



**Rutherford County Office Building
289 N. Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139**

Rutherford County

Board of Commissioners

Minutes of Special Meeting of February 24, 2017

**Friday, February 24, 2017
4:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the February 24, 2017 Special Meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

Present: Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Eddie Holland, and Commissioner Greg Lovelace.

A. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

II. New Business

A. ID 17-1279 Goals' Setting

Chairman King began the meeting by reviewing the goals from the previous year and the progress made during the year. He asked that the Board look at the starting line when approving the previous goals and where the County is presently, and consider updating the goals.

The Board discussed critical and important issues and trends impacting the County and how the County government could address those issues and influence trends in FY 2017-18. The Board agreed that the following are the priority goals the Commissioners and Rutherford County staff will address during during FY 2017-2018.

Overarching Focus Points

- **Job creation**
- **Transparency – Promote good government by operating in a professional manner**
- **Support Education – K-12 & Isothermal Community College**
 - Enhanced partnerships
 - Capital Facility Needs
- **Infrastructure Enhancement**
 - Water, sewer, gas, roads/highways, broadband, etc.
- **Improved Quality of Life**
- **Public Safety**
- **Build a Foundation to Improve Service Delivery and Access to Services**

Priority Goal #1

- **Enhance Economic Development and Job Creation Opportunities**
 - Increase industrial and manufacturing development
 - Work with the Chamber and TDA to evaluate and identify the need for conference/meeting space and the current inventory
 - Work with Economic Development and IPDC to identify opportunities for a regional industrial park
 - Reestablish business retention programming

Priority Goal #2

- **Support Education**
 - Work with our legislators to introduce a local bill that would allow Rutherford County to place a complete description on the ballot for the local 1/4¢ Sales Tax referendum
 - Work with our legislators to introduce a local bill to amend the County Occupancy Tax legislation to increase the Occupancy Tax Rate from 5% to 6% and for the additional 1% to go to support public education

Priority Goal #3

- **Continue Advocacy for Infrastructure to Promote Good Jobs and Business Opportunities**
 - Promote designation of US-74 to I-74 or to Future I-74
 - Promote completion of Hwy. 221 project
 - Promote Hwy. 221A straightening project
 - Public/private partnership for broadband planning and deployment
 - Infrastructure expansion and improvement
 - Cliffside Sanitary District
 - Water/sewer expansion to support commercial, retail, manufacturing, industrial and tourism opportunities

Priority Goal #4

- **Enhance Service Delivery and Customer Access**
 - Evaluate creating a new consolidated Emergency Services/Public Safety model to include EMS, 911 & Emergency Management
 - Complete an analysis including a feasibility study for EMS to go from 24 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts

- Improve ground transportation options for customers flying in to the RC Airport
- Invest in new technologies to create greater efficiencies and improve customer experience

Priority Goal #5

- **Improve Quality of Life**

- Host a free medical and mental health fair for county employees
- Identify gaps, obstacles and improvements needed for citizens to access mental health and substance abuse services & programming
- Support the RC Education Foundation Backpack program to help reduce childhood food insecurity
- Participate in activities to develop, expand, support and improve outdoor recreation opportunities
- Evaluate and consider options to help address roadside trash

Priority Goal #6

- **Improve Public Safety and Quality of Life**

- Request that the Planning Commission research and report back to the Commissioners on the following subjects:
 - Consider any updates needed for the Mobile Home Park Ordinance to address “tiny homes”/Park Model homes
 - Cell tower ordinance
 - Review current solar farm ordinance for any possible updates needed

Commissioner Benfield made a motion to cancel the follow-up goals' setting meeting scheduled for February 25, 2017. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

X. Adjournment

At 6:45 P.M. Commissioner Holland made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners