

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
February 10, 2023 Minutes

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met with the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees on Friday, February 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Walter & Marie Williams Bldg. Conference Room, Winterville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Mary Perkins-Williams, Chairwoman
Benji Holloman, Commissioner
Ann Floyd Huggins, Commissioner
Melvin McLawhorn, Commissioner
Mark C. Smith, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Pitt Community College Board of Trustee Members:

Gary Evans, Chairman
Kathy P. Frazier, Member
Lindsey Griffin, Member
Don Mills, Member
Randy Walters, Member
Dr. Patti Sanders-Smith, Member

County Staff present:

Janis Gallagher, County Manager
Sam Croom, Deputy County Manager/Chief Financial Officer
Mike Taylor, Deputy County Manager/Chief Information Officer
Jordan Smith, County Attorney
James Rhodes, Assistant County Manager Planning & Environmental/Planning Director
Tim Corley, Assistant County Manager/County Engineer
Florida Hardy, Assistant County Manager People & Community/HR Director
Kimberly Hines, Clerk to the Board

Pitt Community College staff present:

Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President
Ernis Lee, Assistant Vice President for Community Outreach
Ricky Brown, Vice President of Finance/CEO
Dr. Brian Miller, Vice President, Planning & Research
Marianne Cox, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Dr. Ina Rawlinson, Vice President Human Resources/Information Technology Services/Safety
Linda King, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President

Call to Order

Mrs. Gallagher provided condolences on behalf of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners for the recent passing of Dr. Thomas Gould, Executive Vice President of Pitt Community College. She stated many had the good fortune to serve with him on various boards and projects. He was a wonderful person and a dedicated servant. She stated he would be pleased to see the group collaborating together in an effort to best serve the community.

Dr. Rouse stated they hope to have a celebration of life event for Dr. Gould in the coming weeks.

Dr. Rouse spoke of building construction at the college and stated the college could not have moved forward on the current projects without the continued support of the County Commissioners. He thanked them for their continued support and collaboration. He stated in 2021-2022, enrollment was more than 10,000 students, making Pitt Community College the 7th largest school among the 58 community colleges in North Carolina. He stated it is also the most densely populated.

Mrs. Gallagher stated Pitt County is thrilled to provide the financial support to make a new welding building a reality. She stated the County believes that utilization of opioid funding to support the re-entry program will transform lives, and are proud to continue to fund the bulldog promise to remove financial barriers to education.

Gary Evans, Chair, Pitt Community College Board and Chairwoman Perkins-Williams, Pitt County Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

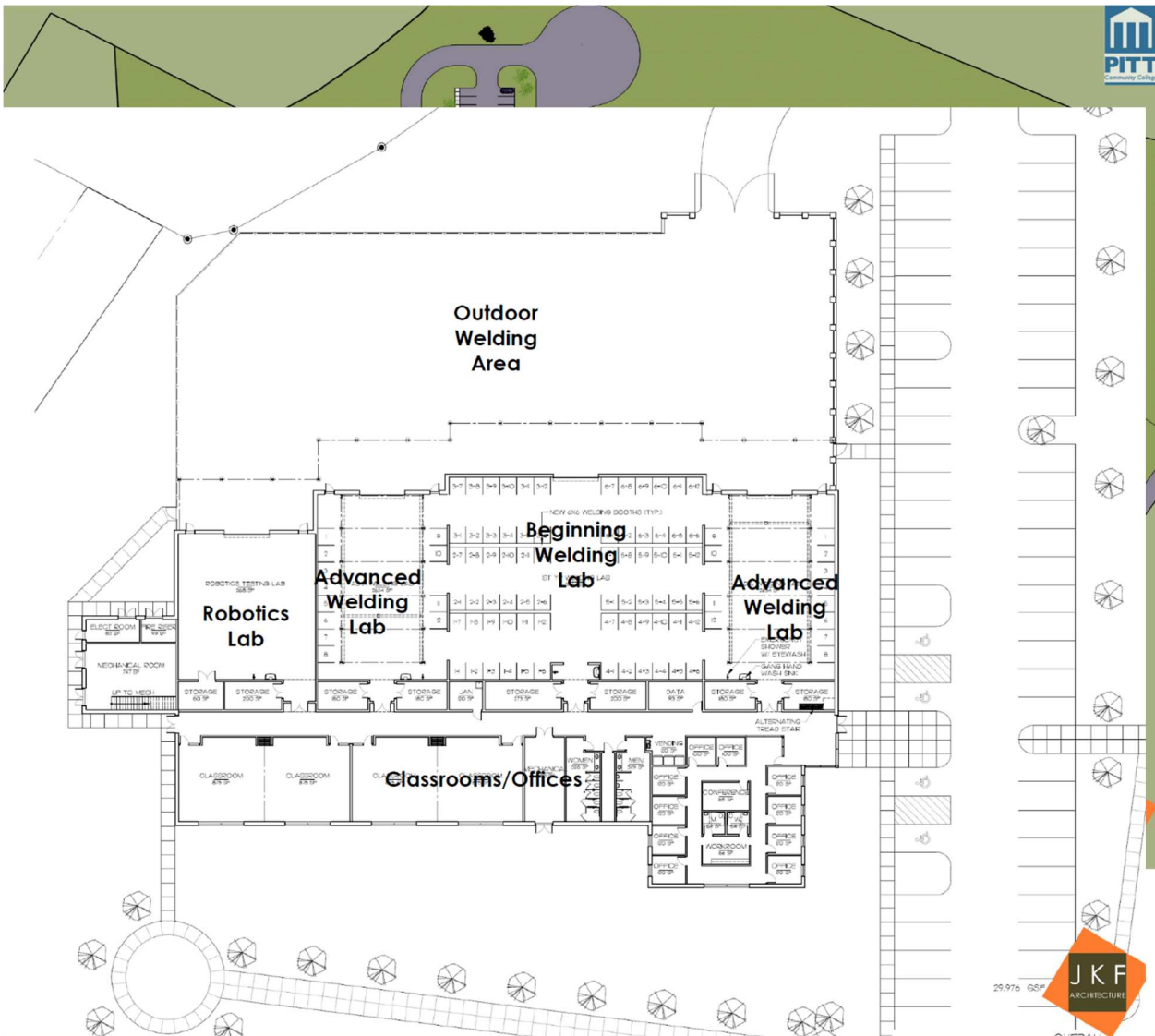
Chairman Evans stated they have exhausted the property and will need access to the 130-acre Davenport property behind the college to expand. He stated the county's help will be needed so they can continue to grow. He reminded the Board that Pitt Community College is still the most crowded community college campus in the system.

Introductions and opening remarks were given by the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees and the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.

John Farkas, JFK Architecture presented the following Power Point presentation.



NEW WELDING BUILDING



Mr. Lee spoke about the re-entry program. He stated Pitt Community College and the Pitt County Sheriff's Office continue to partner to provide services that will help those incarcerated successfully re-enter society once released from the Pitt County Detention Center. He stated the program has had 367 client referrals since August 2021, including 266 for employment, 86 for education, 177 for substance abuse and 169 for housing.

Mrs. Gallagher stated the county is involved in a lot of projects but she will highlight the top five at this time. She stated the County is thrilled to provide support for the welding program. She spoke of the 2024 reappraisal process and stated Tax Administration is tasked with reappraising 76,000 parcels. She stated the 2024 reappraisal will be performed to ensure assessments reflect current market value and that taxation is fair and equitable for each of our citizens. She stated there is a significant increase in property value expected given the current housing market. She asked members of Senior Leadership Team to speak briefly in regard to broadband, Envision 2045, and the Sheriff's Administration Building.

Mr. Taylor stated that Bright speed was awarded a \$4M GREAT grant for broadband. He stated contracts have been delayed awaiting guidance from the US Treasury on the State's use of ARPA funds. He stated future grant opportunities through CAB will be available once GREAT contracts are executed.

Mr. Rhodes spoke about the Envision 2045 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. He stated Pitt County, in collaboration with the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the NC Department of Transportation, has developed a comprehensive land use plan that will help guide future growth and development in Pitt County. He encouraged individuals to visit the county's website for additional information.

Mr. Corley stated the new Sheriff's Administration Building will be located on the corner of Greene Street and New Hope Road. He stated the building will be 33,000 sq. ft. at a cost of approximately \$15.6M with construction provided by Daniels & Daniels Construction Company out of Goldsboro. He stated the groundbreaking took place a few weeks ago and the project should be complete within a year and a half.

Mrs. Gallagher stated part of the Chairwoman's initiative this year is to host a Regional Economic Development Summit with partnering agencies. She stated the summit is planned for June 21, 2023 and additional information is forthcoming.

Transportation needs were discussed among both parties. Dr. Rouse stated while Pitt Community College draws students from surrounding counties, he is particularly concerned about transportation for residents who reside North of the Tar River. Chairwoman Perkins-Williams agreed and stated residents do not have the funds for the needed transportation. Mrs. Gallagher stated she is optimistic about the County's ability to partner with Pitt Community College to provide transportation to campus.

Dr. Rawlinson talked about the need for funds to upgrade locks on campus. She stated they are a large campus and the small law enforcement staff is spread over multiple shifts. She stated remote controlled locks on the buildings are imperative in today's world. She stated when the buildings were built, high security threats were not an issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly W. Hines
Clerk to the Board