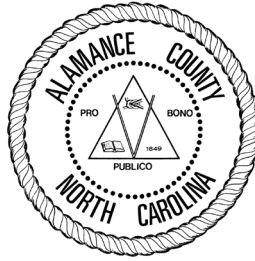


**Chair**  
Ray Cobb

**Planning Director**  
Tonya Caddle



Commissioners' Meeting Room  
124 W Elm Street  
Graham, NC 27253  
April 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

# ALAMANCE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

Virtual-

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1QADkhkyUpac9rMs42imjA>

### Members Present

Ray Cobb  
Rodney Cheek  
Vaughn Willoughby  
Eric McPherson  
Sandy Ellington-Graves (virtually)  
Arthur Hall  
Stephen Dodson  
Blake Cobb  
Anthony Pierce  
Debra Hyder

### Members Absent

Ernest Bare  
Blake Cobb  
John Paisley

### Staff Present

Tonya Caddle, *Planning Director*  
Ian Shannon, *Planner I*  
Patrick Scott (virtually), *Assistant County Attorney*

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 7:02 pm.

## II. ROLL CALL

Staff handled roll call through Zoom and in-person roster.

## III. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

- 1) December 2, 2021
- 2) December 9, 2021
- 3) January 13, 2022
- 4) January 19, 2022
- 5) February 10, 2022
- 6) February 24, 2022
- 7) March 10, 2022
- 8) March 24, 2022

### *\*Meeting Notes:*

1. *Those wishing to make public comments should sign-in prior to the meeting.*
2. *In order to be fair and ensure that all citizens wishing to speak may be heard, the Chair may place time limits on public comments.*
3. *Any further discussion by the public on a given agenda item is subject to the discretion of the Chair of the Planning Board*

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## **ALAMANCE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve all minutes with an amendment to the February 10 minutes to indicate Mr. Poe's absence by Mr. Cheek  
Second: Mr. Hall  
Vote: Unanimous

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS\***

Ed Priola: A candidate for state representative. Stated opposition to the proposed change to meeting procedures to eliminate public comment. Asked the board to reconsider eliminating public comment from meetings and to consider the importance of civic input.

Mike Owens: Thanked the planning board for their service and recognized Chairman Cobb and Mr. Poe and the integrity they had in speaking and working with him. Emphasized the need for public comment because not everyone has internet or email in the county. Proposed an idea to break public comment into differently timed segments.

Jane Majors: Reiterated the lack of access to the internet and email in the county and the importance of in-person public comment. Mentioned that the postal service was having issues with timing and that she had less confidence in sending comments via physical mail. Urged the board to keep public comment in meeting procedure.

Max Morgan: Spoke to the belief that removing public comment from meeting policy would inhibit the public's right to speak before the board. Stated that sometimes there could be some misconceptions with written comment as opposed to spoken comment. Proposed that the board could use the commissioners' rules for public comment.

Closed at 7:12

#### **V. BOARD/COMMISSIONER RESPONSES**

None at this time.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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## **ALAMANCE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

##### 1) Public Comment Policy

Mr. Scott gave an overview of the draft changes to the planning board meeting and public comment policies and noted how they were in line with state regulations. He noted that these changes to policy did not limit all public comment. Public comment would still be included in public hearings by the planning board. He also outlined the text amendments to the planning board ordinance to keep in line with current state law.

The planning board discussed at length the role they wanted public comment to have in general meetings. The consensus was that public comment should remain a part of general meetings and should be broad enough to encourage participation. The board did not wish to limit the subject matter of public comment, and an idea was proposed to include a discussion topic section to the public comment sign-in sheet. The board wanted some consideration on time limits and policy language to prohibit personal attacks. The board agreed with the draft public comment policy as it pertained to public hearings but asked Mr. Scott and planning staff to work on a revision and include public comment policy for general planning board meetings.

Motion to table this policy and have planning staff rework it by Mr. McPherson  
Second: Mr. Poe  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion to recommend the proposed changes to the planning board ordinance to the county commissioners by Mr. Pierce  
Second: Mr. Poe  
Vote: Unanimous

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## **ALAMANCE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION** **Meeting Minutes**

None at this time.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mr. Poe

Second: Mr. Pierce

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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