

MINUTES

January 8, 2004

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, January 08, 2004, for an informational meeting in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Governmental Center, 913 Greensboro Street, Lexington, North Carolina

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Fred Sink, Vice Chairman Sam Watford, Cindy Akins, Priscilla Hege, Billy Joe Kepley, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser

County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Robert Hedrick, County Manager Robert Hyatt, Public Works Director Bill Clutter and Assistant Director Scott Rickard, Human Resources Director Keli Greer, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Solid Waste Director Charlie Brushwood, Recycling Coordinator Steve Swaim, Senior Services Representative Donna Campbell, Economic Development Executive Director Steve Googe, Assistant Social Services Director Keith Johnson, Director of Nurses Kim Frank, Solid Waste Advisory Committee Representative Tammy Bullin

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Sink called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

B. INVOCATION

Commissioner Hege

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. RECOGNITION

E. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS

Chairman Sink noted the register for public address.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Vice Chairman Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to add a *CLOSED SESSION* for an *Economic Development* matter as the first item to be addressed on the agenda and to move item H.2. Animal Control Ordinance to follow the *CLOSED SESSION* as the second item. (Exhibit 1)

G. PUBLIC ADDRESS

Fred McClure questioned the contracting of health insurance benefits consultants out of Davidson County. Mr. McClure also suggested that the Animal Control Ordinance not have duplicate state laws and laws already in place.

Jerry Shook, a Swicegood Road resident, noted the need to concentrate animal control on the predatory animals and expressed concerns for safety.

Barney Hill suggested dissolving the Sanitation Department, liquidating its assets, and turning the collection of solid waste over to private companies. Mr. Hill also suggested a review of the Zoning Ordinance to make it more “user friendly.”

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Walser the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Closed Session for matters of Economic Development.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Walser and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to return to Open Session.

County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Robert Hedrick noted the discussion of economic development matters with no action taken.

H. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DECISION

1. Discussion of Animal Control Ordinance

County Manager Robert Hyatt noted the need for clarity on the procedure for the Animal Control Ordinance Review by the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee. Mr. Hyatt also requested discussion of the previously existing moratorium on exotic animals and direction for the present until there is resolution on the ordinance itself.

Chairman Sink asked that the committee move swiftly.

Commissioner Truell supported the reinstatement of the moratorium with the committee moving swiftly on revising the ordinance.

Commissioner Walser suggested the reinstatement of the moratorium and a request to the committee to move swiftly and complete the ordinance within 90 days.

Commissioner Akins made a motion that no predatory animal that has a weight of 50 lbs. or greater be allowed in the County and that the committee be asked to move swiftly to revise the ordinance to its completion. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Hege noted that the committee is ready to move.

Vice Chair Watford stated that it was a mistake not to extend the moratorium on November 25, 2003.

Commissioner Walser made a motion to extend the moratorium on exotic animals for 90 days to allow the completion of the ordinance. Commissioner Truell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Akins requested an amendment to the motion to replace the word *carnivores* with *predators*. Commissioners Walser and Truell accepted the amendment.

Upon a vote the motion carried 5-2 to extend the moratorium on exotic animals for 90 days to allow the completion of the ordinance to read as follows:

Due to the public health and safety of Davidson County citizens, I move to prohibit any new dangerous exotic animals or hybrid thereof, which are predators, and inclusive of venomous reptiles, primates, bears, lions, tigers, etc., and that any animals currently within the County be prohibited from breeding for a period of 90 days from this date or until the completion of the Animal Control Ordinance.

Commissioners Akins and Kepley voted "No."

Chairman Sink then invited Lorraine Smith of the North Carolina Zoo to address the Board.

Ms. Smith noted that the North Carolina Zoo staff is willing to advise the committee and commended the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee for the "exotic portion" of the ordinance for a job well-done.

Commissioner Akins stated that more citizens-at-large are needed on the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee.

Commissioner Walser suggested that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners appoint the additional members to the committee.

Commissioner Truell agreed.

Commissioner Hege then asked if permission to add people to the Committee would come from the Chairman.

Commissioner Walser noted that he was agreeable.

Chairman Sink stated that that new members need to be professionals who understand the situation.

2. Self Supporting Box Sites by Tammy Bullin, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Tammy Bullin presented the concept of self-supporting variable-rate-based box sites on behalf of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Mrs. Bullin noted that currently it costs \$1.8 million to operate the box sites. She advocated moving the operation to the enterprise fund and thereby increasing the recycling tonnage. She further advocated no charge for recyclables and a move to the sticker program so that citizens would pay for what they throw away and take the burden off the taxpayers.

Steve Swaim, Recycling Coordinator, noted that public meetings can be held on the matter.

Chairman Sink requested that cost figures be fine-tuned and then be brought back to the Board for consideration. (Exhibit 2)

3. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Membership Update by Tammy Bullin, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Mrs. Bullin apprised the Board of the current Committee membership. She further noted that the Committee meets the 4th Wednesday of each month in Conference Room B in the Governmental Center.

(Exhibit 3)

4. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Proposal for Pursuit of Development of Park and Ride Lots in Davidson County by Robert C. Hyatt, County Manager

Robert Hyatt apprised the Board of the possibility of constructing one or more park and ride lots in Davidson County. He further noted that PART has a \$4 million plus grant requiring ten percent local funding match with the local funding match to be cash, in-kind services, property, or future maintenance needs.

Guy Cornman noted that possible sites may be along Hwy. 52 and the I-85 corridors.

The Board was agreeable with the pursuit of proposed sites for ride lots and a park. (Exhibit 4)

Departure

Chairman Sink, Commissioner Walser, and County Manager Hyatt left for another commitment.

Vice Chair Watford presided over the meeting.

5. Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Team Annual Report for 2003 by Keith Johnson,

Social Work Program Administrator

Keith Johnson, who chairs the Protection portion of the team, presented a report from the Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Team for 2003, noting the reasons for the occurring child fatalities and the recommendations to improve the safety and protection of children on a community-wide basis.

Kim Frank, Director of Nurses for the Davidson County Health Department and Chair of the Fatality portion of the team, reported 35 fatalities for 2003 compared to 25 from 2002. She noted that accidents were the leading cause of fatalities. She further noted that the committee will continue to educate the community, and in particular, address the danger of "*leaving of children in hot cars*" and stated that 2003 had one such fatality. (Exhibit 5)

6. Space at Governmental Center for State Employees Credit Union Cash Point

The Board was receptive to the placement of an ATM (Cash Point) from the Credit Union near the entrance of the Health Department building with the County providing three parking spaces and the land.

(Exhibit 6)

7. Zoning Ordinance Update by Commissioner Billy Joe Kepley

Commissioner Kepley apprised the Board of his concern for the zoning ordinance to become more flexible for commercial businesses and industry. He noted the need to help people who want to supplement their incomes by having private businesses. He proposed giving *impact-exclusion*, for example, emissions from backyard businesses or industrial sites.

Guy Cornman noted that the Special Use Permit allows for these private businesses and the acreage requirement can be reduced as well as other stipulations.

I. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted
5-0 to adjourn.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman
Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Robert C. Hedrick, Clerk to the Board
Davidson County Board of Commissioners