

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

Monday, March 22, 2021

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 Brenda Howerton, Vice-Chair Wendy Jacobs and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns and Heidi Carter

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Chair Howerton announced she would like for the Board to discuss the Durham Community Safety and Wellness Taskforce vacant appointment at the end of the agenda.

Announcements

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

1. **COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling** – the Durham County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 scheduling list saw a record number of signups and Group 4 became eligible. Although the previous wait time on average was 2-4 business days, Public Health is expecting wait times to be slightly longer.

Please continue to schedule your appointments by visiting www.tinyurl.com/DCoSchedulingList

2. **Find COVID-19 Testing** – Have symptoms or being exposed to COVID-19 and need to get tested. Please visit www.dcopublichealth.org/covidtesting to find testing sites and many FREE resources in Durham.
3. **Women's History Month Celebration** – Join the YouTube Livestream on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 12pm – 1pm. This six all female panel will discuss Leadership Lessons from the Bull City and How to Empower Women in your Community.

Please register by visiting: www.tinyurl.com/crvmyedu

4. **Tax Administration Program Offerings** – The Durham County Tax Department are offering a number of programs and features to County residents. They include the following – Live Chat

Communication, Payment Partnership Agreements, Property Tax Relief Programs, Online Tax Payment Options and Advertisement of Tax Liens.

Please call 919-560-0300 or visit www.dconc.gov/tax for additional information.

5. **Businesses Receive Support from the Durham Small Business Recovery Fund** – The recovery fund, in collaboration with the City, County and Duke University Health System have provided over \$1.6million dollars since July 2020 to help small, minority and women-owned local businesses.

The Recovery Fund continues to be held and administered by the Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF). For more information, please visit www.carolinasmallbusiness.org or email durhamloan@carolinasmallbusiness.org

6. **Veteran Services is Here to Help** – Veterans, you serve us, now let us serve you and your families. If you served in the military, or if you are a surviving spouse or dependent child of a veteran Durham County Veteran Services Office is available to assist you in filing claims for VA benefits and services.

Please call 919-560-8387 (VETS) to speak with an accredited Veteran Service Officer today!

7. **You Can Move with Parkinson's: Options for Self-Management** – Join us on Thursday, March 25th from 1-2pm for a live virtual program to hear from Parkinson's Disease advocates and learn more about cost-free movement classes.

Registration is required. Please contact Jenny Levine at 919-560-0268 or by email at jelevine@dconc.gov for additional information.

8. **Durham Production Career Expo** – Looking to explore career opportunities and meet with hiring employers quickly and easily? Join the FREE virtual job fair on Wednesday, March 24th from 10am – 2pm. Please register at [www. https://portal.premiervirtual.com/event/register-jobseeker/5969-durham-production-career-expo](http://www.https://portal.premiervirtual.com/event/register-jobseeker/5969-durham-production-career-expo)

9. **2021 Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Bookmark Contest** – Durham County students in grade K – 2nd, are invited to participate in the annual Spring Bookmark Contest from March 5 – April 22nd. This year's theme is Recycling and there will be prizes form both 1st and 2nd place winners. Students can submit their entries by mail at Durham SWCD201 E. Main Street, Floor 5, Durham NC 27701.

If you have questions, please call Lisa Marochak at 919-560-0558 or email at lmrochak@dconc.gov.

10. **College Heights: Monthly History Series** – Join us on Friday, March 26, 2021 from 12pm – 1pm as Beverly Barnes Evans and Melva George Rigel share information about their community College Heights. For more information, please visit www.durhamcommunityengagement.org/our_community_stories

Chair Howerton read the following statement on behalf of the Durham County Commissioners condemning the deadly mass shootings at Atlanta Georgia area businesses:

Like many others, I watched in horror as news reports of multiple deaths resulting from three separate shooting incidents in and near Atlanta Georgia emerged Tuesday evening. I was especially heartbroken to learn that a gunman had viciously murdered eight people, the majority of whom were Asian women. Indeed, our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the victims whose lives have been forever altered by the loss of their loved ones. We also pray for the recovery of the surviving victim and his family.

Tragically, the first incident took place in Cherokee County, Georgia where five people were shot by the suspect and only one victim survived. About an hour later, the suspect traveled to Atlanta and again fired shots at victims in two other businesses located in the same proximity. Three women were shot to death inside the first business, and a fourth woman was found dead in the other business across the street.

If not for a positive ID of the gunman shared by family members as a result of cameras located at the businesses, and coordination of law enforcement officials in the two jurisdictions, the suspect most likely would have extended his killing spree to other locations, leaving more victims in his wake.

While an official motive is not yet confirmed and the investigation continues, the fact is that 8 innocent people are dead, and most of them were Asian. Over the past year, we've seen a marked increase in various crimes against members of the Asian community in our major urban centers and in smaller towns. We are mindful of the current anti-Asian sentiments that continue to escalate, and we simply cannot thrive as a nation if we continue to perpetuate a spirit of hatred against any minority groups.

Tragic, heartbreaking killings such as these continue to amplify the need for our communities to come together and show a spirit of unity. We must begin to have conversations that lead to a greater understanding of our differences, and earnestly work to develop respect for our worth, dignity and values in order to thrive as a more perfect union.

Together, we must do the work if we want to see change.

Minutes

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the February 11, 2022 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

The Board requested to comment on the following:

- Item 21-0190– Vice Chair Jacobs thanked the Food Insight Group and the County Cooperative Extension for continuing home delivered meals to food insecure families.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Howerton entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

*21-0177 Approval of Budget Amendment No. 21BC00097 Reclassing Budget of \$201,048 from the Environmental Protection Functional Area and Reclassing Budget of \$597,701 from Human Services Functional Area to the Transportation Functional Area (Total of \$798,749)

*21-0181 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000098 to Recognize \$753,843.00 from the NC DHHS Division of Public Health Women's and Children's Health Section/Immunization Branch to Help Support Activities Associated with COVID-19 Mass Vaccinations Planning and implementation

21-0184 New Durham County Youth Home – Approval of Plat Recombining Two Existing Parcels Into One Parcel

21-0185 Proposed Relocation of Abandoned “Wiley Jackson May Family Cemetery”

*21-0186 Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA000027 increasing the 300 Block East Main Redevelopment Project (47302635DC150) by \$2,959,120 and Reducing the Downtown Parking Deck Project (47302635DC138) by the Same Amount and Clarifying the Source of Funding for \$8,367,124 of the 300 Block East Main Redevelopment Project (47302635DC150)

*21-0188 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for February 2021

*21-0190 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000099 to Appropriate \$376,350 of Set Aside Funding to continue Home Delivered Meals for Food Insecure Families during the COVID Crisis and approve Contract Extension with the Food Insight Group

21-0198 Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Appointment

21-0210 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Appointment

Consent Agenda Item #21-0177

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000097**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 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>			
Transportation	\$412,500	\$798,749	\$1,211,249
Environmental Protection	\$6,066,997	(\$201,048)	\$5,865,949
Human Services	\$115,638,161	(\$597,701)	\$115,040,459

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

Approved March 22, 2021

Consent Agenda Item #21-0181

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000098**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 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>			
Human Services	\$115,040,459	\$753,843	\$115,794,302
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$83,591,799	\$753,843	\$84,345,642

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

Approved March 22, 2021

Consent Agenda Item #21-0186

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 21CPA000027**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2020-21 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Project Name	Project #	Current Budget	Increase / Decrease	Updated Budget
300 Block East Main Redevelopment	47302635DC151	\$20,883,764	\$2,959,120	\$23,842,884
Downtown Parking Lots	47302635DC138	\$2,959,120	-\$2,959,120	\$0.00

Adopted this the 22nd day of March 2021.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0188

Due to property valuation adjustments for over assessments, listing discrepancies, duplicate listings and clerical errors, etc. The attached report details releases and refunds for the month of February 2021.

Releases and Refunds – February 2021

Releases & Refunds for 2021

Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Real Property	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 0.00

Releases and Refunds for 2020 Taxes

Real Property	\$ 130,043.23
Personal Property	\$ 721.45
Motor Vehicle	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ 343.56
Stormwater Utility	\$ 96.00
VTS Refunds	\$ <u>19,514.85</u>
Total	\$ 150,719.09

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years

2015 - 2019

Real Property	\$ 248,723.14
Personal Property	\$ 0.00
Solid Waste	\$ <u>158.81</u>

Total	\$ 248,881.95
Grand Total	\$ 399,601.04

Consent Agenda Item #21-0190

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000099**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 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>			
General Government	\$126,584,262	(\$376,350)	\$126,207,912
Economic and Physical Development	\$8,861,884	\$376,350	\$9,238,234

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

Approved January 25, 2021

Public Hearings

21-0203 Public Hearing regarding Not to Exceed \$225,000,000 Limited Obligation Bonds, Series 2021A & 2021B

Susan Tezai, Chief Financial Officer explained the obligation would refund the County’s 2020C and 2020D Limited Obligations Bonds and finance additional projects including both County and school projects.

The Board inquired about the additional projects the bond would finance. Ms. Tezai responded the new Northern High School, improvements to existing schools, Sheriff firing range improvements, new youth home and the purchase of a convenience center site.

Chair Howerton opened the public hearing. Monica Toomer, Clerk to the Board stated there were no public comments.

Chair Howerton stated the public hearing would be open for 24 hours for receipt of comments.

Other Business

21-0057 Durham County Public Health Focused Update on the COVID-19 Crisis.

Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director thanked the Board and County Management for their support in the COVID response.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following updates for Durham County:

- 23,332 total cases
- 65 seven-day moving average
- 36 percent were African American; 40.8 percent were Caucasian; 13.7 percent were Latinx
- 12.5 percent cases were under age 18
- Greatest number of cases were among people who worked in universities, scientific, technical and unemployed
- Approximately 25 percent of Durham County residents were partially vaccinated and 16 percent were fully vaccinated

The Board announced Krispy Kreme Doughnuts was offering a free doughnut to anyone who showed their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card. The Board asked how many vaccination sites were in Durham. Mr. Jenkins responded 53 active sites. The Board asked if the percentage of vaccinations per population rate was referring to overall population or people who were able to get vaccinated. Mr. Jenkins replied people who were able to get vaccinated. The Board asked about informing the Latinx community about the vaccination, support for Durham Public Schools (DPS) and if Group Four would have a waitlist. Mr. Jenkins responded organizations were working together for continued information in the Latinx community; DPS had a great plan in place for return of in-person school and Group Four was a large group and the waitlist had increased. The Board asked if Public Health staff were taking care of themselves. Mr. Jenkins responded his staff were trying to take care of themselves.

21-0090 Presentation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Annual Financial Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the FY 2020 Annual Single Audit and Compliance Report

Susan Tezai, Chief Financial Officer introduced Scott Duda, Engagement Partner at Cherry Bekaert LLP. Mr. Duda shared the *Audit Wrap Up and Presentation* which highlight the following: Table of Contents, Overview, Audit Areas of Focus, Results on Financial Statement, Results on OMB Uniform Guidance Audit, Results on State Single Audit and Required Communications.

The Board asked about the corrective action plan to address the non-material compliance with filling the Department of Social Services (DSS) vacant positions. Mr. Duda responded the FY 2021 audit would review the FY 2020 audit to determine if the errors and issues of concern were addressed. Mike Carey, Senior Audit Manager at Cherry Bekaert LLP explained the audit team was onsite for one day due to 95 percent of the audit being done remotely. The Board stated the amount of paperwork and compliance documents would require the frozen DSS positions to be opened and filled. Mr. Duda added sample sizes would be increased for the FY 2021 audit.

Ms. Tezai thanked County staff for their great work with handling the malware attack and COVID-19 impacting the organization. She added she was proud of the organization receiving a clean audit. Wendell Davis, County Manager stated DSS and Social Services critical positions have exceptions to allow the positions to be filled. The Board thanked Ms. Tezai and staff for a clean audit report.

21-0204 Fiscal Year 2020-21 Financial Update

Claudia Hager, General Manager shared the *Durham County Government Fiscal Update* which highlighted the following: American Rescue Plan Act Highlights, Hazardous/Differential Pay Options – Proposed through June 30, 2021, FY 2021-22 Budget Development COVID-19 Related Expenses, Department Comments: Public Health, Emergency Services, Register of Deeds, Office of the Sheriff.

The Board thanked Rod Jenkins, Public Health Director, Jim Groves, Office of Emergency Services Director, Sharon Davis, Register of Deeds and Clarence Birkhead, Durham County Sheriff for their comments and leadership. The Board thanked County staff for being front-line workers and keeping the community safe.

The Board inquired about the filing of \$3.9 million dollars of hazardous pay for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement. Ms. Hager responded the County had not received a response from FEMA. The Board asked what was submitted to FEMA and for what time period. Ms. Hager replied submitted hazardous pay for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers for the last fiscal year. Ms. Tezai added all of the documents were reviewed by the compliance manager and auditor before being submitted.

The Board asked when would hazardous pay and incentive pay end and would the County reinstate raises and cost of living increases. County Manager Davis responded staff would present recommendations to the Board at the April 5th Work Session meeting and discuss future plans. He added as more people get vaccinated, hazardous pay could end. County Manager Davis stated a recommended budget including an incentive for all employees would be presented to the Board.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve 10 percent differential pay for certain classified positions.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked to discuss the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at the April 5th Work Session meeting. Ms. Hager responded the initial set of guidelines have not been provided to the State. She added ARRA could be discussed at the April 5th Work Session meeting at a high level until more information was received.

Directive: Chair Jacobs asked to discuss the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at the April 5th Work Session meeting.

Board and Commission Appointments

Chair Howerton recommended for the Board to change the language of the vacant position on the Durham Community Safety and Wellness Taskforce from “Parent of a Murdered Child” to “A person who had experienced two deaths in their family due to gun violence.” Vice-Chair Jacobs recommended to change the language to “A person who had experienced a death in their family.” Commissioner Burns recommended “A person who had experienced a death in their family due to gun violence.” The Board agreed to the language change.

Willie Darby, Senior 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

Gino Pazzaglini (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Pam Silberman (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham County Women's Commission

Courtney Kelly (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Tiffani Reeves (Allam, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Leah Selvy (Burns)

Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

(i) Patrick Hannah (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

(i) David Morgan (Allam, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)


James Hill (Burns)

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 9:23 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton

Deputy Clerk to the Board