

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, August 25, 2025

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chair Nida Allam, Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee and Commissioners Michelle Burton and Stephen Valentine

Excused Absence: Commissioner Wendy Jacobs

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid
Participants: 2

Closed Session – 5:00 PM

The Board requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee; pursuant to G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn into Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice Chair Dr. Lee, to approve the salary changes for the following positions:

- Clerk to the Board - 12.91 percent increase
- County Attorney - 10.42 percent increase
- Board of Commissioners Chair - 3.36 percent increase

- Board of Commissioners - 1.4 percent increase
- County Manager - 6.78 percent increase
- Register of Deeds - 1.127 percent increase
- Tax Administrator – 12.126 percent increase

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Jacobs for the August 25, 2025, Regular Session meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Vice Chair Dr. Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board, read the following announcements:

1. **Durham County to Observe Labor Day Holiday** – Most Durham County Government offices will be closed for in observance of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 1, 2025. All offices will reopen with normal business hours on Tuesday, September 2. Please note that the Board of County Commissioners' Work Session will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2, not the usual first Monday of the month. For other impacts to services, visit www.dconc.gov.
2. **Durham County Residents Mailed Tax Bills** – The Durham County Tax Administration mailed out 2025 property tax bills to all real property owners on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Current year bills are due by September 1, 2025, and may be paid without penalty through Monday, January 5, 2026. Property owners may visit www.dconc.gov/tax or call 919-560-0300 for more information. To search online for your tax bill, visit <https://property.spataleest.com/nc/durham-tax/#/>.
3. **Disaster Recovery Center Open Through Aug. 30** – If you were impacted by Tropical Depression Chantal, you can get in-person help at the Durham County Library North Regional Branch (221 Milton Rd.) through Saturday, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. Apply for disaster aid and loans, connect with recovery agencies, and get information on resources available. Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. More info: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/4888>.

4. **Briggs Avenue Community Garden Fall Festival & Plant Sale** – The Durham County Cooperative Extension is holding its annual Briggs Avenue Community Garden Fall Festival and Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. Come out to 1314 S. Briggs Avenue for free seeds and compost, ask a Master Gardener Table, pepper tasting, kids activities, and the plant sale (cash and check only!). Info: <https://durham.ces.ncsu.edu/event/4829739950/briggs-ave-garden-fall-festival-plant-sale/>.
5. **Welcome Baby's 2nd Annual Socktember** – Join Welcome Baby and help smash the goal of 4,000 pair of socks during the 2nd Annual Socktember Sock Drive during the month of September! Donate children's socks – sizes newborn through children's 9 – at 721 Foster Street. All donations will be shared with families during the weekly Giving Closet. You can organize your own sock drive in your neighborhood, social club, sports team, work, or faith community. Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Cindy Riley at ckriley@dconc.gov or 919-560-7319.
6. **500 East Main Street Parking Deck Opened Aug. 25** – Durham County's 500 E. Main Street parking deck (physical address of 114 S. Elizabeth Street) is now open to the public as of today, Monday, August 25, 2025. Residents visiting the Human Services Building at 414 E. Main Street, will be allowed to utilize the deck – receiving parking validation inside the Departmental Lobby service areas. You must present your parking ticket for validation. Please note, if you do not receive validation, regular parking deck charges will apply. The deck has three entrances (Main, Dillard and Elizabeth) streets available for use.
7. **Protect Yourself from West Nile Virus** – Mosquito activity is high this time of year, so it's important to protect yourself from mosquito bites and illnesses carried by mosquitoes like West Nile virus. Prevent West Nile virus by avoiding mosquito bites, by applying EPA-registered insect repellent, wearing long clothing, using screens on doors and windows, and dumping standing water in objects like birdbaths and tires to prevent mosquitoes breeding near water. For more information on West Nile virus, visit <https://CDC.gov/WestNile>.
8. **HomeShare Durham** – HomeShare Durham is looking to help people seeking affordable housing with those who have extra space. This offers companionship support, reduce housing costs and provide security and stability. For more information, please visit www.dcia.org/homesharedurham or email homesharedurham@gmail.com

Commissioner Burton stated she attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference August 21 - August 23, 2025, in Greenville, North Carolina. She shared a brief overview of sessions that covered Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid programs and additional services for incarcerated individuals.

Commissioner Valentine stated he also attended the Annual Conference and appreciated the bipartisan support for maintaining funding for SNAP benefits and Medicaid programs.

Minutes

Vice Chair Dr. Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the August 4, 2025, Work Session minutes and the August 11, 2025, Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

Resolution – To Be Read/Recognized

25-0451 Resolution – Honoring the Life of Thomas Henry Krakauer

Commissioner Burton read the following resolution:

THOMAS HENRY KRAKAUER

WHEREAS, Thomas Henry Krakauer was born in 1942 in Buffalo New York, to Dr. Hans and Elizabeth Krakauer, and transitioned on June 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, he pursued higher education earning a B.S. from the University of Rochester, a M.S. from the University of Miami, as well as a Ph.D. in zoology and physiology from the University of Florida in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 he entered the museum field as the director of the Roanoke Valley Science Museum in Roanoke, Virginia and during his time there he grew the facility from a 400-square foot children's museum to a modern regional institution complete with interactive science exhibits and a planetarium; and

WHEREAS, Tom accepted the position of president and CEO of Durham's Museum of Life and Science in 1985 and increased the museum's annual operating budget from \$675,000 to \$4.2 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, under his visionary leadership, beloved additions like the Magic Wings Butterfly House came to life, and the Museum grew in both scope and impact. During his tenure, he secured six National Science Foundation grants, which helped shape the Museum's future in informal science education; and

WHEREAS, he received many awards and honors for his work and was generous with donations to various organizations, including a permanent endowment in memory of his late wife Janet for support of botanical illustration at UNC-Chapel Hill's North Carolina Botanical Garden; and

WHEREAS, after retiring in 2003, Tom devoted his considerable skills and talents to helping to establish and lead the Museum of Durham History; and

WHEREAS, we pause to honor this remarkable man who will always be remembered as an accomplished birder, butterfly enthusiast, and genealogist and for his "positivity, energy and vision".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to pay tribute to the life and legacy of

THOMAS HENRY KRAKAUER

An amazing man who was a national leader in the field of museums of science and technology.

This the 25th day of August 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Proclamation – To Be Acknowledged Only

PREPAREDNESS MONTH | 2025

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month, occurring annually in September since September 11th, 2004, creates an ideal opportunity for every resident of Durham County, North Carolina, to join citizens across the United States in preparing their homes, businesses, and communities for any type of emergency, including natural, technological, and human caused; and

WHEREAS, the federal landscape remains fluid, placing an even greater emphasis upon local emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, disasters start and end at the local level; and

WHEREAS, planning now, before a disaster is the best way to improve community resiliency from disaster; and

WHEREAS, City/County Emergency Management partners with federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private, and volunteer agencies to educate individuals on local hazards and how to prepare for them; and

WHEREAS, City/County Emergency Management informs residents on how to take action, through its Alert Durham public education campaign; and

WHEREAS, all residents of Durham County, North Carolina, are urged to plan ahead for disasters and encourage their family and friends to do so by visiting the County's preparedness campaign website at www.alertdurham.com.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of September as

“PREPAREDNESS MONTH”

in Durham, North Carolina and, we encourage the community to observe this month by preparing for emergencies before they occur in Durham County, North Carolina.

This the 25th day of August 2025

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Mark Lockhart, Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director stated taking small steps to know your risk, making a family emergency plan and building an emergency supply kit would make a difference in being prepared for emergencies.

Chair Allam thanked Mr. Lockhart and the OES for keeping residents and the community educated on emergencies and disasters.

Consent Agenda

Chair Allam asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Chair Allam entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0461 Authorize the County Manager to Execute a Purchase of Goods Contract with GreenTech Solutions Group, LLC for the 500 E Main Street Parking Deck Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in the amount of \$75,684.65 plus contingency with a Not to Exceed amount of \$80,684.65

*25-0473 Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC016 appropriating General Fund Balance Totaling \$312,000 for the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program

*25-0474 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for July 2025

25-0479 Amend the Contract with H3 Cleaning Solutions in the amount of \$7,774.40 for weekend Day Porter Janitorial Services at Main Library, for total contract amount of \$421,276.43 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, with the option to renew annually, as well as authorize the County Manager to execute future contract amendments if funds are available in the General Services Budget

25-0480 Approval of a Letter of Support for a Feasibility Study for a Passenger Rail Station in RTP

25-0482 Authorize the County Manager and the Stadium Authority to enter into a MOU with DPS - City of Medicine Academy

25-0484 Approval of Annual Settlement of 2024 Property Taxes and Charge of 2025 Property Taxes to the Tax Collector

25-0486 Approval of Durham County Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board Chair

Consent Agenda Item #25-0473

**Durham County, North Carolina
2025-2026 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 26BCC016**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2025-2026 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$10,485,821.00	\$312,000.00	\$10,797,821.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$30,165,510.00	\$312,000.00	\$30,477,510.00

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved August 25, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0474

Releases and Refunds – July 2025

Current Year 2025 Taxes	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$9,583.86	\$15,414.36	
Personal Property	\$0.00	\$1,290.14	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Public Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$19,278.05	
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$279.01	
SUB – TOTAL	\$9,583.86	\$36,261.56	\$45,845.42
Prior Year 2015-2023	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$101,617.82	\$111,397.14	
Personal Property	\$0.00	\$411.79	
GAP Vehicles	\$0.00	\$131.84	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$291.22	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUB - TOTAL	\$101,617.82	\$112,231.99	\$213,849.81
GRAND TOTAL	\$111,201.68	\$148,493.55	\$259,695.23

Other Business

25-0475 Resolution - Supporting State Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Board read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves 13% of households in North Carolina (FRAC, 2025). As of July 2025, there are 1,357,112 SNAP participants in NC and 32,660 in Durham County; and

- WHEREAS,** four in five families participating in SNAP in NC have either a child, a senior, or an adult with a disability (NC DHHS, 2025); and
- WHEREAS,** substantial research has shown that SNAP improves both food security and numerous health outcomes for participants (FRAC, 2017); and
- WHEREAS,** every dollar in SNAP benefits generates \$1.50-\$1.80 for local economies (NC DHHS, 2025), and SNAP is especially helpful to the economy during financial downturns; and
- WHEREAS,** over 9000 retailers – including grocery stores and farmers’ markets - in NC accepted SNAP and redeemed a total of \$3,974,844,947 in SNAP benefits in 2023 (FRAC, 2025); and
- WHEREAS,** SNAP incentive programs at farmers’ markets support agriculture, bringing \$500,000 to over 400 NC farmers each year (NCFMN, 2025); and
- WHEREAS,** research shows that annual healthcare costs for adult SNAP participants are \$1,400 (or 25%) lower than low-income non-participants (CBPP, 2023), and a study of older adults in NC shows that SNAP was associated with annual Medicaid savings of \$2,360 per person (BD Trust, 2021); and
- WHEREAS,** SNAP participation increases access to school meals for NC students through direct certification, and school meals support better health, academic performance, and attendance (SMFANC, 2024); and
- WHEREAS,** H.R.1, or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, shifted some SNAP benefit costs to states for the first time in the program’s history; and
- WHEREAS,** the NC Department of Health and Human Services estimates that the cost to North Carolina for this policy change will be \$420 million annually, beginning in FY 2027-2028; and
- WHEREAS,** the SNAP program in North Carolina will be eliminated if the state chooses not to pay the increased cost share; and
- WHEREAS,** while SNAP benefits currently provide nine meals for every one meal provided by local food banks and pantries across the state, local food banks already report an increase in individuals seeking essential food items and a simultaneous decrease in federal funding for their services, and a reduction in SNAP benefits would further strain food bank and pantry resources; and
- WHEREAS,** elimination of SNAP in NC would result in 500,000 children losing automatic qualification for school meals (NCDHHS, 2025); and
- WHEREAS,** the additional elimination of federal SNAP-Ed funding in October will further compound food security and economic impacts for NC residents, as SNAP-Ed returns an estimated \$5.36 in health and economic benefits including educational attainment, lifetime earnings, and life expectancy for every for every \$1 spent (NC SNAP-Ed, 2025); and
- WHEREAS,** losing SNAP in North Carolina would have devastating impacts on children, disabled individuals, older adults, and working families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Durham Board of County Commissioners are in support of state funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and call upon the North Carolina General Assembly to approve the estimated \$420 million annual state budget appropriation required to continue the program beginning in FY 2027-2028.

This the 25th day of August 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Vice Chair Dr. Lee to adopt the resolution supporting state funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The motion carried unanimously.

Raina Goldstein Bunnag, County Food Security Coordinator (Cooperative Extension) thanked the Board for approving the resolution. She stated the resolution was important to residents, businesses and suppliers in the community.

The Board thanked Ms. Bunnag, Maggie Clapp, Director of the Department of Social Services and Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director, for their collaboration in helping the residents and the community.

The Board inquired about getting information about SNAP to residents. Claudia Hager, County Manager replied the resolution would help the County to commit to sharing information with residents and elevating the importance of SNAP. The Board asked residents to reach out to their elected representatives about funding for SNAP since the State and Federal levels make the final decisions. The Board asked the Clerk to send the resolution to Federal and State Delegations and Kevin Leonard, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Directive: Chair Allam requested the Clerk to send the resolution to Federal, State Delegation and Kevin Leonard, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Public Hearings

25-0437 Public Hearing to Consider the Naming Request for William V. “Bill” Bell Lobby

Shannon Trapp, Director of Community Partnership and Engagement shared the *William Bell Lobby Name Request Presentation* which highlighted the following: Durham County Naming/Renaming Policy Highlights, Durham County Naming Committee, Naming Request: William V. “Bill” Bell Lobby, Committee Recommendation and Next Steps.

Chair Allam opened the Public Hearing. With no one signed up to speak, Chair Allam closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Valentine stated Mr. Bell gave his life to Durham County and City by serving as a County Commissioner and the Mayor. He asked the Board to waive the consistency of the County Naming Policy and name a building in honor of Mr. Bell instead of a lobby.

Vice Chair Dr. Lee stated the importance of giving flowers to someone while they were still alive. He stated previously, he did not support naming different attributes in Durham after Mr. Bell, noting the recent street naming ceremony by the City of Durham. Vice Chair Dr. Lee, added after speaking with Dr. Anjanée Bell, daughter of Mr. Bell and limited input from others, he reflected on the matter. He added the naming policy was for staff and the Board could suspend the policy and make a final decision. Vice Chair Lee recommended that the Board suspend the Naming Policy and re-name County Administration Building II after Mr. Bell.

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney stated the Board would need to advertise another public hearing to address the change for a different naming request.

Commissioner Valentine stated for the record, from the start of the process he supported the naming request for a building and not a lobby.

Vice Chair Dr. Lee asked if the public hearing to consider the naming request could be added to the September 8, 2025, Regular Session meeting agenda. Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board replied yes, adding the public hearing could be advertised for 10 days prior to the September 8th Regular Session meeting – those days also including the weekend.

Commissioner Burton stated she supported and approved of the public hearing to consider the naming request at the September 8th Regular Session meeting.

Chair Allam asked if the applicant was aware of the public hearing. Ms. Trapp replied yes, adding Dr. Bell was a professor at North Carolina Central University and was teaching a class at the same time as the meeting.

Board and Commission Appointments

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

Alliance Board of Directors

Alexandria Gwynn (Allam, Burton, Lee, Valentine)

Environmental Affairs Board

Michelle “Meech” Carter (Allam, Burton, Lee, Valentine)

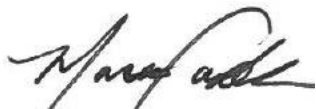
Astrid Cook Dail (Allam, Burton, Lee, Valentine)

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 7:58 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macio Carlton', written in a cursive style.

Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board