

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 21, 2006

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Jerry L. Self, Vice-Chairman
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner
David C. Dear, County Manager
Sam Craig, Deputy County Attorney
Wanda Crotts, County Clerk
Kerri Melton, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Joe Cherry, Electronic Engineer
Denese Stallings, Health Director
Pete DeLea, *The Star*
Lindsey Allen, *Cleveland Headline News*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ronald J. Hawkins called the meeting to order and led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America. Horace Lutz, Mayor of Waco, provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk.*

CONSENT AGENDA

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: SECOND READING – GDS DISCONTINUATION OF BACK DOOR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE PICK-UP SERVICE AND A SERVICE RATE INCREASE; AMENDMENT TO THE FRANCHISE

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the changes to the franchise as recommended* (reference page _____ of Minute Book 29).

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *October 2006* (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 29).

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during *October 2006*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$18,827.09); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$94,318.08.

CAPITAL PROJECTS-INDUSTRIAL PARK: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #025)

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendments:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
040.499.4.980.10	CP/Industrial Development Contributions from GF	\$400,000.	
040.499.5.340.00	CP/Industrial Development Maintenance & Grounds	400,000.	
010.410.4.991.00	General/Fund Balance Appropriated	400,000.	
010.981.5.890.00	General Fund/Transfers Interfund Transfers	400,000.	
<u>JE Batch #</u>			
010.3.996.00	dr \$400,000		
010.3.991.04	cr \$400,000		

TROPZIE McCLUNEY – CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Commissioners presented Mrs. McCluney with a framed certificate of appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the children of Cleveland County, having served Cleveland County Schools as librarian, assistant principal and principal and for having been named Cleveland County Schools Principal of the Year.

NANCY CARPENTER- RETIRING CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIRE & RESCUE COORDINATOR/OFFICE MANAGER

Commissioners presented Mrs. Carpenter with a framed certificate of appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the citizens of Cleveland County. Mrs. Carpenter is retiring after having been employed at Cleveland Community College for 25-years.

DR. EVERETTE B. THOMBS – COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Commissioners presented Dr. Thombs with a framed certificate of appreciation recognizing his “commitment to serving the citizens of Kings Mountain for twenty-five years.” Dr. Thombs has been on staff at Kings Mountain Hospital since 1981, serving as Chief of Staff numerous times, and also helped “make the hospital merger a reality.”

RECOGNITION OF JERRY SELF AND WILLIE MCINTOSH

Commissioners thanked outgoing Commissioners Self and McIntosh for their dedicated service and valued friendship. Chairman Hawkins presented Commissioner McIntosh with a gavel recognizing his tenure as Chairman.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED INCENTIVES FOR DUKE ENERGY – CLIFFSIDE STEAM STATION

Dave Hart, Chamber Vice-President, stated, “On behalf of 20/20, I’m here to speak in favor of the Commission giving Duke Energy an industrial incentive award. They are having an undetermined number of new employees and a new net investment of at least a billion dollars in Cleveland and Rutherford counties. We support the Commission’s decision to grant Duke Energy a 10-year, 28% total Ad Valorem taxes paid to the County during this time and that’s the recommendation of our 20/20.”

Chairman Hawkins opened the public hearing. (*Notice of this hearing was accomplished in accordance with the mandates of NCGS 158-7.1, with legal advertisement published in the Star on November 10, 2006.*)

Richard Ivey, Suffork Drive, Shelby, expressed concerns for the environment if this project was completed. He said, while he understands “incentives for industry,” he feels this is a different type project.

Teresa Halyburton, Wesson Road, Shelby, also expressed her concern regarding pollution, stating it will not help tourism, and we must “look to the future of our children.”

Stuart Gilbert, Chamber President, spoke in support of the project, stating that the Shelby City Council, Kings Mountain City Council, Boiling Springs Town Council and the Sanitary District Board have all supported the project. He said the “emissions will be reduced” and this will “provided a tremendous opportunity for cleaning the air” and “increasing the tax base.”

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing closed.

Sandy Tallent, Duke Power representative, advised that “Duke Power has put a great deal of study into this expansion, including (*the study of*) environmental issues.” She said there is “a wealth of specific information on the Duke website.” There was also discussion regarding the Duke “Green Power” program, which is available locally.

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***to approve the incentives as requested*** (*copy of contract on Pages _____ of Minute Book 29*).

SPORTS COUNCIL REPORT

Denese Stallings, a member of the Council, stated she feels organized sporting events go “hand-in-hand with health.” She reviewed the process begun two-years ago to study the county’s resources; discussed visits to other communities; the impact on the community economically; public/private partnerships; the need to “start small” and use what we have initially. She stressed the importance of “seed money” in the form of a grant to develop. She said sports commissions have proven to be important in other communities.

Bill Sherwood advised he has had “20-years experience in the restaurant business” and discussed how “Friday night football and the battle of the bands” made it necessary to increase restaurant staff to meet the demands of increased customers. He said he feels this would have a “positive economic impact.”

Mr. Patel, owner of the Econo Lodge, said that one night of full occupancy of motels could represent as much as \$30,000. He noted with the 6% occupancy tax, that would “bring you lots of money.”

Stuart Gilbert said the Chamber supports the sports council development, stating it would be an important tool for travel and tourism.

Anthony Negbenebor, of Gardner-Webb University, supervised the initial facilities study and feels the facilities are under utilized and some are “close to Olympic standards.” He said we have enough facilities “to attract local, regional and state” functions and events.

John Henry Moss spoke on behalf of the program, stating he feels this would promote community “togetherness” “enhance the quality of life and economic development.”

Michael Cheng, Chen’s Restaurant owner, spoke in support of the Council, stating he has often traveled with his children as they play soccer. He said, “We have many facilities, many better than others I have visited.” He emphasized “there are people willing to help” and “sometimes we don’t realize what we have here.”

Commissioner McIntosh said he held the 1992 Karate regional championships in Cleveland County, bringing in more than 500 athletes and there was “nothing in place to help with setting up this event.” He said, “People are visitors first.”

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following resolution.*

NUMBER 23-2006

*IN SUPPORT OF CLEVELAND COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION*

WHEREAS, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and concerned citizens have come together to form the Cleveland County Sports Commission and have completed a two-day training session conducted by the President of the National Sports Commission; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Cleveland County Sports Commission is to attract and recruit sporting events and sporting organizations to Cleveland County which will benefit the county in two major areas: economic impact and quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Cleveland County Sports Commission has completed a sports facility audit which identified the recreational facilities located in various municipalities throughout Cleveland County; and,

WHEREAS, the Cleveland County Sports Commission will be responsible for marketing and promotion of all facilities to local, state and regional sports organizations and will assist in the planning phase for upgrading existing facilities and in building new modern facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Cleveland County Sports Commission will bring together players, managers, coaches, officials, parents and countless others in an atmosphere of wholesome community activity to provide entertainment for both adults and youth;

WHEREAS, we realize that participation in organized athletics helps build character, teaches a wholesome sense of good sportsmanship and promotes a healthy community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the efforts of the Cleveland County Sports Commission in promoting our county as a venue for sports competitions and urge our citizens to recognize all of the benefits derived from quality public and private recreation and park resources in our community.

ADOPTED THIS THE 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2006.

Commissioner Hutchins suggested this item be placed on the agenda of the next Commission work session to work out the details of the committee.

800 MHZ TOWER LEASE – POLKVILLE AREA

Joe Cherry, County Electronics Engineer, advised this will be the fourth tower site and that the three other towers are finalized and ready to have equipment installed. He reviewed the distribution of funds provided through Homeland Security grants and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. He emphasized how important the partnership with the Highway Patrol has been to this project. The Highway Patrol has funded a study for the fifth site to be located on Benn Knob and will pay for the equipment shelter.

The Volunteer firefighters have applied for a one-million dollar grant to help with funding. He said there are “indications it will be approved” and commended Kevin Gordon for spearheading this effort.

Mr. Cherry reviewed the proposed lease, saying this is a 0.31 acre tract located inside the Polkville town limits and owned by Joe Shytle. The lease fee is \$2,000 per year, with a scheduled 10% increase every five-year. He noted this is “far below the market value of \$1,000 per month” and advised “we looked long and hard to purchase property” but none was available. Special attention was given to be sure the site was “environmentally friendly.”

Commissioners commended Mr. Cherry and Mr. Dear for their commitment to this project, as their efforts have saved the county millions of dollars. Mr. Cherry said the initial cost estimate was \$12-13 million and “at last evaluation it is \$6-7 million and we’re still working on grants, so that figure could be less.”

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the lease (reference Pages _____ of Minute Book 29).*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Accor reported she and Commissioner Hutchins attended the firefighter’s quarterly meeting.
- Commissioners McIntosh and Self thanked Commissioners for the recent retirement reception and the plaque.
- Vice-Chairman Self also thanked the county employees for their dedication.
- He reported he had recently attended the Draft TIP Hearings and urged Commissioners to keep the 74 bypass plea in the forefront of priorities. He said the right-of-way acquisition is now set for FY 09-11. He noted that Commissioner Hutchins serves as his alternate and will need to attend the next meeting.
- Chairman Hawkins reported he attended the Farm-City breakfast today where agro-tourism was the topic of discussion.

RECESS TO RECONVENE AT TIME AND PLACE CERTAIN

ACTION: Vice-Chairman Self called for a motion to recess, Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to recess this meeting (*at 7:50 p.m.*) to *reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 4, 2006, in the Commission Chamber, for the*

installation of new Commissioners Jo Boggs and Eddie Holbrook and the County Coronor Dwight Tessneer, and to conduct the annual organization meeting of the Commission.

Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS