

Haywood County “Toeprints”

January 16, 2023

Vol. #14 Issue #4 (Subject: Who is Jason Walls - Economic Development Council (past Chair)?)

www.haywoodtp.net

What’s Happening?

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Haywood County Taxpayers of what transpires at the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings. This newsletter will be written from the perspective of a casual observer, myself. Any opinions expressed will be mine.

Who is Jason Walls?

Clues abound, but still remains elusive.

Jason Walls popped up as a current member of the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce. On www.haywoodtp.net

[Haywood County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. 1/9/2023...](http://www.haywoodchamber.com/the-chamber/leadership/board-of-directors/1/9/2023...)

<https://www.haywoodchamber.com/the-chamber/leadership/board-of-directors/>



Jason Walls, Duke Energy

Then he popped up in an article by **Cory Vaillancourt** of the smn tabloid on January 12, 2022.

<https://smokymountainnews.com/archives/item/32884-haywood-edc-board-evolves>

In the first two (2) paragraphs of this article, **Cory Vaillancourt** writes:

“Details are scarce, but a Jan. 4 letter from the Haywood Chamber of Commerce is clear: the Haywood Economic Development Council is about to undergo massive change.

“As we begin the post pandemic recovery, the Chamber and the County wish to create a new economic development board to reflect the current challenges of workforce, affordable housing and broadband,” reads the letter, signed by EDC Chair **Jason Walls**, Haywood Chamber President **CeCe Hipps** and Haywood County Manager **Bryant Morehead**.”

So, Jason Walls was the EDC Chair when the EDC was dissolved on January 4, 2022!

Who is Jason Walls? A brief check of the Haywood County Voter Registration list came up empty. WTF? Other search mechanisms also failed. Is the guy a ghost?

Then a Google search “Jason Walls, Duke Energy” revealed the following article:

<https://wnccommunities.org/2022/duke-energy-donates-10000-to-wnc-honors-awards/>

This came from the WNC Communities web site. As short article, and a picture.



WNC Communities was thrilled to receive a donation of \$10,000 from Duke Energy to support our 72nd Annual WNC Honors Awards.

Well, that sure looks like the same person to me, down to the Duke Energy logo on his vest. Other clues from people in the know, indicated that Jason Walls lives in Arden, in Buncombe County!

WTF?

There is more than one Jason Walls in Buncombe County.

- Jason Allen Walls, Arden
- Jason William Walls, Fletcher

Don't know for sure which one this is, but they both vote REP.

The question I have is why is someone from Buncombe County (presumably) on the Board of Directors for the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce?

More to the point, why was a past Chair of the Economic Development Council, now defunct, living in Buncombe County (presumably)?

Isn't Haywood Taxpayer Funds approved by Haywood County Commissioners being funneled through the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce, then on through the (now defunct) EDC then given to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce?

The following is an example of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce attempting to peddle the **James Weaver "Kirk" Kirkpatrick the III** Super Duper Sports Complex, a.k.a. The **David Francis** Dirt Spreading Project, a.k.a. the J Creek Property, the apparent sole property the Asheville Chamber of Commerce attempted to promote for Haywood County?

[WTF? Have county commissioners been pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Economic Development Council \(EDC\) for five \(5\) years, going to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce to advertise the David Francis Dirt Spreading Project \(J. Creek Property\)? My title should be changed to "The Six-and-a-half Million Dollar Man"! 1/7/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230106EDC-Site-Jonathan-Creek-2021.pdf>

The thing that looks bad here, is that Jason Walls seems like a hero in Buncombe County, convincing the Haywood County Chamber into moving Haywood County Taxpayer funds over to Buncombe County?

Perhaps Jason Walls need to speak one evening over at the Buttered Biscuit and explain what is going on.

By the way, in the above promotion by the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, it includes a drawing by McGill Associates peddling what appears to be an industrial application. As we now all know, Haywood County finally sold this property, not to an industrial customer, but a housing developer, and not the one approved by county commissioners.

Commissioners approved the sale to go to:


- Quite Creek Properties LLC, William B. Taylor, Member.

But it was sold to:

- Jonathan Creek LLC, William B. Taylor, Owner Manager.

The property was sold for \$1.8M, as approved.

Highlights



\$1,800,000
Lots/Acres/Farms
1585 Jonathan Creek Road
Waynesville, NC 28785
22.09 acres
none
MLS #3927344

Recently Sold

However, since the property was sold by Haywood County, GIS and the Tax Collection Department will never see the sale price, because it does not appear on the new deed as an Excise Tax. Therefore, the current assessed value of the land remains at it's pre-sale value of \$739,600.

The Haywood County Taxpayers get screwed again.

Sigh.

Legend: If any name is in **bold**, it can't be a good thing.

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Si vis pacem, para bellum

