

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met in Recessed Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Resources Building located at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC on March 18, 2020 at 2:00pm.

Present were:

Chairman Kevin Austin
Vice Chairman David Moxley
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric
Commissioner Marion Welborn
Commissioner Frank Zachary

Staff present: County Attorney, Ed Powell; County Manager, Lisa Hughes; Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry; Assistant County Manager, Drew Hinkle; and Finance Officer, Lindsey Cearlock.

Chairman Austin called the Recessed March 16, 2020 Meeting back into Session on March 18, 2020 at 2:02pm. The main purpose for recessing the March 16th Meeting was to be able to receive updates and be able to discuss and address any new developments that have occurred regarding the coronavirus and how it is impacting Yadkin County.

County Update

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The Governor issued an Executive Order yesterday that closed all dine-in seating at restaurants and bars and restricted them to only providing carry-out, drive-through, and delivery services. That impacts the local economy and local restaurants. It could potentially put some of the smaller, locally owned, restaurants out of business. They may be able to get some financial assistance through small business funding that is going to be made available. County Manager Hughes gave the Board a Resolution Declaring Support for Our Citizens and Local Businesses to review. The YMCA has closed. They are going to try and offer some classes online. Cooperative Extension has cancelled all of their meetings and events until at least mid-April. Their office will remain open with limited staff. They are encouraging people to contact them electronically instead of coming into the office. Their Agents are available by email, phone, and some other electronic means. The libraries have canceled all of their programs until further notice. They are also closed to the public until April 1st. At that time the situation will be re-evaluated and a decision will be made on whether or not the libraries should be reopened. They are currently providing curbside service by request. Any citizen that would like to take advantage of that should call their local library. The Office of State Fire Marshal has directed fire inspectors to only continue inspecting imminent hazard complaints, re-inspections for life safety issues, construction related inspections, and occupancy inspections with minimal risks. There hasn't been any changes issued for inspections related to Environmental Health or Building Inspections. On Monday the Yadkin County Board of Elections adopted a continuity plan based on guidance from the State Board of Elections. They are limiting in-person visits and the staff was authorized to close their offices if it becomes necessary. County Manager Hughes has checked with some of the other nearby counties to see what they are doing. Some of them are encouraging the public to limit in-person visits as much as possible. The public is being asked to use the online services that are available. The public can also call or email staff instead of coming in whenever possible. At least one Register of Deeds Office is offering services by appointment only. The public spaces are being cleaned and sanitized as often as possible. County Manager Hughes said that Yadkin County has increased the cleaning schedule so that our public spaces are being cleaned more often.

Human Services Update

Jessica Wall addressed the Board. Eleven Yadkin County residents have been tested for coronavirus. Only two of them have received their test results back. Both of those tests were negative so they don't have coronavirus. There are currently no positive cases in Yadkin County. The Yadkin County Medical Clinic has not tested anyone at this time. The tests are being taken at various medical practices and urgent care facilities. After a test is taken, it is sent to a lab for results. Previously if the test was sent to the State lab and got a positive result the person was presumed to have the coronavirus and the test had to be sent to the CDC

for confirmation. The State lab has now done enough testing that a positive test result no longer has to be sent to the CDC for confirmation. A few commercial labs can also do coronavirus testing now. Before a lab can stop sending positive tests to the CDC for confirmation, it has to prove the validity of its testing process by having the CDC confirm a specified number of positive test results. The oldest pending test for Yadkin County is from March 14th. When someone is tested they are given documentation on coronavirus and they are asked to stay at home until they get their test results back. If the test result comes back positive and the person continues to go out in public the local Health Department or Health Authority can take action to enforce a stay at home order.

Additional County Updates

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The Board of Commissioners has the authority to cancel the meetings held by the Boards and Committees that they appoint. Those Boards and Committees are: the Human Services Advisory Committee, the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Watershed Board, the Board of Equalization and Review, and the Aging & Planning Committee. The Aging & Planning Committee is taking a lot of direction from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council but it is a Yadkin County Board of Commissioners appointed Committee. The Board of Commissioners may want to authorize the Chairmen of those Boards and Committees to cancel their meetings if necessary. The Board of Commissioners has adopted a regular schedule for Board of Commissioners meetings so the Board should vote to cancel one of it's meetings if necessary.

Per the County's adopted Code of Ordinances, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners has the authority to declare a State of Emergency. Chairman Austin asked if declaring a State of Emergency is necessary in order to receive funding from FEMA. County Manager Hughes said that FEMA is not currently requiring the counties to declare a State of Emergency to be eligible for their coronavirus related funding. Since it isn't needed to receive funding, a State of Emergency would only need to be declared if the County wanted to place controls on what the citizens can do. It would also allow the Board to impose limits on the number of people who are allowed to attend meetings. The Board talked about it and the Chairman will not declare a State of Emergency at this time. If positive cases start coming in or something else comes up that warrants a State of Emergency be declared in Yadkin County the Chairman can make the declaration then since the declaration doesn't require a vote from the Board of Commissioners.

County Manager Hughes has asked the Department Directors to come up with a plan on what can be done to limit their employees exposure to the coronavirus. That can be done in various ways, including rotating staff or having some staff work remotely from home. When employees aren't working they can continue to receive a paycheck by using their accrued workers comp, sick, and vacation hours. Employees can also choose to take leave without pay.

The Board asked about changes to unemployment. County Manager Hughes went over some the changes. The Executive Order that limited operations of restaurants and bars also broadened unemployment benefits for those who lose their jobs or have their hours reduced due to the coronavirus. The one week waiting period has been waived for those individuals. The work search requirements are waived for people filing for unemployment during the State of Emergency. No charges will be assessed to an employer's account for any benefits paid as a direct result of the coronavirus.

County Manager Hughes asked the Board to consider temporarily waiving the fees for animal rescue groups who adopt animals from the Animal Shelter. Currently animal rescue groups pay \$20.00 to adopt a dog and \$10.00 to adopt a cat. The Animal Shelter would like to get as many animals out of the Shelter as possible in case their hours of operation are adversely affected in the future due to coronavirus restrictions. The Animal Shelter wants to reduce person-to-person interactions and they also don't want to run out of room to house animals because people aren't coming in and adopting them.

The Board talked about limiting in person interactions in County Departments. The Board wants to limit in person contact as much as possible. People can contact County staff by phone and email. Video conferencing can be done where it is appropriate. Some things can be done online instead of in person.

Currently the Board intends on holding the April 6, 2020 meeting as scheduled. That may change later if a State of Emergency has to be declared. Board of Commissioners meetings may be held electronically if necessary.

There is a Joint Board of Commissioners and Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 30, 2020. The Board of Education has reached out to the Board of Commissioners to see if the County would like to hold the meeting or cancel it. The Board was asked to think about it so a decision can be made soon.

Parks & Recreation is cleaning and disinfecting all of the playground equipment. The Board wants to keep the Parks open so Parks & Recreation staff needs to make sure that all of the equipment, restrooms, and picnic areas are being properly cleaned and disinfected.

Keith Vestal addressed the Board. As of 1:00pm today 61 counties have declared a State of Emergency. There are 19 counties that have confirmed coronavirus cases. The current template that Yadkin County uses to declare a State of Emergency is for weather related events so it would need to be revised to cover what is needed for the coronavirus. A State of Emergency declaration can restrict people's movements and the sale of alcohol. If necessary it can also set a curfew.

The Board asked what happens if a restaurant doesn't stop allowing patrons to dine in. County Manager Hughes said that it is up to local law enforcement to enforce the Order. The worst case scenario is that law enforcement would charge them with a misdemeanor.

Jamie Johnston, from the Chamber of Commerce, is creating a list of Yadkin County restaurants that are open and offering take-out, drive-thru, and delivery services. Chairman Austin asked if the County could include that information somehow on the County's website. County Manager Hughes said Jamie Johnston can either send the list to the County so we can include it on the County website or a link to the Chamber's website page can be placed on the County's website.

The Board discussed possibly doing some kind of PSA ad campaign to urge the Yadkin County citizens to follow the State recommendations in order to protect their personal liberties. If the recommendations aren't followed and people don't practice social distancing the Governor can choose to issue stricter Executive Orders. The ads could possibly be placed on FaceBook and YouTube. Maybe a voice ad could go on the radio. County Manager Hughes can look into it the options to see if any ads would be beneficial and bring the information back to the Board.

Commissioner Welborn made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaring Support for Our Citizens and Local Businesses. Commissioner Zachary second.

Vote: 5/0.

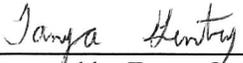
[The Resolution is attached as Appendix A]

Vice Chairman Moxley made a motion to waive the Animal Shelter adoption fees for animal rescue groups for 30 days. Commissioner Welborn second.

Vote: 5/0.

Commissioner Zachary made a motion to recess the meeting until Friday, March 20, 2020 at 9:00am. Commissioner Hemric second.

Vote: 5/0.



Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

4/20/2020

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
David Moxley, Vice Chairman
Gilbert Hemric, Commissioner
Marion Welborn, Commissioner
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR
OUR CITIZENS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, March 17, 2020 the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 118 limiting the operations of restaurants and bars in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 116 on March 10, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency to address COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the dangers associated with COVID-19; and

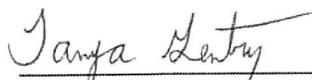
WHEREAS, the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep commitment to protecting the liberty and freedom of Yadkin County citizens during the public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners recognizes local restaurants and businesses are crucial to the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its intent for Yadkin County to stand behind local businesses recognizing their importance in the local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners declares its support for local businesses and restaurants in Yadkin County.

Adopted the 18th day of March 2020 by the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners.
Attest:



Tanya Gentry
Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

