

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 2, 2012, at 7:00pm
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, NC
AGENDA

PRESENT: Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Pack and Commissioner Walker. Also in attendance were County Attorney Egan, Clerk to the Board Fehrmann, staff, media and citizens. County Manager Whitson was out of town.

1. Call to Order of the Regular Board of Commissioners' Meeting – Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order and read the Polk County Commissioners' meeting rules of decorum.
2. Invocation – Rev. Warren Elliott gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice-Chair McDermott led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the March 19, 2012, public hearing and regular meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Owens made a motion to move Agenda Item #10, Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment, to Agenda Item #5.a., seconded by Commissioner Pack. Vice-Chair McDermott moved to amend the motion so as to remove Agenda Item #10 altogether, but to allow those citizens signed up to comment on Agenda Item #10 to speak under Agenda Item #13, Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Vice-Chair McDermott read a statement in support of the motion to amend the agenda, which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Pack, who placed the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment on the agenda, said the item is important and should remain on the agenda. Commissioner Pack said other counties and one town have passed resolutions in support of Amendment 1; the amendment is important to the people of Polk County and of the State; the nation was founded on Christian values and morals; tradition should be upheld; it is important to encourage the citizens to get out and vote. Commissioner Walker read a statement in support of the motion to amend the agenda, which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Owens said he agreed with Commissioner Pack regarding the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment. Commissioner Owens also said passing the resolution would represent the Commissioners' endorsement, not the citizens of Polk County. Commissioner Pack expressed his concern that a majority vote to remove an item properly placed on the agenda

could be abused in the future by political parties. Commissioner Pack said that a vote to remove the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment from the agenda is a “no” vote on Amendment 1. Chair Gasperson asked that his fellow Commissioners leave partisan politics out of the Board meetings. Vice-Chair McDermott said that removing the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment from the agenda is in no way a “no” vote on Amendment 1, but rather an affirmation of her contention that it is inappropriate for a governing body to take a position on a matter such as this, which is a matter of religious belief or of personal conscience, on which good people differ in their opinions.

With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 3-2 (Owens and Pack opposed).

6. 2006 NCDCCR County Management Records Retention & Disposition Schedule – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the 2006 NCDCCR County Management Records Retention & Disposition Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
7. EMS Deceased Account Holder Write-Off Request – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the EMS Deceased Account Holder Write-Off request, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Alexander’s Ford Improvements Project Bid Award – Vice-Chair McDermott moved to award the bid for the Alexander’s Ford Improvement Project to Thompson Construction in the amount of \$11,980, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Alexander’s Ford/U.S. National Park Service Grant Project Budget Ordinance – Commissioner Walker moved to approve the Grant Project Budget Ordinance for the Alexander’s Ford Project in the amount of \$5,299 to increase expenditure and U.S. National Park Service grant revenue for the cost of an archeological survey, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment – This item was removed from the agenda.
11. Volunteer Boards for Vote – The following individuals were appointed by unanimous vote: Gerald Siddons – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council; William Arledge, Walter Daryl Hardin & James Shehan - Mill Spring Fire District Tax Commission; Shane Hamilton, Mark Oxtoby & Gerald Pruitt - Saluda Fire District Tax Commission.
12. Volunteer Boards for Review – One application for the Mental Health Advisory Board was reviewed.
13. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – The following individuals spoke in favor of the Polk County Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment and/or in opposition to removing the resolution from the agenda:

Raphael Foy, Rickie McFalls, Warren Elliott, Keith Holbert, Dr. Don McIntyre, Kenneth Williams, Chris Whitmire, Pr. Thomas Olson, Rick McIntosh and William Sykes. The following individuals spoke against the Polk County Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment and/or in support of removing the resolution from the agenda: Margaret Johnson, Jerry Hardvall, Preston White, Mary Parker, Ben Seymour, Katharine Smith, Jack Williams and Patricia Gass.

14. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Owens expressed his disappointment regarding the fact that Agenda Item #10 was removed from the agenda, as well as his support of Amendment 1. Vice-Chair McDermott said the BOC needs to allow the voters to make up their own minds about Amendment 1, and that it is not appropriate for a BOC to establish one religious view for Polk County, or to recommend to the voters how to vote on a matter that does not affect the operation of Polk County. Commissioner Walker said if the spirit of the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment was to support voter participation, then its mission was accomplished tonight. Commissioner Pack said the Resolution in Support of the North Carolina Marriage Amendment is not political, and the people of Polk County need to know where the Commissioners stand on the issue. Chair Gasperson said his parents set a good example of what a strong marriage can be.
15. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Ray Gasperson
Chair