissioner Gatewood said he just met Mr. Monroe, he has not had an opportunity to interview him, has not seen his application, his criminal background check, credit check, his references, nor a copy of his contract, therefore, nothing against Mr. Monroe or his family, however tonight his vote will be “no” and wanted the community, the citizens, and Mr. Monroe and his family to understand his position.

Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to approve the Anson County Manager contract with Mr. Barron Monroe, II, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried 5-1.

Commissioners Streater, Commissioner Woodburn, Commissioner Sturdivant, Commissioner Sims, and Commissioner Sikes, all voted: **Yes**.

Commissioner Gatewood voted: **No**.

Commissioner Smith: **Absent**

Public Addresses:

Jeff Boothby addressed the Board and provided a handout that contained Board minutes, resolution, article from the Express newspaper, and an article from the Charlotte Observer. Mr. Boothby thanked the Board members for voting to put the referendum on the ballot and allowing the citizens to vote on it even though he believed the language was improperly provided for the

referendum. Mr. Boothby stated in 2022, the next election, they will make the same request again.

Appearances:

Roshunda Terry, Cooperative Extension Director, Janine Rywak, and Leroy Lookabill, appeared before the Board to delay the request of commitment for funding for the Agri-Civic Center. Ms. Terry stated they have new committee planning members and would like to update them by discussing the status of the project. Ms. Terry stated they would like to develop sound recommendations on how to move forward prior to reappearing before Board members, noting at the end of the day the common goal is to see this project progress and succeed. Ms. Terry asked the Board to grant an extension to reappear with an update at the February 2019 meeting. Chairman Streater asked for the consensus of the Board to grant the extension and all Board members agreed. Commissioner Gatewood stated this project has been on hold since September 2017, and stated, if it pleased the Board, he would like to volunteer and work with the Agri-Civic Center Planning Committee and be a part of the presentation in February. Board members and Ms. Terry agreed.

Steve Adams, Board of Elections Director, appeared before the Board to request to utilize the old hospital emergency parking lot for additional parking for staff and/or campaigners during early voting, noting increased and steady traffic flow. Mr. Adams stated this would provide ample parking for everyone, especially space for Anson County voters. Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the request of the Board of Elections to subdivide the old hospital property, which is just a little over five acres, property on Morven Road to encompass the twenty-space parking lot located just south of the Board of Elections headquarters, 402 Morven Road; to be effective once all hospital property is transferred into the County's name, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Forbes will work with the former owners to transfer the title properly.

Mike Sessions, Utilities Director appeared before the Board to request the approval of the Facility Planning Program and Space Needs Analysis for the Water Department. Mr. Sessions shared that the current facility is very outdated.

Mr. Sessions stated that he has met with Mr. Steve Allan, President of Solutions for Local Government, Inc., and he has agreed to review the facility and provide a study upon Board approval. Mr. Sessions shared that they have many elderly customers and a drive-thru would be beneficial to them and all customers. Mr. Sessions and Board members shared concerns with flooding and other issues surrounding the Water Department facility. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that when she brings the elderly to the Water Department to pay their bills they have difficulty going into the entrance of the facility, noting that one of them almost tumbled, and feels a drive-thru is needed and will be beneficial to Anson County citizens. Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to approve the Facility Planning and Space Needs Analysis, seconded by Commissioner Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters:

2019 Commissioners Meeting Dates

Board members discussed their 2019 Anson County Board of Commissioners regular meeting dates. Commissioner Sims shared he would like to request the October 1st meeting be moved to October 7th. Upon further discussion, Commissioner Sims moved to approve the Anson County Board of Commissioners 2019 regular meeting schedule and the first three months of their 2020 calendar, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

2019 Anson County Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 8	July 2
February 5	August 6
March 5	September 10
April 2	October 7
May 7	November 5
June 4	December 3

2020 (Jan. – Mar.)

January 7
February 4
March 3

Old Hospital Deed

Attorney Forbes stated he is working with Carol Wilson of CMH to transfer the deed to Anson County. Attorney Forbes stated it should be done by the end of the month or first of the year.

County Attorney Contract

Commissioner Sims made a motion to approve County Attorney Scott Forbes, 2019 contract, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

Commissioner Gatewood shared with Board members and the audience a resolution honoring a long serving employee of Anson County, Ms. Hazeline Bennett. Commissioner Gatewood read highlights of the resolution, noting Ms. Bennett will be 95 years old in January 2019, and still works everyday as an in-home aide with Anson Elderly Services. Commissioner Gatewood further highlighted several amazing attributes of Ms. Bennett, and shared that Ms. Bennett is the oldest government employee in Anson County history and the State. Commissioner Gatewood read a letter from Governor Roy Cooper addressed to Ms. Hazeline Bennett, congratulating her on being recognized by her community at the Anson County Christmas luncheon celebration and appreciates her many years of service to Anson County and the State. Commissioner Sims made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Ms. Hazeline D. Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

Wanda Talbert, Elderly Services' Director reminded Board members and audience members of the annual Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon being held December 5 and 6, 11-1. Ms. Talbert shared she has 225 registered for Wednesday and 250 registered for Thursday, with Hooks BBQ catering the meal. Ms. Talbert thanked the Board for their continued support.

Commissioner Sturdivant thanked the county employees for always supporting Toys for Tots, and hope they continue to do so at the 2018 County Employee Christmas Luncheon. Commissioner Sturdivant shared the donation boxes will be set up and hope that everyone look at their hearts and donate a toy.

Manager's Report:

Interim County Manager James did not have anything to report.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Streater did not have anything to report.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Woodburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, Property tax releases/refunds/adjustments, Sandhill Quarterly Report, and Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Company audit contract, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Concerns:

Commissioner Woodburn shared his concerns about a letter received from the LGC (Local Government Commission) about the county's audit status. Finance Officer Garner explained that the letter received from the LGC has been discussed with Interim County Manager James. Finance Officer Garner stated that corrective actions are in progress.

Commissioner Woodburn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board