

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

Monday, December 5, 2022

9:00 A.M. Hybrid Work Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, second floor, Durham County Government
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

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

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Ceremonial Items

22-0717 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

Larissa Williamson, Senior Assistant County Attorney, opened the meeting and explained the process of electing a Chair and Vice-Chair. She opened the floor for nominations for the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Jacobs nominated Commissioner Brenda Howerton for the position of Chair.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Brenda Howerton asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Carter nominated Commissioner Wendy Jacobs for the position of Vice-Chair.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Howerton thanked the Board for allowing her to continue to serve as Chair. She spoke on the County's recent major events and accomplishments.

Commissioner Carter thanked Chair Howerton and Vice-Chair Jacobs for their willingness to serve in their positions and stated she looked forward to new leadership in the future.

Items to be Approved

22-0690 Approval of Public Official Bonds

The Board was requested to suspend the rules and approve the bonds of public officials on the first Monday of December of each year. Following approval, the bonds would be recorded in the Register of Deeds Office and then sent to the Clerk of Superior Court for safekeeping.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to approve the public official bonds.

The motion carried unanimously.

22-0720 Approval of 2023 Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Schedule

The Board was requested to suspend the rules and approve its 2023 meeting schedule. Once the schedule was approved, the Clerk's Office would place all dates on the Outlook calendar and invite all Commissioners and County staff required to attend to accept the meetings. The approved calendar would be published on the website within 48 hours.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Jacobs, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to approve the 2023 meeting schedule.

The motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person or virtually via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, October 2nd at 12 noon.

Clerk to the Board Monica Wallace announced that no one was signed up to speak in-person, no emails were received, and no virtual attendees used the "raised hand" feature to speak through the video call.

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the December Regular Sessions.

22-0697 Increase the 300 E. Main St. Affordable Housing Redevelopment Master Development Agreement Through PAYGO Funding of \$1,500,000 and Loan #3 to Execute Amendment #2 to the Master Development Agreement for the Project

Commissioner Burns thanked the Board for their intentionality and dedication to affordable housing as well as the staff for their work with finding equipment and materials in spite of constant supply shortages.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, discussed the staff's work to organize an opening ceremony to highlight the transition from the deck to the affordable housing portion of the project. Based on this amendment, the construction of the affordable housing would start around January or February 2023 and, therefore, staff was aiming for the ceremony to take place in January.

Mr. Manns confirmed there was capability for rooftop solar in these projects. He detailed how the 300 and 500 decks had the infrastructure to allow for future integration of solar photovoltaic systems. He added that Sustainability was working on a Renewable Energy Plan which would outline the timing, phasing, costs, etc. of when the County could implement some of the sustainable initiatives the Board wanted on other County facilities.

22-0700 Durham County Sheriff's Office Contract Approval with ePLUS Technology Inc. in the amount of \$185,435.88

Claudia Hager, General Manager, confirmed that departments could facilitate a project and would coordinate with IS&T to connect to the County network.

22-0709 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00049 - Appropriate General Fund Restricted Fund Balance Totaling \$1,344,307.20 to Increase Expenditure Authority for Cooperative Extension, Social Services, Library, CJRC, and Youth Home

David Ades, Budget and Management Services Assistant Director, provided an overview of this item and described what occurred to funds in the restricted fund balance that were left unspent.

22-0711 Budget Ordinance Amendment No 23BCC00050 Transferring \$2,791,093.79 from the Human Services Functional Area to General Government (\$2,666,093.79) and to the Environmental Protection (\$125,000) Functional Areas to Support Ongoing General Services, Vehicle Purchases, and County Administration Operating Needs

Ms. Hager and Mr. Ades described how inflation affected the market and what the implications were for capital projects and the County's budget.

22-0728 Environmental Enhancement Grant Memorandum of Understanding

Vice-Chair Jacobs acknowledged all the County departments and staff that were involved in this collaboration with DPS.

Directive: Staff to publish a press release about the Environmental Enhancement Grant Memorandum of Understanding.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

22-0635 Proposed Relocation of Abandoned “McGhee Family Cemetery”

22-0656 Enter into a Contract in the Amount of \$104,270.70 with Kontek Systems to Provide Audio Visual Support for all Durham County Conference and Courtrooms that Contain Audio Visual Equipment

22-0660 Approve an Amendment of \$30,740.16 to the Westaff Staffing Contract to continue the Contracted Services of a Junior Software Developer, Increasing the Total Contract Amount to \$54,993.76

22-0661 Approval to Renew the County’s Three-Year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Contract for the Continuation of Microsoft Licenses and Services, and to Authorize the County Manager to Execute Subsequent Maintenance Renewals, Amendments, and Annual Payments Not to Exceed the Existing Operational Budget. The Amount of this Enterprise Agreement Contract is \$1,300,000

22-0674 Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Study Memorandum of Understanding Extension Agreement

22-0675 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00048 Public Health to Recognize \$2,422 from the NC DHHS Division of Public Health Epidemiology Section/Communicable Disease Branch for TB Infection and Disease Screening

22-0678 Request to Approve Amendment to Contract with Innovative Interfaces Incorporated

22-0710 Holland Industrial Services, Inc. Contract Amendment for Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant

22-0712 Machinery and Equipment Repair Contract Amendment with Alfa Laval Inc.

22-0713 Carolina Management Team, LLC Contract Amendment for Painting and Coating Services

22-0714 Contract Amendment for dba Hydrostructures, P.A. (Duke’s Root Control, Inc.) for Utilities Division

Discussion Items

22-0698 Sheriff’s Office Project Safe Neighborhoods Presentation

The Board was requested to receive a presentation from the Sheriff’s Office and the US Attorney’s Office Middle District of North Carolina regarding Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

This initiative is a collaboration between the Durham County Sheriff’s Office, local law enforcement agencies, and the Middle District of the US Attorney’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, UNCG Researchers, clergy and community members.

Robert A. J. Lang, Assistant US Attorney, Middle District of North Carolina, presented the four pillars of PSN: Community Engagement, Prevention and Intervention, Strategic Enforcement,

Accountability (measuring results and evaluating programming). He reviewed the ten steps to implement the PSN SAFE Strategy:

1. Hire or appoint a PSN Coordinator
2. Establish clear responsibilities between agencies through an MOU (USAO has a model)
3. Identify and assign key agency personnel
4. Schedule LEO, DPS and DA's Office training
5. Build PSN infrastructure PSN Executive Committee, PSN Community Advisory Team, PSN work group, etc.
6. Analyze data to establish the characteristics of the chronic violent offenders
7. Investigate immediately "untouchable" VIP's (violent impact players)
8. Engage most effective community partners (e.g., Housing Authority, parenting, mental health and substance abuse, jobs/job skills/job training, Chamber of Commerce/business community, re-entry, after school/in school programs, church/clergy, mentoring, non-profits/foundations, and community colleges)
9. Bring it all together
 - a. Present strategy, data, and SAFE plan to all stakeholders
 - b. Engage new partners and stakeholders
 - c. Make sure elected officials and funders are in the loop
10. Follow PSN Model

Sheriff Birkhead reiterated the importance of PSN and noted the PSN Coordinator position was necessary to implement it effectively.

Commissioner Burns voiced her support for hiring the PSN Coordinator and appreciated that one of the steps included keeping the Board in the loop. She inquired about collaborative work that could be done with local law resources. Mr. Lang noted previous PSN iterations collaborated with Duke University and North Carolina Central University.

Discussion was held regarding statistics which showed children of previously incarcerated individuals had an increased likelihood of also going to prison.

Sheriff Birkhead clarified the PSN Coordinator position would sit under and be managed by the Sheriff's Office but there would be heavy collaboration with the Police Department and other community partners. Mr. Lang described how the position would connect with people at all levels of the criminal justice system including those at the "bottom" of it.

In terms of existing official analyses that showed whether PSN really worked, Mr. Lang confirmed Michigan State performed assessments and found PSN made a statistically significant impact in violent crime rates.

Gudrun Parmer, Criminal Justice Resource Center Director, discussed why PSN previously fizzled out in Durham. There were initially three positions in the Police Department, but when leadership changed the belief of PSN changed. The positions were then utilized for different purposes and the decision was made to end PSN.

Discussion was held regarding past ordinances which required the collection of serial numbers with new gun registrations. Mr. Lang and Sheriff Birkhead acknowledged this as a hot button

issue and could be divisive in a time when it was necessary to build partnerships. Sheriff Birkhead agreed that the issue of having a local level ordinance was worthy of a conversation.

Vice-Chair Jacobs voiced her support for this item. She agreed the position should be a jointly funded position between the City and County as there was value in all stakeholders having skin in the game.

Mr. Lang described how other locations implemented the program and how many employees were involved. He acknowledged that Durham County could benefit from another full-time position, but it was not necessary with a motivated and skilled PSN Coordinator. Sheriff Birkhead echoed that there were a lot of pieces and resources in place that the Coordinator could tap into.

Vice-Chair Jacobs announced the Gun Safety Team from Public Health hoped to present to the Board in February to discuss gun theft in Durham.

Discussion was held regarding poverty and the impact it had on violent crime rates. Chair Howerton emphasized how important it was to connect people to resources that could shift the dynamics of their lives—resources such as jobs, food, housing, etc. Sheriff Birkhead concurred and stated this was the intention of PSN, to intervene and give people the resources and chance to be successful.

Directive:

- **Mr. Lang to provide the Board with recommendations as to how to solidify the collaboration between PSN, Duke University, and North Carolina Central University.**
- **Staff to present this to and include Durham Public Schools (DPS) and their leadership in the PSN program.**

22-0718 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Ms. Hager provided the Board with an update on recommended ARPA grant funding. Nonprofit organizations applied for grant funding in seven focus areas that aligned with the County's ARPA framework. Grant applicants submitted proposals in the following categories including:

1. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Child Care
2. Expanding Access to Affordable Child Care
3. Improving Child and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Children Ages 0-12
4. Improving Youth and Family Social-Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) - Youth Ages 13-24
5. Youth Enrichment and Recreational Activities
6. Capacity Building for Culturally Affirming Maternal Health Support
7. Crime Intervention Initiatives

In March 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Of the \$1.9 trillion package, Durham County was allotted \$62,445,275. Funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024. In addition, all funds must be expended to cover obligations and all work must be completed by December 31, 2026. ARPA funding would be a

transformative investment to the Durham community, with the goal of leveraging resources from other local, state, and federal dollars to optimize the potential overall community impact.

Ms. Hager discussed the next steps in the nonprofit award process and noted this would be on the Board's agenda for approval on Monday, December 12, 2022. In terms of the timing of projects and how the grants would be tracked, she announced it would all be added to the County's public-facing ARPA webpage.

Directive: Claudia Hager to provide the Board with an Excel spreadsheet listing the awarded organizations and fund amounts as well as any rubrics staff used to select awardees.

Adjournment

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant