

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

Monday, August 23, 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 that there were no agenda adjustments.

**Announcements**

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

1. **Virtual Meeting on Bidding and Construction** – LeChase and Right Build are hosting an MWBE outreach and information session for 300 E. Main Street on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 5:00pm. This is for all construction industry related firms that have an interest in providing goods or services for this project.

To register please visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search “300 East Main Street”.

2. **Dementia Care Management and Support Services at DCSL** – The Durham Center for Senior Life is now offering a FREE Dementia Care Management program for adults 60 years or older with unmet needs and need help identifying or coordinating services.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Neikya Slade at 919-688-8247 ext.116 or email at [nslade@dcsln.org](mailto:nslade@dcsln.org).

3. **NCDOT Fall Litter Sweep Need Volunteers** – The N.C Department of Transportation is planning a litter sweep this Fall (September 11-15) and seeking volunteers to support this effort. Those interested are asked to sign up at [www.ncdot.gov/littersweep](http://www.ncdot.gov/littersweep)
4. **Nurturing Durham Resource Website** – The READY Project is pleased to announce the Nurturing Durham Resource Website in both English and Spanish. The website offers easy to find **FREE** and **LOW-COST** resources dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and

mental well-being of children and families in Durham. Please visit [www.nurturingdurhamnc.org](http://www.nurturingdurhamnc.org) for additional information.

5. **Seeking Youth Ambassadors** – The Durham Office on Youth is looking for the next cohort of Durham Change Makers! Young people interested in being leaders and decision makers in local government must apply by September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.

For more information and to apply, please visit [www.durhamnc.gov/changedbyyouth](http://www.durhamnc.gov/changedbyyouth)

6. **DCo Board of Elections: Early Voting** – Residents looking to cast their ballots in the 2021 Municipal Primary can do so starting September 16<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please visit [www.dcovotes.com](http://www.dcovotes.com) for full details on early voting, to view early voting locations and hours.

Commissioners shared the following additional announcements.

- Felons in North Carolina who were on the parole, probation or supervised release could register to vote and North Carolina was the only state in the South allowing felons to vote after prison release.
- Triangle Non-Profits were collecting items for donations or funds to assist around 90 Afghanistan refugees resettling and anyone interested could visit [www.worldrelief.org](http://www.worldrelief.org) for needed items
- The Federal Drug and Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Chair Howerton acknowledged the challenges with COVID-19, violence, natural disasters and thanked the community for continuing to show resilience.

## Minutes

Vice-Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve the July 12, 2021 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Ceremonial Items

### 21-0495 Proclamation – National Recovery Month

Chair Howerton read the following proclamation:

#### NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH | 2021

**WHEREAS,** behavioral health is now recognized as an essential part of one's overall health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** the costs of not encouraging mental health and substance use recovery is significant for individuals, families, neighborhoods and the community at large; and

**WHEREAS,** recovery from mental and substance use disorders occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs. People in recovery strive to achieve

healthy lifestyles, stable homes, meaningful daily activities, stronger neighborhoods and contribute in positive ways to the larger community; and

**WHEREAS,** according to its 2019 State of Mental Health in America report: Over 44 million American adults (18.07%), have a mental health condition. Access to care is improving, but most Americans still have no access to care. The report states that 12.2% (5.3 million) adults with a mental illness remain uninsured, and 56.4% of adults with a mental illness, approximately 24 million, received no treatment. The rate of youth experiencing a mental health issue continues to rise and 62% of teens and children received no treatment. Similarly, SAMHSA reports that 22.7 million adults were in need of substance use treatment while only about 10% received treatment. That, given these statistics, we must strive to reduce the stigma and negative stereotypes associated with brain disorders and help individuals, families and the larger community learn to view them as we would any other medical condition; and

**WHEREAS,** to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the National Association of Recovery Communities (ARCO), the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Recovery Community of Durham (RCOD) invite all residents of Durham County, North Carolina to participate in National Recovery Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I,** Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 2021

### **NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH**

and call upon the people of Durham County to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies to support this year's recovery theme:

**“Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community”;** as this reminds us all that no one is alone in the journey through recovery. Everyone's journey is different, but we are all in this together.

This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021.

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Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Dr. Lony, Recovery Community of Durham thanked the Board for the opportunity to inform the community of the importance of behavioral health as an essential part of overall health and well-being. He added educating the community would help change the stigma with mental health and recovery.

Vice-Chair Jacobs thanked Dr. Lony for the proclamation; adding, she looked forward to the Annual Mental Health Community Event.

Chair Howerton thanked Dr. Lony for his dedicated work and continuing to educate the community on mental health awareness.

**21-0520 Durham County Government Recognized with three (3) 2021 Awards by the National Association of Counties (NACo)**

Claudia Hager, Interim County Manager stated NACo recognized the Durham County Board of Elections for its Poll Count Application, Public Health Department for its COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and the Tax Department for its multi-faceted COVID-19 Response. She asked each department director to speak briefly about their recognition.

Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director thanked his staff and stated the award was a result of teamwork.

Dwane Brinson, Tax Administrator thanked the Board, Interim County Manager Hager, Information Services and Technology (IS&T) and his staff and stated the goal was to make the experience of paying taxes pleasurable.

Greg Marrows, IS&T Director thanked his team and stated IS&T collaborated with all County departments to meet the needs of Durham residents.

Ari Schein, Interim Emergency Management Chief thanked the Board and Interim County Manager Hager for the opportunity to thank his team for data management and assistance with Public Health.

The Board acknowledged each department and expressed their appreciation for all who played a role.

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Howerton asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, 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.

\*21-0487 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00013 Public Health to Recognize \$733,355 from the NC DHHS Division of Public Health Women’s and Children’s Health Section/Immunization Branch for Covid-19 Activities

\*21-0497 Approve Budget Ordinance No. 22BCC00014 Early Childhood to Recognize \$2,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Foundation to Durham County Early Childhood area for Early Childhood Projects

21-0498 Contract with Reach Out and Read Carolinas to Continue Co-Location of Their Early Literacy Initiative in Pediatric and Primary Care Sites in Durham County

21-0500 Approval to renew IS&T’s current contract with Southern Computer Warehouse, a reseller of information technology solutions, for Adobe licenses in the sum of \$64,458.19

\*21-0502 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00012 DSS to acknowledge County Required Match as part of the Durham County’s FY2022 Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) County Funding Plan and to recognize \$101,017 in additional funding which includes funding for

COVID supplemental nutrition funds (HDc5), FY 2021-22 HCCBG Funding Plan Allocation, and an Increase in County Funding Grant Match

\*21-0503 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for June 2021

\*21-0504 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for July 2021

21-0506 North Carolina Department of Transportation - Request To Add Citation Circle And Sierra Court To The State Maintained Road System

21-0507 Request Refund of Excise Tax Overpayment to Old Republic National Commercial Services

\*21-0510 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00010 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$382,265 of General Fund fund balance and Approval of the Contract Extension with Beyu Caffè to Continue Home Delivered Meals for Covid-19 Related Food Assistance to Seniors and Vulnerable populations

21-0517 Purchase of Three Parcels on Electra Rd.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0487

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00013**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 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>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Human Services	\$96,847,319.00	\$733,355.00	\$97,580,674.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$62,763,059.00	\$733,355.00	\$63,496,414.00

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

Approved August 23, 2021

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Consent Agenda Item #21-0497

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00014**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 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>			
Education	\$181,205,477.00	\$2,000.00	\$181,207,477.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$63,496,414.00	\$2,000.00	\$63,498,414.00

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

Approved August 23, 2021

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Consent Agenda Item #21-0502

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00012**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 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	\$96,746,302.00	\$101,017.00	\$96,847,319.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$62,667,009.00	\$96,050.00	\$62,763,059.00
Other Financing Sources	\$29,412,379.00	\$4,967.16	\$29,417,346.16

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

Approved August 23, 2021

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Consent Agenda Item #21-0503

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 June 2021.

Releases and Refunds – June 2021

Releases & Refunds for 2021

Personal Property	\$ 15,381.82
Real Property	\$ <u>27,844.78</u>
Total	\$ 43,226.60

Releases and Refunds for 2020 Taxes

Real Property	\$ 19,788.54
Personal Property	\$ 21,083.88
Motor Vehicle	\$ 20,806.64
Solid Waste	\$ 0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$ 0.00
VTS Refunds	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 236,679.06

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years

2015 - 2019

Real Property	\$ 189,623.21
Personal Property	\$ 603.98
Solid Waste	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 190,227.19

Grand Total	\$ 470,132.85
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Consent Agenda Item #21-0504

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 July 2021.

Releases and Refunds – July 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	\$	0.00
Personal Property	\$	0.00
Motor Vehicle	\$	0.00
Solid Waste	\$	0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00
VTS Refunds	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	0.00

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years

2015 - 2019

Real Property	\$	39,394.26
Personal Property	\$	0.00
Solid Waste	\$	0.00
VTS Refunds	\$	<u>15,723.34</u>
Total	\$	55,117.60
Grand Total	\$	55,117.60

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**Durham County, North Carolina  
2021-2022 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 22BCC00010**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2021-2022 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	\$7,906,416.00	\$382,265.00	\$8,288,681.00
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$29,030,114.00	\$382,265.00	\$29,412,379.00

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

Approved August 23, 2021

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**Public Hearings**

**21-0505 Public Hearing – Zoning Map Change, Old Bahama Fire Station**

Michael Stock, Planning Manager stated Brian Eaton of the Bahama Volunteer Fire Rescue Company, Inc. proposed to change the zoning designation of two parcels of land totaling 0.76 acres and located at 1426 Bahama Road. He added the current zoning was Commercial Neighborhood (CN) and Residential Suburban-20 (RS-20) and proposed to change the zoning for both parcels to Commercial Neighborhood with a text-only development plan (CN(D)). Mr. Stock stated the proposed use limitations would prohibit any bar, nightclub, or other use that serves alcohol for on-site consumption and no change was proposed for the Lake Michie/Little River District A (M/LR-A) watershed overlay.

The Board inquired about two (2) members of the Planning Commission who questioned the issue of the two (2) parcels being non-confirming. Mr. Stock responded the two parcels were non-confirming with current rules and regulations and the proposed zoning would bring the parcels closer to confirming.

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

Len Needham, Bahama Fire Department Chief stated the Fire Department was selling the parcels to raise money to purchase fire trucks and equipment without the need for loans.

The Board stated the parcels were in the heart of the commercial property in Bahama and protected them from a business selling on-site consumption of alcohol.

Chair Howerton stated the public hearing would be open for 24 hours to receive additional comments.

**210511 Public Hearing Approval to Consider Allocating Economic Development Funds to Smart Wires Inc.**

With no public comments, Chair Howerton closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to allocate a total of \$125,000 to Smart Wires Inc. and authorize the County Manger or Interim County Manger to enter into preliminary negotiations and execute and agreement with the Company.

The motion carried unanimously.

**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 shared the *COVID-19/Vaccine Distribution Updates* which highlighted the following: COVID-19 Prevention Strategies, COVID-19 Statewide Update, Current COVID-19 Statistics, Current Race and Ethnicity Trends, COVID-19 Percent Positive Labs, CDC Vaccine updates for Durham County Residents, Vaccine Updates for Durham County Residents, Vaccine Dashboard Data for Durham County Residents, Number and Percent of Post – Vaccination Cases and Vaccination Notes.

The Board inquired about citizens with a compromised immune system. Mr. Jenkins responded a COVID-10 vaccine booster shot would be available for those with a compromised immune system. The Board asked how the \$700,0000 grant funds would be spent and if any of the funds could be used for vaccine incentives. Mr. Jenkins replied the grant had specific rules and guidelines on how the funds could be used and did not include vaccine incentives. The Board asked about the number of children affected by COVID-19 in Durham County. Mr. Jenkins responded the number was low and he was working with Durham Public Schools (DPS) to keep staff and students informed and safe.

The Commissioners thanked Interim Manager Hager for creating the County Vaccine Incentive Program. Interim County Manager Hager responded incentive was similar to surrounding entities and the information was shared with County employees.

**Board and Commission Appointments**

Willie Darby, Acting 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.

Dangerous Dog Appeal Board

**Brian Mulligan** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Durham County Convention Center Authority

**Marian Dillahunt-Andrews** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

**Lakeisha Blake** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

**Joseph Jackson III** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

**Brandon Morrissey** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

TJCOG Water Resources Collaborative

**Michael Keeing** (Allam, Burns, Carter, Howerton, Jacobs)

**Closed Session**

Chair Howerton stated the board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract of proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchases, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract pursuant to G.S.143-3318.11(a)(5).
- The Board is requested to adjourn into Closed Session 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 Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

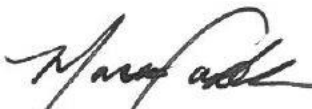
Chair Howerton announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 9:18 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board