



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

February 3, 2025

MINUTES

The February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap. Others in attendance were Vice Chair Victor Hunt, Commissioner Bertadean Baker, Commissioner Al Cooper, Commissioner Tare Davis, County Manager Crystal Smith, and County Attorney Shiekell Richardson.

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposal to amend the Warren County Zoning Ordinance to make public parks, picnic area, public swimming pools, and locations for public access-boat launches (Lake Gaston, Kerr Lake) a Special Use in Lakeside Business, Neighborhood Business, Heavy Business, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial and add new definitions.

All questions or written comments should be directed to:

**Mark Bloomer
Planning & Zoning Administrator
542 West Ridgeway Street
Warrenton, North Carolina 27589
Telephone: (252) 257-7027**

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Public Hearing was opened.

A. Overview from Staff

Planning Director Mark Bloomer provided an overview of the proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance to make public parks, picnic areas, public swimming pools, and locations for public access boat launches a Special Use in Lakeside Business, Neighborhood Business, Heavy Business, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial areas. Mr. Bloomer stated that the public has expressed interest in more parks. Bloomer indicated that this issue went before the Planning Board and the vote was 4 to 2 in opposition because they feel the changes can be made when the overhaul of the Zoning Ordinance is done by Stewart.

B. Public Hearing Citizen Comments

Lauren Miller, Planning Board Chair, spoke against making the proposed amendment at this time citing that the Zoning Ordinance overhaul is underway and it can be handled during that process.

C. Close Public Hearing

Following the overview from Staff and Citizen Comments, Commissioner Davis asked if this request to amend is consistent with the Comprehensive Development Plan. Zoning Director Mark Bloomer stated that it is consistent with the plan.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Public Hearing was closed.

2. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda was approved.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- Carolyn Ross Holmes, Executive Director of the Ella Baker Education Project approached the

Board regarding Black History Month, stating the we cannot let history repeat itself and the need to recognize common bonds. Ross Holmes further stated that the Ella Baker Education Project will host a summit at NC A&T on April 15, 2025.

- Reinaldo Espinosa stated that on January 21st a Town Hall meeting was held with the Interim Superintendent of Warren County Schools. He stated that 40 people were in attendance and 5000 people viewed it online. He asked that each Commissioner and School Board member participate in his Town Hall meetings. Mr. Espinosa stated that he is glad to see the Board working towards a Senior Center, but stated that the Veterans also need a space of their own.
- Lauren Miller asked that the Board make it a priority to put agendas for all Board/Committee/Commission meetings on the website just as we do for Board of Commissioner meetings. She would also like for all bylaws for all Boards/Committees/Commissions be posted on the website.
- Dwayne Hicks stated that the public does not want a tax hike. Further, he stated that he would like to see the county make a law the Senior Citizens would be taxed a flat tax that would never increase. He also stated that schools need money so they can be better.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2025 Regular Meeting and January 15, 2025 Budget Goals Setting Work Session

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the January 6, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 15, 2025 Budget Goals Setting Work Session Minutes were approved.

B. Tax Collector's Report for December 2024 Presented for Board's Information in Accordance with NCGS 105-350

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Collector's Report for December 2024 was accepted.

C. Tax Release Requests (over/under \$100) in Accordance with NCGS 105-381 "Taxpayer's Remedies" as Information Only

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Tax Releases (over/under \$100) were approved.

D. Consider Approval of Resolution Declaring April 15, 2025 as Haliwa-Saponi Indian Day

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Resolution Declaring April 15, 2025 as Haliwa-Saponi Indian Day was approved.



RESOLUTION BY WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECLARING
APRIL 15, 2025 HALIWA-SAPONI INDIAN DAY

WHEREAS, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina is a confederated Tribe that is a political successor to the historical Saponi Nation and to the Nansemond and affiliated Tribes that inhabited the piedmont and coastal regions of what are now Virginia and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, after the American Revolution, the Nansemond and Saponi merged in Warren, Halifax, Nash, and Franklin Counties, in an area known as "The Meadows"; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1965 the State of North Carolina took formal legislative action recognizing the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe; and

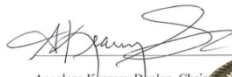
WHEREAS, April 15, 2025 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe recognition by the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe continues to seek Federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is the third-largest Tribe in North Carolina with approximately 4,000 enrolled members, primarily residing in Halifax, Warren, Nash and Franklin Counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of Commissioners that April 15, 2025 is declared Haliwa-Saponi Indian Day.

This the 3rd day of February, 2025.


Angelena Kearney Dunlap, Chair

ATTEST: 
Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board



E. Consider Approval of Resolution Declaring February as Black History Month

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Proclamation Declaring February 2025 as Black History Month was approved.



Warren County Board of Commissioners Proclamation Declaring February 2025 Black History Month

WHEREAS, Black History Month is the observance of a special period to recognize and honor the determination and commitment of generations of African Americans in pursuing the promises of America; and

WHEREAS, it was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as Negro History Week; and

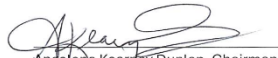
WHEREAS, since 1976 it has been celebrated the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, African American leaders such as Sojourner Truth, Phyllis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Leon Sullivan caused America to examine its heart and to respect the dignity and equality of all people, regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 theme of Black History month, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the profound ways that work of all kinds intersect with the collective experience of African Americans; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of FEBRUARY as Black History Month and urge all citizens of our community to give full regard to the past and continuing service of African Americans in our county, our state and our nation.

This the 3rd day of February 2025.


Angele K. Dunlap, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board



5. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith

A. Introduction of New Department Heads

- **Stacy Burns, NC Cooperative Extension Warren County Extension Director**
- **Ryan Garrett, Parks & Recreation Director**

County Manager Crystal Smith introduced the new NC Cooperative Extension Warren County Extension Director, Stacy Burns, and new Recreation Director Brett Garrett.

B. FY26 Budget Priorities

County Manager Crystal Smith identified the FY26 Budget Priorities set during the January Budget Goals Setting Work Session

- Warren County Courthouse Repairs
- EMS Station #4
- VGCC Transportation Hub
- Hwy #1 Industrial Site (Waterline Extension)
- "New" Community Center – Senior Center Focus
- Opioid Settlement - \$140,000
- Warren County "New Elementary School up to \$7M
- 429 W. Ridgeway Street Project "Home of the Farmers Market"

C. 2025 Board of Commissioners Retreat

County Manager Crystal Smith stated that she is looking into having Davenport come to give a financial report, and Hayes Group to provide close-out to the Strategic Plan. A date will be set in March or April.

6. FOLLOW UP

A. Update on the S-Line Mobility Hub Project from NC DOT's Integrated Mobility Division - Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan, along with NC DOT Integrated Mobility Staff gave a presentation on the S-Line Mobility Hub Project. An Open House will be held at the Armory on February 25, 2025 from 5:00 to 8:00 to allow the public to give feedback on draft concepts.

B. Update on Zoning Ordinances and Creation of a Unified Development Ordinance - Jake Petrosky, The Wooten Company

Jake Petrosky of Stewart provided an update on the Zoning Ordinance Update and Unified Development Ordinance initiative.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Warren County Zoning Ordinance and Consistency Statement to Make Public Parks, Picnic Area, Public Swimming Pools, and Locations for Public Access-Boat Launches (Lake Gaston, Kerr Lake) a Special Use in Lakeside Business, Neighborhood Business, Heavy Business, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial and Add New Definitions - Planning/Zoning Director Mark Bloomer

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the proposed amendment to the Warren County Zoning Ordinance and Consistency Statement to make public parks, picnic areas, public swimming pools, and locations for public access boat launches (Lake Gaston/Kerr Lake) a Special Use in Lakeside Business, Neighborhood Business, Heavy Business, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial and add new definitions was approved.

8. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

Commissioner Davis stated that the County needs to look at how we will be able to help our citizens in the event of a natural disaster. Such things as accessibility to cash to help until FEMA steps in, a plan to assist citizens with meeting food, water, and shelter needs, and how to fix private roads not covered by FEMA are items that need to be discussed.

Chairperson Kearney Dunlap stated that she has been busy meeting with County Manager Crystal Smith and attending various training and the NCACC District Meeting.

9. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board entered Closed Session.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board returned to Open Session.

10. ADJOURN February 3, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the February 3, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board