



**CURRITUCK COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

Minutes- Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

July 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Bob White
Selina S. Jarvis
Paul M. Beaumont
J. Owen Etheridge
Mary "Kitty" Etheridge
Kevin E. McCord
Michael H. Payment

1. Call to Order - 6:00 PM

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse, 153 Courthouse Road, Currituck, North Carolina.

1. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Beaumont offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Ethics Awareness and Conflicts of Interest Reminder

County Attorney, Megan Morgan, recited the Ethics Awareness and Conflicts of Interest Reminder statement. No conflicts were disclosed.

3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Payment moved for approval of the agenda.
Commissioner McCord seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0 for approval.

MOVER: Michael H. Payment

SECONDER: Kevin E. McCord

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

2. Public Comment

Currituck County resident, James Mims, voiced opposition to several items in the County's annual budget recently approved by the Board. He addressed increased taxes, public facilities, and growth in the County.

3. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Jarvis reported on a recent trip to the State Capital in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she, Commissioner Owen Etheridge, County Manager, Ike McRee, and Airport Director, William Nelson, had the opportunity to visit with members and representatives of the General Assembly to discuss potential funding appropriations to assist the County with infrastructure needs, such as wastewater and the airport.

Commissioner Beaumont reported on the Fourth of July Independence Day Celebration and fireworks display at Historic Corolla Park and encouraged people to attend a future event if they haven't been.

Commissioner McCord reported on the success of the Fourth of July Celebration in Corolla. He announced the start of the Sheriff's Mentor Camp program and encouraged people to visit the County website and social media pages for information on local events and activities.

Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge reported attending two new business openings in Moyock and asked the public to contact management if they have an issue with a business rather than criticizing them on social media. He also discussed the recent trip to the General Assembly in Raleigh, North Carolina, and hopes the State will come through with financial assistance for Currituck County.

Chairman White reported on a recent meeting where he, North Carolina State Senator Bobby Hanig, and County Administration discussed funding for the Mid-Currituck Bridge with representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He said the bridge project continues to move forward, and the North Carolina Turnpike Authority is in the process of renewing permits. He said the playground at Historic Corolla Park is also moving forward, and Mr. McRee is working to address issues with a piece of equipment. Chairman White discussed challenges holding up the the State budget and negative effects should the General Assembly not be able to agree on a budget.

4. County Manager's Report

No report.

5. County Attorney's Report

County Attorney, Megan Morgan, recently attended the County Attorneys Conference in Asheville, NC, and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

6. Public Hearings

1. PB 23-12 Cellco Partnership

Senior Planner, Jennie Turner, reviewed the application to allow cell towers in the Single-Family Isolated (SF-I) zoning district. Changes to the use table and language modifications for the request were reviewed. Policies, goals, and review standards were presented, and both staff and Planning Board recommended approval of the request.

Gary Bryant, Attorney for the applicant, presented on behalf of Cellco-Verizon and discussed the request to allow towers in the SF-I zoning district with a special use permit. He spoke about the lack of communications service in the Knotts Island area and asked for the ability to request approval from the Board for a special use permit to construct a communications tower.

Mr. Bryant responded to Commissioner questions related to coverage, and Ms. Turner answered questions on tower setback requirements and fall zones.

Chairman White opened the Public Hearing. There were no speakers and Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Owen Etheridge moved for approval of PB 23-12: Cellco Partnership, because the request is consistent with Land Use Goal 1 and Policy/Action OGK-ACT-24 of the Imagine Currituck 2040 Vision Plan. Commissioner McCord seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

MOVER: J. Owen Etheridge

SECONDER: Kevin E. McCord

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

2. PB 23-05 Currituck County

Donna Voliva, Assistant Planning Director, reviewed the text amendment application for Commissioners which would exempt state, county, and educational facilities from maximum height requirements. Applicable goals and policies in the Imagine Currituck Land Use Plan were presented as were text amendment review standards. Both staff and Planning Board recommended approval of the text amendment.

Ms. Voliva responded to questions posed by Commissioners regarding the request and Assistant County Manager, Rebecca Gay, responded to

Board questions related to the need for the height increase and whether language should also include private commercial structures.

Chairman White opened the Public Hearing. There were no speakers and the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Jarvis moved to approve PB 23-05 because the request is consistent with Imagine Currituck 2040 Vision Plan Land Use Goal and Policy 1 and Infrastructure and County Services Goal and Policies 1, 2, 7, 7.1, 7.3, 8, and 8.1. It is not in conflict with the provisions of the UDO or the County Code of Ordinances and addresses a demonstrated community need to allow the County to continue to accommodate the needs of a growing population. The language of the amendment should read as follows:

"Height limits shall not apply to bulk storage silos, grain elevators, barns, chimneys, elevator shafts, church spires, belfries, cupolas, dormers, flag poles, monuments, water towers, rooftop dish antennas, solar equipment, skylights, fire escapes or roof access stairways, outdoor recreation uses subject to Section 4.2.4.F., buildings or structures owned or operated for colleges or universities, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, vocational or trade schools, mechanical equipment required to operate and maintain the building, or similar appurtenances provided..."

Chairman White seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0. The Board agreed to hold future discussion to consider height increases for County facilities and commercial entities.

MOVER: Selina S. Jarvis

SECONDER: Bob White

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

3. PB 23-09 Currituck County

Donna Voliva, Assistant Planning Director, reviewed the text amendment for Commissioners which clarifies rules and processes for rehearing denials of Special Use Permits in a quasi-judicial proceeding. Both staff and Planning Board recommended approval of the request.

Chairman White opened the Public Hearing. There were no speakers and the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge moved for approval of PB 23-09 because the request is consistent with the provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance and County Code of Ordinances and ensures rehearing a denied application requiring an evidentiary hearing is

consistent with North Carolina law on res judicata. Commissioner Payment seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0.

4. PB 23-15 Currituck County

Jennie Turner, Senior Planner, reviewed the item to incorporate changes and comments to be incorporated into the Imagine Currituck 2040 Vision Plan. Ms. Turner presented the comments and updates and responded to questions from Commissioners. provided after CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) review

Chairman White opened the Public Hearing. There were no speakers and the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Beaumont moved to approve and adopt by Resolution, the Imagine Currituck 2040 Vision Plan as the CAMA Land Use Plan for Currituck County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Etheridge. The motion passed, 7-0.

MOVER: Paul M. Beaumont

SECONDER: Mary R. Etheridge

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

7. New Business

1. Ordinance Creating the Corolla Light Resort Social District

Chairman White introduced the request to address issues raised with the existing beverage service provided at Corolla Light Resort in Corolla, North Carolina.

County Attorney, Megan Morgan, reviewed the ordinance language and requirements for establishment of the Social District and discussed the statutory requirements. She said although a map and maintenance plan must be provided, they are not considered part of the ordinance. Ms. Morgan responded to questions from Commissioners.

Discussion concluded and Chairman White moved for approval. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0.

MOVER: Bob White

SECONDER: Selina S. Jarvis

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

2. Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article III, of the Currituck County Code of Ordinances by Repealing Div. 11-Veterans Advisory Board

Megan Morgan, County Attorney, reviewed the Ordinance repealing the Veterans Advisory Board. Commissioner Beaumont discussed the challenges with the Board, including the lack of a mission and value due to the vast number of Veterans Services already available in the area. Commissioner Beaumont moved for approval of the Ordinance to repeal the Veterans Advisory Board. Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0.

MOVER: Paul M. Beaumont

SECONDER: J. Owen Etheridge

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

3. Board Appointments

Commissioner Mary Etheridge announced her resignation as Commissioner representative on the ABC Board and nominated Bob White to fill the vacancy and assume the role of Chair of the ABC Board, effective immediately. Commissioner McCord seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0. Chairman White recognized David Griggs who has served as Chair of the ABC Board since 2016.

- a. Commissioner Appointment to ABC Board and Discussion of ABC Board Chair

4. Consent Agenda

The Board discussed the chiller replacement on the Consent Agenda as a recent need and not part of the school capital plan. Commissioner McCord moved for approval of Consent Agenda and Commissioner Mary Etheridge seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0, and Consent Agenda was approved.

MOVER: Kevin E. McCord

SECONDER: Mary R. Etheridge

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)

- a. Budget Amendments

- b. JCPC-Currituck Funding Plan and Certification Standards for FY 2023-2024
- c. Lottery Funds Request-Currituck Middle School Chiller
- d. Project Ordinance-Currituck Middle School Chiller Replacement
- e. Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee Progress Report
- f. Minutes Approval-June 19, 2023

8. Adjourn

The Board had no further business and Commissioner Mary Etheridge moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. The motion passed, 7-0, and the meeting of the Board of Commissioners concluded at 7:40 PM.

MOVER: Mary R. Etheridge

SECONDER: Selina S. Jarvis

AYES (7): Bob White, Selina S. Jarvis, Paul M. Beaumont, J. Owen Etheridge, Mary R. Etheridge, Kevin E. McCord, and Michael H. Payment

RESULT: Approved (7 to 0)