

Windsor, North Carolina
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
WORK SESSION/STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting today at 6:00PM inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted partially in person, and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I
 Michael White, District II
 Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
 Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
 John Trent, District IV

Absent:

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II
 Assistant County Manager David Scarborough
 Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston

Staff Present : Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright
 Information Technology Joseph Wilkes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ballance gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve 2-5-24 Minutes for Open & Closed Session

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for Open and Closed Session 2-5-24. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Balance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Approve 2023 Report of Unpaid Taxes for Real & Personal Property & Order to Advertise 2023 Tax Liens

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the 2023 Report of Unpaid Taxes for Real & Personal Property & Order to Advertise 2023 Tax Liens. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote

Flood Mitigation Update by Chris Hilbert, Insight Planning & Development

Mr. Hilbert provided the Board with an update on where Insight Planning and the County stood regarding the process of rebuilding the homes of the citizens in Bertie County. Mr. Hilbert stated that the County had received additional funds to assist with completing the homes of the applicants that were approved.

The Board discussed with Mr. Hilbert the possibility of Insight Planning sending out letters to the citizens that would provide an update on where the County was in the process of having the Bertie County citizens homes rebuilt.

The Board asked Mr. Hilbert to provide it with a list of the citizens and business owners who were not approved or who had not resubmitted an application.

Mr. Hilbert stated that the citizens should be hearing from Insight Planning within the next 60-90 days.

CLOSED SESSION
PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(6)

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to go into Closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with **5-0** vote.

The Board then went into Closed Session.

DID THEY COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION?

Strategic Planning Session by Robin Payne

Project Consultant Robin Payne discussed with the Board the Fiscal Year 1 needs and areas to focus on for strategic planning efforts.

- Food Security
- Access to Health Care
- Emergency Management, Police, and Animal Series
- Food Resiliency: Countywide

- Capacity Building
- Economic Development: Capacity Building
- Economic Development: Industry/Big Business/Light/Industry
- Economic Development: Special Projects
- Economic Development: Leverage
- Infrastructure: Sewer/Water
- Infrastructure: Broadband
- Outdoor Recreation

RECESS/LUNCH

The Board had a working lunch.

Strategic Planning Session continued

Ms. Payne, along with Economic Development Director Franklin Williams, discussed possible marketing efforts needed to assist with the strategic planning efforts to help the County grow.

Ms. Payne then discussed with the Board the renewal of her contract with the County coming up July 1st.

The Board discussed how it intended on using Robin's services for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Board continued with its discussion on strategic planning and the importance of improving the infrastructure of the County.

Ms. Payne stated that the BRIC grant had been received.

The Board discussed looking into ways on how to receive funding to assist with any grant matches needed for upcoming projects in the County such as the new 911 Center, Animal Shelter and mapping.

The Board discussed the need to have all department heads present at the upcoming work session to assist with continued efforts of strategic planning for the County.

County Manager Vaughan recommended amending the meeting calendar due to the Board requesting that all department heads attend the upcoming Work Session on March 18th.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to amend the meeting calendar changing the location of the Work Session from the Commissioners Room to the Community Meeting Room located at the Cooperative Extension facility. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Other Items as Needed

County Manager Vaughan discussed with the Board the thoughts of possibly hiring a Real Estate Agent or Broker to handle the selling of the properties that didn't previously sale.

The Board decided to discuss it further at the March 18th Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

The meeting adjourned.

John Trent, Chairman

ATTEST:

LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board