

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – AUGUST 24, 2020**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the Universal Conference Room, 634 College Drive, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Lynn Greene; Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Barry McPeters

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Ronald Harmon, Planning Director

Call to Order

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Noise Ordinance Discussion

Mr. Wooten distributed copies of the current Noise Ordinance. Ronald Harmon, Planning Director, distributed copies of other counties' policy on firearm regulations.

Mr. Wooten suggested the Board give written direction to the Planning Board regarding firearm regulations.

Vice Chairman Brown advised he had a petition brought to him with approximately 300 names on the petition against a neighbor that would stand on his property line and shoot an AR every afternoon until after dark. He was told the person would shoot into approximately a three foot high bank. There were several houses close by. The neighbors had called the Sheriff's Office and was told by the deputy there was nothing he could do because they was not an ordinance that said he couldn't shoot a firearm on his own property as long as he was shooting in a safe direction in a safe manner.

Commissioner Greene suggested contacting the Sheriff's Office to see what the deputy's report was after investigating the situation.

Mr. Harmon reported the Planning Board had preliminary discussion on discharging a firearm within 100 ft versus 300 ft of a residence; and if a change should be made to the Noise Ordinance, versus a standalone firearm regulation ordinance addressing shooting guns close to a house.

Vice Chairman Brown made a motion to send the complaint to the Planning Board and have them bring back a recommendation to the next Regular Session meeting on September 14, second by Commissioner Vaughn. Discussion followed on whether the Planning Board should look at the property line or the residence; and the number of feet from either the property line or residence. The petition should be given to the Clerk, and also the Planning Board should find out from the Sheriff's Department

the number and location of complaints coming from this and other firearm complaints across the county. Also, the Board agreed it should be a standalone ordinance and not added to the Noise Ordinance.

Following discussion the motion was approved 4-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Greene and a second by Commissioner Vaughn, the meeting was recessed at 4:57pm to 2:30 pm on Thursday, August 29th at the Universal Conference Room.

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David N. Walker
Chairman