

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those Commissioners present were as follows: Chairman Gordon Wilder, Vice-Chairman Dan Brummitt, Commissioners Carolyn Faines, Yolanda J. Feimster, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Leo Kelly, Jr. and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: None.

Also present were County Manager Jordan McMillen, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

Chairman Gordon Wilder gave the invocation.

The purpose of the closed session was to enter into closed session for an attorney-client privileged matter, approve minutes of a previous closed session, and discuss the disposition of the confederate monument.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to enter into closed session to discuss an attorney-client privileged matter. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr. and unanimously approved.

Upon return to open session, motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 closed session.

The board then discussed the disposition of the confederate monument that is located in front of the county administration building.

Motion was made by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr. that the Vance County Board of Commissioners finds that the confederate monument located outside the county administration building poses a significant threat to public safety due to credible threats against it from groups seeking its forcible removal. Due to the size, weight and location of the statue and its base, any act of unprofessional, criminal, forcible removal would create an extremely unsafe condition. He further moved that the monument in its current location is to be removed and county staff is authorized to have the monument and its base removed and stored until a determination can be made by the Vance County Board of Commissioners as to its final erection. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt stated that he feels removing the statue is not in accordance with current law. He stated that when he took his oath of office, he agreed to uphold the laws of the State of North Carolina. He believes there is action that could be taken through proper channels, but feels this is not legal.

Commissioner Carolyn Faines stated that laws can be changed and she believes removing the monument is the best thing to do for the community as a whole.

Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. stated that the law went into effect in 2015 and stated that he cannot vote against a North Carolina law.

Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. stated that he supports the motion made and the time has come for the monument to come down.

Yolanda Feimster stated that the General Statute allows for the removal of a monument if it is considered a threat to public safety. She stated that threats have been made against the monument, and the board must act to remove it.

Vote on the motion was ayes – four (4), noes – three (3), with the dissenting votes being cast by Commissioners Dan Brummitt, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., and Gordon Wilder.

As there was no further business, at 6:15 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines, vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed August 3, 2020.

Gordon Wilder (signed)
Gordon Wilder, Chairman