

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Davidson County, North Carolina**

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Thursday, February 6, 2020  
6:00 PM

Commissioners' Meeting Room  
County of Davidson

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chair Karen Watford, Vice-Chair Don Truell, Zak Crotts, Chris Elliott, Fred McClure, Steve Shell and Todd Yates.

OTHERS PRESENT

County Manager Casey Smith, Assistant County Attorney Sheri Woodyard, Assistant County Manager Jason Martin, Clerk to the Board Debbie Harris, IT Director Joel Hartley, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Parks and Recreation Director Thomas Marshburn, Library Director Sheila Killebrew, Health Director Lillian Koontz, Tax Administrator Jerry Ward, Human Resources Director Kathy Cashion, Veterans Services Director Rick Johnson, Major Stephen Pace, Deputy DSS Director Scott Craver, Budget Analyst Tim Maness, ABC Board Chair Kenny Meredith, ABC Board Member Lori Clement, ABC Board Member Sherry Piotti, and ABC Store General Manager Eric Sparks.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Watford called the Meeting to order.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Commissioner Shell.

**3. RECOGNITION**

The Chair recognized the ABC Board and Department Heads in attendance.

**4. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS**

The Chair noted the need to register if interested in speaking at Public Address.

**5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

There were no modifications made to the Agenda.

By a vote of 7-0 as follows, the Agenda was adopted as presented.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Yates, Todd  
Second by: Truell, Don W.

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Karen Watford	X			
Don W. Truell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Todd Yates	X			

**6. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There was no one registered to speak at Public Address.

**7. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION - DELIBERATION**

**A. ABC Board Update**

ABC Board Chair Kenny Meredith introduced the remainder of the Board and the Store's General Manager. Mr. Meredith noted the Board had started from nothing and had come a long way; it had been a long process dealing with banks, and putting the store together. The group had built a kinship in the process. He told the Board he appreciated it allowing Ms. Harris to work with them. The Store had opened on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Board had hoped to do \$1.25 Million in the first year. But, it had done \$1.35 Million in the first 6 months, with sales continuing to grow. Mr. Meredith spoke about funds used for Store upfit and inventory, reporting the Board had gotten a \$300,00 fixed term loan and a \$150,000 credit line. The credit line had not been tapped into. The Store was turning inventory about one time per month. The Board felt the success of the store was largely due to Mr. Sparks, as he came in with a great deal of experience. Mr. Meredith noted that at the time of the Store's grand opening, there had been no legal distilled spirits in the County since 1908. The ABC Board appreciated the Board of Commissioners' leasing the site, and subleasing it to the ABC Board, as it had been a great help. The County had seen approximately \$30,000 in tax revenues from the Store's sales. Once the ABC Board gets the debt paid down, it will start giving money back to the County. Mr. Sparks thanked the Commissioners for allowing the ABC Board to speak. He noted the Store has had a great reception from the community, and he had a good working relationship with the neighboring businesses in the strip center. He has an email list he uses to have bourbon releases every other Saturday morning, noting it was exciting to see folks that will come out for that distribution. Commissioner Crotts stated that the Food Lion in the shopping center is now the largest grossing Food Lion in Davidson County. Ms. Piotti reported she had talked to people in the store who were coming from outside of Davidson County. Mr. Sparks reported the ABC Board had purchased a barrel of single-barrel bourbon that had been delivered at the beginning of January, and had a Store label on it. Ms. Clement added this particular bourbon was available by the barrel only, and there were only three entities in the State who had it for sale. Mr. Sparks felt the sales ceiling would only continue to increase. Mr. Meredith remarked that all of the money that had been going to Forsyth County over the past many years, was now staying in Davidson County. When asked by Commissioner Yates about restaurant sales, Mr. Sparks reported the Store had approximately \$7,000 in restaurant sales in January. Ms. Harris noted that thanks to the sale of the Durango by the Commissioners to the ABC Board, the Store was now able to deliver alcohol to restaurants, to which Mr. Sparks added the Store offered free delivery for orders of over \$300.00. Commissioner

Shell felt that the Board had done an outstanding job. The Commissioners thanked the ABC Board for its hard work.

**B. Discussion on Upcoming Planning Board Vacancy**

Mr. Cornman reported the County had a five-member Planning Board that had staggered terms. He had recently gotten a letter of resignation from David Craver, noting Mr. Carver had done a great job over the past 10 years. One option available to the Commissioners was to appoint Rayne Brown to a seat, noting she had done a great job over the past couple of years. There were also two others who submitted Applications to serve. Wes Kimbrell was a professional engineer who does a lot of sewer engineering and lives in the West Davidson area. Jim Myers had served on the Lexington Planning Board, but also owned property in the County. Mr. Cornman recommended putting Ms. Brown on the Board as a member, and appointing both Mr. Kimbrell and Mr. Myers as alternates, so the Board would have a full complement of people. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Yates into how much the Planning Board members were compensated, Mr. Cornman reported they receive \$45.00 for each meeting. The Commissioner felt Staff should look into this compensation, feeling it was too low. Mr. Cornman reported he had looked at the compensation, and we were comparable. There was discussion on Mr. Cornman's recommendation.

Following the motion and second, Commissioner Yates asked Staff to look at all board/commission compensation to make sure that we are making it worth the folks' time, to which Commissioner Elliott agreed. This information will be gathered and brought to a future Informational Meeting

By a vote of 7-0 as follows, the Board approved adding Rayne Brown to the Planning Board as a member, and appointing Wes Kimbrell and Jim Myers as alternates to the Planning Board.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Shell, Steve  
 Second by: McClure, Fred

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Karen Watford	X			
Don W. Truell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Todd Yates	X			

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

By a vote of 7-0 as follows, the Meeting was adjourned.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Crotts, Zak  
 Second by: Shell, Steve

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Karen Watford	X			
Don W. Truell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			

Steve Shell	X			
Todd Yates	X			

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Deborah J. Harris  
Clerk to the Board

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Karen Watford, Chair  
Davidson County  
Board of Commissioners