

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2013**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2013 in the main courtroom, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Jordan, Owens, Hora, Jernigan and Hofler were present. Also present was County Manager, Jon Mendenhall.

Chairman Jordan led a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hora requested to discuss the plaque for the new library and have the topic added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Delegations – Unannounced

Carol Whit, Gates, thanked the County Manager for listening to the citizens' regarding animal needs and stated her request to make humane changes in the county.

Amanda Smith, Corapeake, stated she volunteers at the Tri-County Animal Shelter and spoke of animal cruelty within the County. She requests laws be enacted and enforced for humane treatment of animals.

Cynthia Boone, Gates, presented her written statement of concerns with the Gates County Community Center that she presented verbally at the last meeting.

Chuck Brothers, Gates, commended the Board for bringing Jon Mendenhall to the County; he has an open door policy and citizens are getting answers quickly. He voiced concerns with clawbacks in relation to grants at Merchants Commerce. He would like a State of the County address to announce where the County stands with economic development and would like to have the County Manager empowered to disclose what the current relationship is between the County and Merchants Commerce.

Delegations – Announced

Bert Banks, Executive Director, The Albemarle Commission, presented the Albemarle Commission's 2012 Annual Report.

John Zellweger and Steve Shulster, Clearscapes Architects, PA, discussed recommendations for Phase II of the Old Courthouse Stabilization and Renovation Project. They are suggesting structural stability not be included in Phase II but to include sub-surface soil testing. It was suggested if the County did not have plans to continue with Phase II then to develop a strong process for maintaining the building until a better time frame could be identified.

Public Hearing

Mr. Mendenhall stated he needed to confirm proper steps were taken in reference to signage and advertising for the scheduled rezoning requests.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to properly advertise properties and table until the April 3rd meeting. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

New Business

Sandy Pittman, Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendment 41, to reallocate funds in the Elections Department.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to accept Budget Amendment 41 as presented. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Jernigan presented for the Board's consideration a contract with the Albemarle Commission for Gates County to provide Congregate Nutrition Services at the Gates County Community Center. Mr. Mendenhall stated he had concerns and to review the contract closely.

Commissioner Hora made a motion for the County Manager and Finance Officer review the contract so it will be of mutual benefit for both parties.

Renee McGinnis, Tax Administrator, proposed the following schedule for the Board of Equalization and Review: open April 29, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; May 8, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; May 15, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and close May 20, 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hora discussed the recognition plaque for the new library. He stated ex-Commissioners Wade Askew and Carlton Nixon were not included.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to have a new plaque made to state: *County Commissioners' serving during the planning and construction* and to include Wade Askew and Carlton Nickens. The County Manager will send a draft to the Board for approval and it will be ordered by the County. Commissioners Owens, Hora, Jernigan and Hofler voted for the motion. Chairman Jordan voted against the motion. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Citizens' Comments

J. E. Harrell, Gates, stated he just witnessed democracy in action. He stated the tax payers are committed and he wants the Commissioners to be sensitive to the tax payers' issues.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to enter Closed Session authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5) land acquisition. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to exit Closed Session and enter Regular Session. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to authorize the Chairman and County Manager negotiate with the party as discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.


Henry L. Jordan, Chairman


Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk