

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Ross Streater, Chair
 Jarvis Woodburn, Vice Chair
 Bobby Sikes
 Vancine Sturdivant
 Dr. Jim Sims
 Lawrence Gatewood

Commissioners absent: Harold Smith

Staff members present: Barron Monroe II, County Manager
 Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
 Cary Garner, Finance Officer
 Larry Newton, Tax Assessor
 Wanda Talbert, Elderly Services
 Dr. Thompson, Health Department
 Evonne Burr, Health Department

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Streater called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who are present. Chairman Streater asked Reverend Alban Burney to deliver the **Invocation**.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:

Vice-Chair Woodburn moved to approve the agenda, with two corrections to item 9a; December 10, 2018 closed session minutes and the addition of a LGC response letter to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

Commissioner Sikes made a motion to open the public hearing for Duke Energy, Commissioner Gatewood seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Streater recognized Mr. Larry Newton; Mr. Newton asked for any audience members that would like to speak during the public hearing to step

forward and be sworn in by the Clerk. The Clerk swore in several Duke Energy representatives.

Mr. Newton stated that Duke Energy has filed a wireless communication application to construct a 398' communications tower that will replace the existing 395' communications tower, approximately .26 miles to the north, property address is 2593 Power Plant Road, Lilesville, NC, Property Tax ID# 7434-00-69-9317. Mr. Newton stated the Board of Adjustments meet on December 6, 2018 and held a public hearing. Prior to the meeting, signs were put in place, ads were published in the Newspaper, and all property owners that adjoined the property were notified by first class mail.

Mr. David McNeill, District Manager for Duke Energy, addressed the Board with an introduction of himself and noted he is based in Aberdeen, and serve eight counties, including Anson County. Mr. McNeill said that he is appearing before the Board, regarding the plans to replace the communications tower at Duke Energy's Blewett Hydro Plant, which is located on their plant property in Lilesville. Mr. McNeill stated that the existing communications tower and shelter need to be replaced, due to age and condition, noting that the existing tower is located on an island on the plant property, which presents some logistical challenges, including a bridge with a 20-ton weight limit and limited clearance between the mainland and the island. The existing tower is 380 feet tall and is secured with guy wires. Mr. McNeill further said they have identified an alternate location on the plant property for the new tower and new shelter. The new tower is 388 feet tall, with a 10-foot lightning rod, so a total of 398 feet tall. Mr. McNeill stated that it is basically about the same height as the existing tower, and the new tower is a self-supported tower. When all services have been transferred to the new tower site, the existing tower and shelter will be decommissioned and disposed of properly, returning that location to its natural condition. Mr. McNeill explained that the communications tower is an important part of Duke Energy's day-to-day operations and is part of the fundamental physical infrastructure required to support Duke's SmartGrid and other operational technologies. The communications tower enables use of a Land Mobile Radio system, which is a tool that Duke Energy's first responders use to help make repairs to the critical infrastructure when restoring service to customers. Mr. McNeill detailed that the Land Mobile Radio is often referred to as a two-way radio or a dispatch radio, sharing that they have

been using these types of radios dating back to the 1940s. In the storm response plan, the Land Mobile Radio system provides a reliable way for the employees to communicate key messages to individuals and groups of employees during the power restoration process. This way of communicating supports employee safety and operational excellence. The tower will support the microwave network that enables Duke Energy to control and manage the power generation at Blewett. The tower will also improve communications to area substations and other power grid assets. Mr. McNeill further stated that Duke Energy is pleased to make this investment in the communications infrastructure in Anson County, sharing that Duke Energy will invest over \$1.3 million dollars in the tower and network equipment at this site and estimate that they will complete this project this spring, weather permitting. Mr. McNeill concluded by saying this communications tower supports our commitment to providing our customers with safe, reliable, affordable and increasingly clean energy here in Anson County and throughout our service area.

Mr. Newton stated that the Anson County Board of Adjustments is recommending that the project be approved and all requirements for the wireless communications tower ordinance have been met. Mr. Newton further stated that it has been determined that the approval of this request will not affect the Anson County 2021 Comprehensive Use Plan and is in harmony with the surrounding areas, and does not have a negative influence on the surrounding properties.

Chairman Streater opened the floor for public comments. No one responded.

Commissioner Gatewood moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sturdivant moved to approve the request from Duke Energy to construct a 398' communications tower that will replace the existing 395' communications tower, approximately .26 miles to the north. Commissioner Sims seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Public Addresses:

Commissioner Sturdivant recognized Mr. Terrell Bennett, a graduating senior at UNCC Charlotte for his outstanding accomplishments. Commissioner Sturdivant stated she has known Mr. Bennett for twenty-one years and he is an honorable young gentleman. Mr. Bennett introduced himself to the Board and gave thanks and honor to his family. Mr. Bennett said he would like to attend graduate school at NC State University of UNC Chapel Hill.

Appearances:

Commissioner Gatewood stated he was excited about a New Year with all of its opportunities and challenges, both known and unknown. Commissioner Gatewood said he was excited about our new County Manager, Mr. Monroe, noting that they spent two hours together last Friday, and thinks he is going to be really good for this County and looks forward to working with him and also seeing Mr. Monroe become the very best County Manager that Anson County has known. Commissioner Gatewood shared he was excited to be a part of a new Board of Commissioners, noting that for the first time in almost 8 years, Anson County have a new Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Gatewood stated on behalf of this new Board, it is his honor to recognize seven County employees who retired December 31, 2018.

Mr. Ted Ward	Veteran Services Officer	6 YOS
Ms. Shirley Allen	Social Services	19 YOS
Ms. Madeline Thompson	Social Services	21 YOS
Ms. Joanne Huntley	Register of Deeds	25 YOS
Mr. Steve Erdmancyk	Sheriff's Office	28 YOS
Ms. Patricia Seago	Social Services	30 YOS
Ms. Bernice Bennett	Elderly Services (mid-year)	44 YOS

Commissioner Gatewood gave special recognition to Ms. Bernice Bennett, with 44 years of service as the longest serving County employee in the history of Anson County Government.

Commissioner Gatewood acknowledged former Chair of this Board, Ms. Anna Baucom, who retired last month with 18 years of service as an Anson

County Commissioner, representing the citizens of District 5 and the entire County community.

Commissioner Gatewood stated on behalf of the Anson County Board of Commissioners and all 26,948 citizens of this great County; Congratulations from the Board to all of the 2018 retirees. Thank you for a job well done and best of luck during your retirement years.

Commissioner Gatewood congratulated the longest serving County Commissioner in the history of Anson County and one of the longest serving Commissioners in the State of NC. Commissioner Gatewood noted that he has 30 years of continuous service as of this month; and asked everyone to please join him in congratulating Chairman Ross Streater for his dedication and long service to Anson County.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion that the names of the county retirees and the special recognition of Chairman Streater be entered into the official minutes of this meeting and going forward the County Manager and Human Resources Department recognizes the 2019 retirees at the January 2020 Commissioners meeting, and do the same in subsequent years. Commissioner Woodburn seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Randy Gulledge, IT Director appeared before the Board to address the Commissioner's concerns about relocating the podium. Mr. Gulledge explained that moving the podium would involve cutting the pipes and retracting the cables connected to the podium. Mr. Gulledge gave the Board several options for the carpet after the podium is relocated ranging from the entire room replacement of \$12,000 to a carpet section replacement of \$1400 to \$3500. Mr. Gulledge gave several other options for upgrade such as wireless microphones and a new computer. Commissioner Sims asked for the grand total for the upgrades and relocation of the podium, Mr. Gulledge answered approximately \$8300. Chairman Streater asked about a clear podium, with Mr. Gulledge answering that attention still would have to be given to removing the pipes. Commissioner Sims made a motion to leave the podium exactly where it is and save the taxpayers money, Commissioner Gatewood seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters:

Old Hospital Deed

Attorney Forbes presented an aerial photo outlining the entire hospital property located on Morven Road. Attorney Forbes explained that he is working on getting this property conveyed to the County and apologized for not having it already completed. County Attorney Forbes stated that the deed has to be modified due to Atrium Health leaving out a parcel of property. County Attorney Scott Forbes informed the Board that he is working to confirm the correctness of the old hospital property deed and anticipates completion in the next two weeks, although, he cannot account for the Atrium Health timeline.

Appointments:

Vice-Chair Woodburn moved to appoint Jeff Waisner to the Wadesboro Planning and Adjustment Board (ETJ), seconded by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report:

County Manager Monroe had nothing to report.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Streater asked Board members to think about evaluations methods for the new County Manager and bring their ideas to the Commissioner's retreat. Chairman Streater asked John Marek, Anson Economic Development Partnership to provide information on an upcoming class. Mr. Marek explained that East Carolina University Honors Seminar in Economic Development is scheduled for January 30, 2019. The class will be held in the Raye Boardroom of the Horne Library on the L.L. Polk Campus of South Piedmont Community College. Mr. Marek said spaces are limited to about twenty participants and asked the Commissioners to attend.

Consent Agenda:

Vice-Chair Woodburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, tax releases/refunds/adjustments, and a LGC response letter, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Concerns:

Commissioner Gatewood reported that the opening of construction bids for the new Department of Social Services building would take place in the DSS breakroom, Thursday of this week, at 1:00 pm. Commissioner Gatewood said for the last year they have been forecasting and estimating the building will cost the county approximately 5.5 million dollars for construction and a half million dollars to equip it, so anyone that is interested is invited to attend the bid openings.

Commissioner Sims shared his concern about the middle school. Commissioner Sims said every year you put off building the middle school it will cost three million dollars more.

Commissioner Gatewood requested a recessed meeting to review the DSS bid tabulations. The Board briefly discussed dates for a recessed meeting and by consensus, agreed to meet on January 18, at 1:00 pm.

Closed Session:

Motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to go into closed session for:

Economic Development: North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body.

Consult with the Attorney: North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action. Motion carried unanimously.

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

In regular session, Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to recess until Friday, January 18, 2019 at 1:00 pm, seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board