

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Commissioner Don Bryant, Commissioner Rick Watkins, Commissioner Toni R. Maples, Commissioner Andy Grooms, Chairman Jeff Smart, Commissioner Tavares Bostic and Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Commissioner Rick Watkins

Invocation was given by Commissioner Rick Watkins

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

By a motion of Vice Chairman Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Maples and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision

**A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 6, 2021
as Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of
March, 2021**

**C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report
for the Month of March 2021**

**D) Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund Year End
Adjustments for Departments**

**E) Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund Year End
Adjustments for Other Funds**

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Grooms and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 4 Open Forum for Public Comments - 5:30 - 6:00 PM

No one signed up to speak

ITEM NO. 5 Public Hearing for Comments on Proposed Text Amendments to Richmond County Ordinance RZT 2021-1 - Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Discussion

Public Hearing on RZT 2021-1: Consideration of approval of text amendment to readopt the Richmond County Ordinance with revisions incorporated as required by S.L 2019-111 (Senate Bill 355) and S.L 2020-25(Senate Bill 720)

Public Hearing opened at 5:37PM

Tracy Parris presented combined staff analysis and power point presentation to the board. No additional comments were received from the public

Public Hearing closed at 5:44PM

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Text Amendments to the Richmond County Ordinance RZT 2021-1 Tracy Parris. Planning Director - Decision

Commissioner Watkins asked is this the recodification what is required from state general statute . He asked would there be very little changes to the local application. Staff responded that was correct there were no changes to use, land development or setbacks. Changes were related to function, process and terminology. Staff recommended approval of RZT 2021-1 with the consistency statement as presented.

Approve finding the changes of RZT 2021-1 re adoption of the Richmond County Ordinance with revisions incorporated as required by Part II of S. L 2019-111 (Senate Bill 355) and S. L 2020-25(Senate Bill 720) to be consistent with the land use plan, keeping in the interest of orderly growth and development as recommended by the Planning Board.

By a motion of Vice Chairman Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Budget Work Session - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

Budget work session will be on Wednesday, May 19th @ 2:00PM at the Richmond County Airport

By a motion of Commissioner Grooms, seconded by Commissioner Maples and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 8 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of a Proclamation for Older Americans Month - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

The month of May is declared Older Americans Month

By a motion of Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Commissioner Grooms and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 9 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of a Proclamation for Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week - Bryan Land, County Manager -Decision

Peace Officers Memorial Day is Saturday, May 15th and National Police Week is May 9th thru May 15, 2021

By a motion of Commissioner Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Grooms and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.10 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of a Proclamation to Honor Richmond County's Veterans - Bryan Land, County Manager -Decision

Memorial Day is Monday, May 31, 2021

By a motion of Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Dawkins and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.11 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of a Proclamation for World MS Day - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

World MS Day will be Sunday, May 30, 2021

By a motion of Commissioner Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Bostic and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.12 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

Its great to be back in our Commissioners chambers after over a year long absence due to Covid and its social distancing and mass gathering requirements

I always like to start out with a brief update on our property tax collection percentage. The tax and collections department teams continue to work diligently. As of the end of April. we were at 96.26%, an increase of .70% over last month. And 1.06% higher than where we ended April of 2020 at 95.20, it is important to note, this was our best April year to date percentage on record. It's always a great trend when you can outpace your previous years collections. We feel very strongly about achieving our goal of a 97% collection rate through the hard work and dedication of our collections staff. We truly have a great team in collections!

Staying on the topic of tax and the budget, we are right in the midst of budget season for our next physical year. We have received all request from our county department heads and also outside agencies including the schools. The finance department and I are meeting and discussing the budget daily to prioritize all needs and request. We are nearing completion of compiling our draft budget for review by the Board at our May 19th budget meeting.

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 333 bags for a total of approx. 3.7 tons this month. Additionally, 16 tires were removed; we cleaned up 24 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces.. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic.

Jacqueline Welch, Allen Hodges, Jerry Austin and Bryan Leggett along with their staffs did a phenomenal job with spearheading the earth day cleanup event. It was originally scheduled April 24th but due to rain we had to reschedule to last Saturday, May 1st. We are still waiting on final stats to come in but so far. 39 groups participated totaling 469 volunteers. Local industries, businesses, church's, civic groups, school clubs, students, and citizens all pitched in to make the event a great success. We collected 404 bags weighing in at 6,449 pounds ! This event has definitely brought awareness to our community and its great to see the participation and excitement that we witnessed with the event. Some of the groups have already made commitments to continue their efforts quarterly, monthly and even weekly.

Transitioning to the Health side, Dr Tommy Jarrell, Cheryl Speight and the entire Health Department staff are continuing to utilize space at the hospital to administer vaccine. Call 910-417-3030 to schedule appointment.

The Health Department is also sponsoring community vaccination clinics throughout the county. Clinics have been held in Dobbin Heights, Ashley Chapel, Mangum and the Holly Grove Church area. Yesterday, a clinic was held in Hoffman and this afternoon as we are meeting, a clinic is being offered to high school students age 16-18 with parental consent and appointment at the health department. The next upcoming community clinic will be next Monday, May 10th at the Ellerbe Fire Department. Others are being planned throughout May and later at this time. Community clinics are being listed on the Health Department website.

As of today our County Covid numbers are as follows, we currently have had **4,621** positive cases for Covid 19 . . To date we have tested 48,843 and of those 44,222 have come back negative or inconclusive. 4,488 individuals have recovered. We currently have 39 active cases. We have had 94 deaths, 2 additional since our last meeting.

As far as percentages and vaccination updates, the following are our latest stats.

Richmond County residents who have received at least one dose of vaccine	14,250
Richmond County residents fully vaccinated	12,623
Percent fully vaccinated	28.2%
Percent adults fully vaccinated	38%
Percent RC age 75 & older fully vaccinated	73%
Percent RC age 65-74 fully vaccinated	70%
Percent RC age 50-64 Fully vaccinated	44%
Percent RC age 25-49 fully vaccinated	20%
Percent RC age 18-24 fully vaccinated	9%

I did want to update the board on the status of our 900k CDBG-CV grant, this is the 900k in assistance we will be receiving to disburse to citizens struggling with paying utility, rent and mortgage payments. We met with representatives from the Department of Commerce last Thursday and they advised Richmond County was in the pipeline to receive the funding. They advised we were still in a holding pattern but the funds should be released soon. As a reminder we will be disbursing \$1000 max to around 900 families in Richmond County. Please continue to view our social media outlets and County website for updates on the program.

On the economic development front, Myrick Construction is still onsite at the Marks Creek Industrial Park has finalized the site work and erosion control for the Global Packaging Project. The site is pad ready and Myrick is in a holding pattern waiting for the 40k pre-engineered metal building to be delivered. Everyone is witnessing delays in steel and construction related materials these days. However, Myrick still feels confident with their late October completion date that they have targeted.

One last update from our airport, we were able to land a pavement rejuvenation project that is being handled by State forces. The crack sealing, seal coating and painting project is approximately 50% complete & is being constructed @ zero cost to our taxpayers. The project didn't require the typical 10% match that most of our airport projects require. If the project would have been let through our typical bidding process the work would have had a cost of approx.. 100k.

ITEM NO.13 Update from Sandhills Center - Victoria Whitt, Chief Executive Officer - Discussion

Mrs. Whitt wanted to thank the board for the appointments of Dr. Tommy Jarrell and Mr. Thad Ussery to the board. They are assets to the board. She stated that her board was very proud that they could leave the FY 2021-2022 funding request the same as the past 17 years

ITEM# 1

ITEM NO.14 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Advertisement of Tax Liens on real Property for Failure to Pay Taxes - Vagas Jackson, Tax Administrator - Decision

Tax Liens will be advertised in the Richmond County Daily Journal on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Last day to pay will be Friday, May 11, 2021.

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Maples and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.15 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Scrap Tire Fee - Jerry Austin, Jr., Public Works Director - Decision

Scrap tire disposal fee will be \$2.00 for any used tires brought in from out of state.

By a motion of Commissioner Grooms, seconded by Commissioner Bryant and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.16 Adjournment - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Bryant and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk

Dena R. Cook, NCCCC

Clerk to the Board

Richmond County Board of Commissioners