

MINUTES
NASH COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
May 13, 2025

The Nash County Tourism Development Authority met on May 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nash County Administrative Building. Present were Robbie B. Davis, Chairman and members Judy Winstead, Kay Mitchell, Retho Williams, Brenda Stallings, Allen Corbett, Miranda Knight, Chelsea Baines, Earlene Bailey, and Lauren Williams.

Also present were Nikki Stanton, Nash County Finance Director; Mary Edwards, Nash County Specialist I; Susan Wilder, Finance Technician II; and Barbara Green, Nash County Tourism Director and Bill Lehnes with the Nash County Travel and Tourism Council; Leigh Deans with Bailey Chamber of Commerce; Maurine Brown, Nash County Cooperative Extension Market Manager; Shelly Gray with Nash County Arts Council; Jean Bailey, Jennifer Harris, and Dr. Dan Crocker with Tar River Orchestra; Julie Baggett with Rocky Mount Mills; Amy Beasley with Nashville Chamber of Commerce; Clarise Bisette with Spring Hope Area Chamber of Commerce; Randy Mayes and Tracy Shearin with Town of Castalia; Lyn Brown with Rocky Mount Rotary; Sheila Martin with The Dunn Center; Mayor Kyle Pritchard with the Nash Arts as Fiscal Sponsor for Pig at the Depo BBQ Festival and with Spring Hope Fire Department and Ladies Axillary with the Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival organizers Ashley Brumfield, Cindy Ridgway, Shyanne Brown, Steve Brumfield, Tina Norville; and Bishop Shelton Daniel with Joy Community Development Corporation; Koy Worrell and Ashley Hamlet with Town of Nashville Parks & Recreation; and Jo Amos with Middlesex Police Department. Chairman Davis welcomed all members and guests and introduced Miranda Knight, Chelsea Baines, and Misty Lee as new board members.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025. Motion was made by Kay Mitchell, seconded by Brenda Stallings, and duly passed that the minutes of January 14, 2025 be approved. Chairman Davis then asked for approval of the minutes of the Special Call meeting held April 2, 2025. Motion was made by Kay Mitchell, seconded by Miranda Knight, and duly passed that the minutes of April 2, 2025 be approved.

Chairman Davis introduced Nash County's Finance Director, Nikki Stanton, and then called her to present the 2025 Audit Contract from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co, P.A. for consideration of approval. Ms. Stanton stated that the contract cost for the audit services and preparation of the annual financial statements is \$6,750. A motion to approve the contract was made by Kay Mitchell, seconded by Judy Winstead, and duly passed that the audit contract for FY2024/2025 be approved.

Chairman Davis then called upon Finance Director, Nikki Stanton, to present the financial information. Ms. Stanton presented the YTD Budget Report and indicated the information is for the period July 1, 2024 through May 13, 2025 which included occupancy tax collections through March. Revenue is showing at 75% through March and expenses at 85% through mid-May. Ms. Stanton also requested a Budget Transfer approval for administrative costs in the amount of \$1,200 from line item special events to cover estimated administrative costs through the end of the fiscal year which included unanticipated additional stipend fees due to a special call meeting. Motion was made to approve the Budget Transfer by Miranda Knight, seconded by Retho Williams, and duly passed that the Budget Transfer requested for administrative costs be approved.

Chairman Davis called for a Public Hearing for the Nash County Tourism Development Authority FY2025-2026 Budget Presentations. On a motion by Brenda Stallings, seconded by Kay Mitchell and duly passed that the Board go into a public hearing. Referring to the funding request chart below: Chairman Davis called the representatives to present their funding request presentations for FY2025-2026:

	SPONSOR	EVENT REPRESENTATIVE	EVENT	REQUEST
1	Tar River Choral & Orchestral Society Inc	Jean Bailey-Presenter, Guests-Jennifer Harris and Dr Crocker	The Music of Sting & The Police featuring the Tar River Orchestra with Jeans 'n Classics	30,000.00
2	Rocky Mount Rotary	Lyn Brown	Tackle the Tar-5K Obstacle Course & Mud Run	15,000.00
3a	Nash County Farmers Mkt	Maurine Brown	Farmers Mkt Events	10,000.00
4	Town of Nashville	Koy Worrell-Presenter, Guest-Ashley Hamlet	Nashville Farmers Market Music Series	10,000.00
5a	Bailey Chamber of Commerce	Leigh Deans	NC Sweetpotato Festival	20,000.00
5b	Bailey Chamber of Commerce	Leigh Deans	Christmas in Bailey	10,000.00
6a	Town of Castalia	Randy Mayes-Presenter, Guest-Tracy Shearin	July 4th Independence Day Celebration	20,000.00
6b	Town of Castalia	Randy Mayes-Presenter, Guest-Tracy Shearin	Christmas Tree Lighting	5,000.00
6c	Town of Castalia	Randy Mayes-Presenter, Guest-Tracy Shearin	Castalia Pole Banners celebrating Small Town America	7,000.00
7	Middlesex Police Department	Joe Amos	Middlesex Police National Night Out	5,000.00
8	Nashville Chamber of Commerce	Amy Beasley	Nashville Blooming Festival	37,000.00
9	Nash Arts Non-Profit as the Fiscal Sponsor	Mayor Kyle Prichard, Guests-Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival Organizers	Spring Hope National Pumpkin Festival	30,000.00
10	Spring Hope Area Chamber of Commerce	Claris Bissette	Dan Finch Potters Market	3,500.00
11	Spring Hope Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary	Mayor Kyle Prichard presented in Stephanie Lester's absence	Pig at the Depo BBQ Festival	6,500.00
12	Joy Community Development Corporation	Bishop Shelton Daniel	Unity in Community Festival 2025	10,000.00
13a	The Dunn Center	Shelia Martin	National Dance Competitions	25,000.00
13b	The Dunn Center	Shelia Martin	The Life & Art of Charles M Schultz	25,000.00
14	Nash County Arts	Shelly Gray	Nashville Showcase Series	17,000.00
15	Rocky Mount Mills	Julie Baggett	Rocky Mount Mills Community Events	35,000.00
16	Travel and Tourism	Bill Lehnes, Barbara Green	Travel and Tourism	693,611.00
			Totals	1,014,611.00

After the presentations were completed, Chairman Davis called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made Kay Mitchell, seconded by Judy Winstead, and duly passed that the public hearing was closed. Chairman Davis thanked the guests for attending. The Board took a short recess.

Budget Work Session:

Chairman Davis began the budget work session by opening discussion noting that the items in the Recommended Column on the FY2025-2026 Working Budget Document were to be considered only as a starting point for discussion of all of the requested items.

The chart below represents the funding requests and the funding motions of approvals:

			FY2026	FY2026		
	SPONSOR	EVENT	REQUEST	APPROVED MOTION OF FUNDING	MADE MOTION	SECONDED MOTION
1	Tar River Choral & Orchestral Society/Inc	The Music of Sting & The Police featuring the Tar River Orchestra with Jeans n Classics	30,000.00	30,000.00	Allen Corbett	Retho Williams
2	Rocky Mount Rotary	Tackle the Tar-5K Obstacle Course & Mud Run	15,000.00	15,000.00	Allen Corbett	Brenda Stallings
3	Nash County Farmers Mkt	Farmers Mkt Events	10,000.00	10,000.00	Miranda Knight	Judy Winstead
4	Town of Nashville	Nashville Farmers Market Music Series	10,000.00	10,000.00	Judy Winstead	Lauren Williams
5a	Bailey Chamber of Commerce	NC Sweetpotato Festival	20,000.00	12,500.00	Allen Corbett	Brenda Stallings
5b	Bailey Chamber of Commerce	Christmas in Bailey	10,000.00	7,500.00	Allen Corbett	Lauren Williams
6a	Town of Castalia	July 4th Independence Day Celebration	20,000.00	15,000.00	Retho Williams	Earlene Bailey
6b	Town of Castalia	Christmas Tree Lighting	5,000.00	5,000.00	Judy Winstead	Retho Williams
6c	Town of Castalia	Castalia Pole Banners celebrating Small Town America	7,000.00	0.00	Retho Williams	Miranda Knight
7	Middlesex Police Department	Middlesex Police National Night Out	5,000.00	5,000.00	Kay Mitchell	Retho Williams
8	Nashville Chamber of Commerce	Nashville Blooming Festival	37,000.00	35,000.00	Kay Mitchell	Brenda Stallings
9	Nash Arts Non-Profit as the Fiscal Sponsor	Spring Hope National Pumpkin Festival	30,000.00	20,000.00	Miranda Knight	Brenda Stallings
10	Spring Hope Area Chamber of Commerce	Dan Finch Potters Market	3,500.00	3,500.00	Kay Mitchell	Retho Williams
11	Spring Hope Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary	Pig at the Depo BBQ Festival	6,500.00	0.00	Kay Mitchell	Brenda Stallings
12	Joy Community Development Corporation	Unity in Community Festival 2025	10,000.00	10,000.00	Miranda Knight	Retho Williams
13a	The Dunn Center	National Dance Competitions	25,000.00	10,000.00	Kay Mitchell	Retho Williams
13b	The Dunn Center	The Life & Art of Charles M Schultz	25,000.00	25,000.00	Allen Corbett	Brenda Stallings
14	Nash County Arts	Nashville Showcase Series	17,000.00	15,000.00	Brenda Stallings	Miranda Knight
15	Rocky Mount Mills	Rocky Mount Mills Community Events	35,000.00	35,000.00	Kay Mitchell	Retho Williams
16	Travel and Tourism	Travel and Tourism	693,611.00	693,611.00	Kay Mitchell	Judy Winstead
Totals			1,014,611.00	957,111.00		

a) Pig at the Depo BBQ Festival was postponed from FY25 to FY26, No Funds released which were awarded in FY25 but will be re-appropriated to use in FY26

In addition, the following items were considered for the FY2025-2026 Budget based on the amount as presented on the recommendations:

Retail Developer \$46,000
Eco Dev Support \$75,000
Professional fees \$8,000
Administrative costs \$2,500
Utilities \$40,000
Special Events \$10,000
Contributions \$1,000
Reserve \$145,389

In consideration of the adoption of the FY2025-2026 TDA Budget, Chairman Davis reported the proposed FY2025-2026 TDA Recommended budget as revised is \$1,139,611 which includes estimated collections of \$1,250,000, estimated investment earnings of \$35,000 and an expenditure reserve of \$145,389 to balance the budget of \$1,139,611. A motion was made by Retho Williams to approve the proposed budget, seconded by Kay Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously for the Adoption of the FY2025-2026 TDA Budget.

New Business:

Chairman Davis stated that the next TDA meetings will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The location being at the Nash County Administration Building in the Commissioner's Room.

TDA Board Members Update –There are two open positions on the Board. One is a tourism member position and the other is a public member position. Chair Robbie Davis indicated he would actively seek a replacement and asked the TDA Board members to provide recommendations if available.

Other Discussion:

Funding notification letters will be sent to the outside agencies based on the FY2025-2026 adopted budget.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Davis thanked the board members for attending the special call meeting and stated House Bill 332 still sits as originally filed but the May 8th, “crossover” deadline had passed.

Chairman Davis stated that the board could possibly discuss a new proposal for tracking agencies funding and their event summaries in the January 13, 2026 meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Brenda Stallings made a motion, seconded by Kay Mitchell. The meeting was adjourned by approval of the board.

Mary Edwards
Finance Specialist I