

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

Monday, September 22, 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, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid
Participants: 2

Regular Session – 7:00 PM

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

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

1. **DPS 2025 College Fair** – Thinking about college? Meet reps from national colleges and universities, explore programs and scholarships, and take your next step at the Durham Public Schools 2025 College Fair on Saturday, September 30 at the Durham Convention Center (301 W. Morgan Street). This free event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. Registration is required at <https://app.strivescan.com/registration>.
2. **Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program** – Durham homeowners can now apply for Durham County's Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program, known as LIHR. This program is a joint effort from the Durham County Department of Social Services and the Durham County Tax Administration. This program exclusively serves homeowners who have lived in their homes for at least 5 years, have no current state tax subsidies for their property, and have incomes less than or equal to 80 percent of Average Median Income (AMI). Find information and the application

here: <https://dconc.gov/Social-Services/Aging-and-Adult-Services/Low-Income-Housing-Relief-LIHR>. Call 919-560-8000 for an appointment with an LIHR specialist if you need application assistance.

3. **2025 Municipal Primary Election** – Early Voting for the 2025 Municipal Primary Election voting is being held in person at one of five early voting sites continuing through 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 4. The 2025 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., at your assigned polling place. More info at www.dconc.gov or by calling 919-560-0700.
4. **Inaugural Durham County Fall Native Plant Sale** – The Durham Cooperative Extension and Durham Soil and Water Conservation District have teamed up to host the inaugural Durham County Fall Native Plant Sale on Thursday, September 25, from 4-6 p.m. at 721 Foster Street. Come purchase native plants from local vendors Driver Street Nursery, Durham Flower Farm, Flowering Earth Natives, and Wolfberry Hawthorn Farm. Event is free to attend, but please RSVP so organizers can get an estimate of those attending, at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFw_JE-ucMvgJ5efSheDcEKagedfX5PYZp5705c_IfNPqIjQ/viewform.
5. **DCon Open Space Matching Grant Program** – The Durham County Open Space Matching Grant Program is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 cycle. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. The program is designed to assist organizations, non-profits, and residents in Durham County, both inside and outside the city limits, in preserving open space lands and promoting new or improved recreational opportunities for citizens of Durham County. Information and application instructions are available at <https://dconc.gov/Engineering-and-Environmental-Services/Open-Space-and-Real-Estate/Open-Space-Matching-Grants-Program>. Contact Brendan Moore at brmoore@dconc.gov for more information.
6. **Deer Management at Duke Forest** – The Office of the Duke Forest has announced that the 18th annual deer herd reduction program on the Duke Forest Teaching and Research Laboratory will begin on Monday, September 22 and end on Friday, December 12. During this time, the Durham, Korstian, and Blackwood Divisions will be CLOSED to public access and all recreation Monday through Friday (except Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday (Nov. 27-28). Saturdays and Sundays are OPEN normal hours of use, except for the seven-day-a-week New Hope Creek Restoration closure in the Korstian Division. Please note: Deer herd reduction will also take place in the Dailey Division of the Duke Forest from September 22 through January 1, 2026, and will remain closed seven days per week. For more information, visit <https://dukeforest.duke.edu/management/deer-management/>.
7. **Move-A-Bull City: An Open Streets Event** – Save the Date! On Sunday, October 5, from 12 to 4 p.m. a new collaboration will bring “Move-A-Bull City: An Open Streets Event” to a 1.2-mile stretch of Blackwell, Corcoran, and Foster Streets. This event will temporarily open these streets to people and closed to cars and trucks – transforming the area into a car-free public space where everyone can come enjoy walking, biking, rolling, playing, and community celebration. Partners Bike Durham, City of Durham Transportation Department, and the Partnership for Healthy Durham welcome everyone! Learn more at <https://moveabull.org>.

Commissioner Jacobs encouraged residents to complete the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan Survey to provide feedback on the project. She highlighted the launch of the Stagville Memorial Request for Proposals (RFP) and thanked Perri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services. Commissioner Jacobs shared insights from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Behavioral Health Peer Exchange in Henrico County, Virginia. She invited staff and residents to join the Board to participate in the Durham Pride Parade on Saturday, September 27th.

Commissioner Burton stated Terry David, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Families and Community Rising received the 2025 Corporate Leadership Award from the Triangle Business Journal. She shared she attended the CenterFest Festival and the Durham Arts Council celebrated CenterFest's 50th anniversary. Commissioner Burton stated she toured the Renegade and Maizon Apartments and highlighted the County's additional units of affordable housing.

Commissioner Valentine stated the 82nd National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) North Carolina State Convention would be held in Durham on September 26, 2025.

Minutes

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the September 2, 2025 Work Session minutes and the September 8, 2025 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

25-0482 Proclamation – Fire Prevention Week

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK | 2025

- WHEREAS,** Durham County is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all those living in Durham County and visiting; and
- WHEREAS,** fire remains a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and the presence of lithium-ion batteries in many household devices introduces unique fire risks; and
- WHEREAS,** most of the electronics used in homes daily including smartphones, tablets, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, and toys are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which if misused, damaged, or improperly charged, can overheat, start a fire, or explode; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) reports an increase in battery-related fires, underscoring the need for public education on the safe use of lithium-ion batteries; and
- WHEREAS,** residents should follow three key calls to action: buy only listed products, charge batteries safely, and recycle them responsibly to prevent battery-related fires; and

WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, and improper use such as overcharging, using off-brand chargers without safety certification, or exposing batteries to damage can result in fire or explosion; and

WHEREAS, the proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion batteries help prevent environmental hazards and reduce fire risks in the home and community; and

WHEREAS, Durham County Office of Emergency Services’ Fire Marshal team joined by first responders throughout the county are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of fires through prevention, safety education, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium- Ion Batteries in Your Home,” serves to remind us of the importance of using, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely to reduce the risk of fires in homes and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the October 5 – 11, 2025, as

“FIRE PREVENTION WEEK”

in Durham County, North Carolina. This 22nd day of September 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Mark Lockhart, Office of Emergency Services Director thanked the Board for recognizing the proclamation. He stated this year's focus was on the need to educate residents on safe use, charging and recycling of lithium-ion batteries.

The Board thanked Mr. Lockhart and the Emergency Services Department for keeping Durham residents educated and safe.

25-0519 Proclamation – National Clothing Insecurity Awareness Day

CLOTHING INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY | 2025

WHEREAS, September 15th is the inaugural National Clothing Insecurity Awareness Day, created by Note in the Pocket to bring national attention to an overlooked issue impacting millions of children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, one out of nine people in the United States live below the poverty level lack access to adequate, appropriate clothing. While food and housing insecurity are widely recognized, clothing insecurity remains largely invisible — despite being a basic human need; and

WHEREAS, without proper clothing, individuals face barriers to education, employment, and even their own sense of dignity; and

- WHEREAS,** in Durham, more than 50% of school aged children need support with their basic needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Note in the Pocket began addressing clothing insecurity in 2005 with a mission is to provide quality clothing to homeless and impoverished children and families with dignity and love; and
- WHEREAS,** Note in the Pocket expanded into Durham County in 2022, officially opening a location in Durham in January 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** Note in the Pocket invites the Durham community to donate gently used clothing and shoes to local organizations, host a clothing drive, support clothing distribution centers through financial donations, and spread the word to help reduce stigma and inspire action.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2025, as

“CLOTHING INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY”

in Durham County, North Carolina. This 22nd day of September 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Jacobs stated Durham County’s Welcome Baby supported families with the Giving Closet and accepted new and used maternity, baby and children’s clothing.

25-0520 Proclamation – Rooted in Wellness Day

ROOTED IN WELLNESS DAY | 2025

- WHEREAS,** Rooted in Wellness Day, is an indispensable statewide initiative that mobilizes communities across North Carolina to engage in collective action for health equity, offering free services such as heart health screenings, mammograms, immunizations, nutrition education, and Medicaid expansion information; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Black Alliance, alongside over 200 grassroots partners, leads this effort to meet people where they are—at churches, community centers, and trusted local spaces—ensuring that every person, especially those from Black and Brown communities, has the opportunity to access care with dignity and without barriers; and
- WHEREAS,** St. Mark AME Zion Church continues to be a cornerstone in advancing community health and wellness in Durham, modeling what it looks like when faith and public health walk hand in hand; and
- WHEREAS,** by serving as a host site for Rooted in Wellness Day, St. Mark AME Zion Church is not only opening its doors, but opening pathways to care, hosting Durham’s Rooted in

Wellness Day and standing as a beacon of what it means to serve the whole person—body, mind, and spirit; and

WHEREAS, this annual event affirms that our health is deeply rooted in the policies we pass, the investments we make, and community power, agency, and joy; and

WHEREAS, faith leaders and grassroots organizations are reimagining care as collective, holistic, and grounded in justice at a time when safety nets like Medicaid and SNAP are under attack; and

WHEREAS, Rooted in Wellness Day reminds us that public health is not just about medicine, but about community, policy, and the shared belief that everyone deserves to thrive; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2025, as

“ROOTED IN WELLNESS DAY”

in Durham County, North Carolina, and encourage all to recognize and appreciate Rooted in Wellness Day and its impact on our community.

This 22nd day of September 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Consent Agenda

Chair Allam asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Jacobs requested to comment on Item 25-0497 and Chair Allam requested to comment on 25-0511.

- Item 25-0497 – Commissioner Jacobs asked what would happen if the construction upfit cost exceeded the \$875,000 amount paid for by the landlord and inquired about the staffing for the Sheriff’s Annex. David LaBarre, Director of Planning and Development, Sheriff’s Office responded the construction upfit cost was discussed to ensure the project remained within the set budget. Claudia Hager, County Manager replied positions were realigned in the Sheriff’s Office budget to support five full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for the Sheriff’s Annex.
- Item 25-0511 – Chair Allam asked how much of the funding was for repairs and how much was for new construction. Perri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services responded all the funding was for repairs. Chair Allam asked for the total amount the County funds spent on repairs. County Manager Hager replied she would provide the information to the Board. She added the leadership at Duke was committed to supporting Lincoln at a different level. Chair Allam asked about having discussions with Duke about paying for repairs and the growth of repairs. Mr. Manns responded most repairs were paid for with grants by the Federal Government or by Duke. Commissioner Jacobs stated the County needed to be reimbursed by

Duke for the repairs and she looked forward to discussions with Duke and Lincoln's leadership.

Hearing no additional comments, 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.

25-0497 Approval of a Lease Agreement Between One Park Venture LLC, and the County of Durham for the Durham County Sheriff's Office Annex in Research Triangle Park (RTP)

25-0508 Authorize the Chair to Sign Required Grant Application Documents in Support of Durham County's Engineering & Environmental Services - Utilities Funding Application for Chin Page Road Lift Station

*25-0511 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No. 26CPA006 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC020 Appropriating \$591,000 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance and Transferring the Funding to the PAYGO Fund to Support the New Lincoln Community Health Center Building Modernization Upgrades Capital Project (4730DC167)

25-0517 Authorize the County Manager to Execute a Purchase of Goods Contract with Blink Charging 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

*25-0525 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for August 2025

25-0531 National Association of Counties (NACo) FEMA Sign On Letter

Consent Agenda Item #25-0511

**Durham County, North Carolina
2025-2026 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 26BCC020**

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>DEBT SERVICE FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Government	\$116,592,675.87	\$591,000.00	\$117,183,675.87
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$114,495,233.87	\$591,000.00	\$115,086,233.87

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

Approved September 22, 2025

**Durham County, North Carolina
Capital Project
Amendment Number 26CPA-06**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:
That the capital project is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Project #	Project Name	Current Budget	Increase / Decrease	Updated Budget
47302635DC167	LCHC Building Modernization Upgrades Project	\$0.00	\$591,000.00	\$591,000.00

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved September 22, 2025

Consent Agenda Item #25-0525

Releases and Refunds – August 2025

Current Year 2025 Taxes	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$411,504.41	\$33,322.86	
Personal Property	\$139,427.26	\$341.96	
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	\$27,535.01	
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUB – TOTAL	\$550,931.67	\$61,199.83	\$612,131.50
Prior Year 2015-2024	Releases	Refunds	
Real Property	\$0.00	\$2362.61	
Personal Property	\$47,557.14	\$1,455.00	
GAP Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$3.21	
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00	
VTs Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUB - TOTAL	\$47,557.14	\$3,820.82	\$51,377.96
GRAND TOTAL	\$598,488.81	\$65,020.65	\$663,509.46

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.

Audit Oversight Committee

(i) **Zhaohui Lu** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Discover Durham Tourism Development Authority

(i) **Jennings Brody** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs)

Michael Hill (Lee, Valentine)

Environmental Affairs Board

Chukwuemeka Kanu Oji (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Mark Radin (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Historic Preservation Commission

(i) **Alva Horton** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Memorial Stadium Authority

Lee Rodio (Allam, Burton, Valentine)

Kyle Mumma (Lee, Jacobs)

Closed Session

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

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations; pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

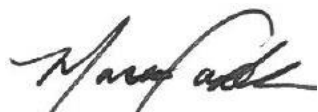
Chair Allam announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:52 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