

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the commissioners' conference room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those commissioners present were as follows: Chair Sean A. Alston, Sr., Commissioners Yolanda J. Feimster, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Leo Kelly, Jr., and Valencia L. Perry.

Absent: Chair R. Dan Brummitt and Vice-Chair Carolyn Faines.

Also present were County Manager C. Renee Perry, Assistant County Manager Jeremy Jones, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss code enforcement and fire department capital.

*Fire Department.* Chair Sean A. Alston, Sr. requested that frozen funds and frozen positions in the fire department budget be released. He noted that a Fire Marshal has been hired as well as an interim fire chief and stated that it is time to move forward.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to release the frozen funding and vacancies in the fire department budget. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. and unanimously approved.

*Code Enforcement.* Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. expressed his concerns regarding the Henderson City Council's recent action to end its 33-year agreement with the county (effective June 2025) that allows Vance County Code Enforcement to perform inspections within the city at no cost to the city. He also expressed his concerns that there was no forewarning from the city about this decision. He stated that this is not a wise use of taxpayer dollars because the city will now have to create its own inspections department to perform these inspections. Chief Code Enforcement Officer Bob Rosch stated that it is difficult to find multi-trade inspectors, and it takes years for inspectors to become certified. Special Projects Coordinator Frankie Nobles stated that since 2022 the county has performed 1,191 inspections within the city limits and 3,576 total and it was again noted that the county has never charged the city for these services. Chief Rosch stated that it may be more cost effective for the city to contract with a private company. Commissioner Yolanda Feimster stated that while it is disappointing that ties are being cut with the city, we should accept their decision and move forward.

At this time, Chair Sean A. Alston, Sr. stated that in order to focus more on his duties as chair of the board of commissioners, he wishes to resign from the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission and the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Board. He recommended that Commissioner Dan Brummitt be appointed to the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Board and Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. be appointed to the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. to appoint Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr.

Commissioner Yolanda Feimster expressed her displeasure that this matter is being addressed now. She stated that the board has had no knowledge of this matter until now and should wait to take action on this matter when the entire board is present. Chair Alston responded that there is always a chance that not all commissioners are present at future meetings. Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. called for the question.

Vote to appoint Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission to replace Sean A. Alston, Sr. was ayes – three (3); noes – two (2), with the dissenting votes being cast by Commissioners Yolanda Feimster and Valencia Perry.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. to appoint R. Dan Brummitt to the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr.

Commissioner Yolanda Feimster repeated her argument. Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. called for the question.

Vote to appoint R. Dan Brummitt to the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Board to replace Sean A. Alston, Sr. was ayes – three (3); noes – two (2), with the dissenting votes being cast by Commissioners Yolanda Feimster and Valencia Perry.

As there was no further business, at 12:35 p.m., Chair Sean A. Alston, Sr. declared the meeting be adjourned.

**Approved and signed January 6, 2025.**

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**Carolyn Faines, Chair**