

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 2, 2005

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners reconvened their recessed session of May 31, 2005 on this date, at the hour of 5:30 p.m., at the George W. Clay, Jr. Utility Operations Center, in a joint session with the Shelby City Council.

The following Minutes were prepared by the Shelby City Clerk, Bernadette A. Parduski, and the Cleveland County Clerk, Wanda Crotts.

MINUTES

Special Meeting: Budget Session
George W. Clay, Jr. Utility Operations Center

June 2, 2005
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor W. Ted Alexander, presiding; Council Members Aniedi J. Abasiokong, Bob Still, Jeanette D. Patterson, Mike Royster, Kevin K. Allen, Dicky Amaya; City Attorney Michael S. Kennedy, Interim City Manager R. Duke Whisenant, City Clerk Bernadette A. Parduski, Director of Finance Theodore B. Phillips, CPA, Accounting Manager Chris Putnam, Director of Utilities Jay C. Stowe, PE, Assistant Director of Utilities Coleman Keeter, Administrative Services Manager Julie McMurry, Civil Engineer Brad Cornwell, Fire Chief Roland Hamrick, Assistant Fire Chief Jake Whisenant, Police Chief Tandy Carter, Director of Human Resources Charles Webber, Director of Public Works Larry Dixon, Assistant Director of Public Works/Street Superintendent Danny Darst, Director of Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, and Director of Community Services Brian Pruet; Cleveland County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Ronnie Hawkins, Vice-Chairman Jerry L. Self, Mary S. Accor, Johnny Hutchins, and Willie B. McIntosh; Cleveland County Manager David Dear, Cleveland County Clerk to the Board Wanda Crotts, and County Attorney Robert Yelton; and Media Representatives

Mayor Alexander called the joint meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance and recognized the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, staff, and other guests. Chairman Hawkins expressed appreciation on behalf of the County's Board to meet with City Council. Mrs. Patterson gave the invocation and the Mayor led in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

A. Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Alexander announced that a Closed Session would be added to the agenda following Unfinished Business.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Still, seconded by Mrs. Patterson, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute Section 143-318.11 (a) (1) (5) and (6) to discuss personnel issues.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Abasiokong, second by Mr. Royster, City Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

B. Chairman Hawkins reconvened the Cleveland County Board of Commissioner's meeting at approximately 6:05 p.m.

C. Joint Session with Cleveland County Board of Commissioners:

1) Cleveland County Memorial Library funding

Chairman Hawkins provided a brief history of the Cleveland County Memorial Library's request to become an agency of Cleveland County. Since January 2005 County officials have met with Library officials to discuss funding issues, operational costs, and proposals to increase sources of income and revenue.

Mr. Dear stated that the County's research concerning the Library's request showed that the voluntary board members and staff needed assistance with certain administrative functions. The benefits of being able to shift these administrative duties and costs such as accounting and auditing services, computer support, building and grounds maintenance, health insurance, property and liability insurance on the building, and human resource management programs to the County would allow the Library Board to re-direct funds for library services, books, and programs. The County Board determined that if the County took on the Library, it would be able to free up approximately \$50,000 for the Library to spend. The \$50,000 included the City's proposed contribution.

The County's proposal presented by Mr. Dear and Chairman Hawkins was to enter into a contract via an interlocal agreement designed to ensure that the City will continue contributing money for the library in this fiscal year and in the future.

Mayor Alexander presented the City's counter proposal with regard to the Library by stating that in exchange for the City not providing long-term funding for the Cleveland County Memorial Library, the City would not request County funding for its Parks and Recreation Program.

Discussion took place among Council members and the County Commissioners concerning public perception with regard to the exchange of governmental funds, support for each program, and the possibility of a dollar for dollar funding match from the City and the County for the Library and the Parks and Recreation Program.

Mayor Alexander explained that if the City's proposal is accepted the overall efficiency to all parties is increased leading to a cost savings to all.

Dr. Self stated that the sum total of this proposal would deliver more services to the residents of the City and the County. He raised the issue of ownership of the Library building and the land.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the City owns the real estate surrounding the Library and the County owns the Library building. Mr. Kennedy advised that his past research showed that there are no restrictions on the site of the Library property, which should easily allow for the City to deed the Library property over to the County.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Royster, second by Mr. Still, City Council voted unanimously to ***simultaneously cease City funding of the Cleveland County Memorial Library and to accept Cleveland County's proposal to cease funding the City's Parks and Recreation Program.***

Mayor Alexander stated that it is hoped that the public views this agreement as a sign of cooperation and good will between the City and the County with the City pledging continued support of the Library through non-monetary means.

Mr. Yelton and Mr. Kennedy agreed to work out the legal details with regard to the deed situation so that the County will have clear title to the Library building and real estate.

Chairman Hawkins clarified the breakdown of the monies involved as follows:

- The City funding of the Cleveland County Memorial Library amounted to \$96,400.00.
- The County funding of the City's Parks and Recreation Program amounted to \$75,300.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a subsequent motion by Mr. Hutchins, second by Vice-Chairman Self, and unanimously adopted by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, ***to accept the City's proposal with regard to the full funding of the Cleveland County Memorial Library by the County and the termination of the County's funding of the City's Parks and Recreation Program.***

Commissioners reiterated their hope that the public will recognize this as a positive move, emphasizing the commitment of both the City and the County to provide the best possible services to the citizens of Cleveland County, while maintaining the highest level of financial stewardship of the tax monies entrusted to their management.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting (*at*

6:30 p.m.). The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for ***Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.*** in this Commission Chamber.

*Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*