

**NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEBORO**

Monday, December 14, 2009

5:30 P.M.

Notice is hereby given of a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Asheboro on Monday, the 14th day of December, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Randolph County Board of Commissioners in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Randolph County Office Building, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, North Carolina.

This special joint meeting has been called for the purpose of providing the city council and the county commissioners with an opportunity to consider appropriating and expending city and county funds for a one-time economic development incentives grant to the North Carolina Zoological Park for a feasibility study of a possible zoo expansion project. This economic development project is under consideration pursuant to Section 158-7.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and the two (2) governing boards will hold a joint public hearing on the proposal during this special meeting.

All officers of the city and all other persons whomsoever are hereby given notice of the above-described special meeting. This notice is issued on this the 10th day of December, 2009.

s/ David H. Smith
David H. Smith, Mayor
City of Asheboro, North Carolina

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**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
ASHEBORO CITY COUNCIL
RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
RANDOLPH COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
725 McDOWELL ROAD, ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

This being the time and place for a Joint Special Meeting of the Mayor and the City Council with the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, a meeting was held with the following city officials and members present:

- David H. Smith) – Mayor Presiding

- Talmadge S. Baker)
- Clark R. Bell)
- Edward J. Burks)
- Linda H. Carter) – Council Members Present
- Stuart B. Fountain)
- Michael W. Hunter)
- Walker B. Moffitt)

- John N. Ogburn, III, City Manager
- Dumont Bunker, P.E., City Engineer
- Holly H. Doerr, City Clerk/Senior Legal Assistant
- Cassandra M. Fletcher, Marketing Specialist
- Deborah P. Reaves, Finance Director
- Jeffrey C. Sugg, City Attorney

In addition to the members of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, certain county staff members were present during this meeting. A listing of the county officials in attendance is available from the clerk to the Randolph County Board of Commissioners.

Randolph County Board of Commissioners Chairman Harold Holmes called the special joint meeting to order for the county. Likewise, Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing on behalf of the Asheboro City Council in order to give the public an opportunity to learn about and comment on a possible one-time economic development incentives grant to the North Carolina Zoological Park for

a feasibility study of designed to examine the possible development of a third continent (Asia) and associated tourism facilities. Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing on behalf of the County.

The first speaker during the public hearing was Dr. David Jones, DVM, who is the Director of the North Carolina Zoological Park. Dr. Jones discussed the primary purposes of the study, which can be described as follows:

- a. To determine whether a third continent of a similar scale to the two existing continents would be self-supporting financially.
- b. To assess and advise on the best use of the approximately 270 acres of land owned by the North Carolina Zoo Society adjacent to the west side of the Zoo. The primary purpose of such a development would be to maximize visitation and spending through extending the visitor stay on and around the Zoo site through a variety of experiences and possibly extending hours of operation over the whole complex (existing and additional facilities).
- c. Assess and advise on whether a hotel or hotels and other forms of accommodation, together with public services such as retail, sports facilities, outdoor activities, or other additions would be economically beneficial to the Zoo.

During his discussion about the specifics of the feasibility study, Dr. Jones elaborated on his views of the economics of expansion and the value of expansion. Dr. Jones explained that Asia is the most logical choice for a third continent largely because of the variety of animal and plant species that are different to those found in Africa or North America. These exhibits can be constructed differently than those already appearing at the Zoo, for example depictions the high Himalayas or the floodplains of India's rivers.

Along with the development of the Asian continent, Dr. Jones proposed that this expansion could include additional attractions, such as an Asian cultural center and additional hotels and conference facilities to be constructed on the approximately 270 acres of land currently owned by the Zoo Society.

Dr. Jones explained that the cost of the proposed feasibility study would be approximately \$150,000.00 and asked that the city and county consider paying a total of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), fifty percent to be paid by the County and fifty percent to be paid by the City. The Zoo would pay \$75,000.00 and the remaining \$25,000 would be shared by the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority and the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation. A representative from each of these entities would be appointed to serve on an Advisory Committee that would be chaired by the Zoo in order to review and comment on the implementation of the study, including the draft study results.

Mr. Dale Lambert, who is the current Chair of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation, presented comments in support of the feasibility study. Likewise, Mr. Hal Johnson, who is the current Chair of the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority, presented similar comments in support of the proposed project.

Mr. Kim Markham posed general questions pertaining to potential funding from local lenders for expansion activities at the Zoo. Mr. Markham did not express opposition to the proposed economic development projects.

There being no further comments, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing on behalf of the City Council.

With the general consent of the Council, Mayor Smith announced that this matter will be discussed in further detail during a regular meeting of the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

s/ Holly H. Doerr
Holly H. Doerr, City Clerk

s/ David H. Smith
David H. Smith, Mayor