

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

Monday, April 27, 2026

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 Dr. Mike Lee, Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Virtual: Vice Chair Nida Allam

Presider: Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 2

**Regular Session – 7:00 PM**

**Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Adjustments**

Commissioner Valentine 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 Cooperative Extensions 2026 Report to the Community** - Join Durham Cooperative Extension for the presentation of their 2026 Report to the Community on Wednesday, May 6. Enjoy a delicious breakfast, hear inspiring stories, and experience hands-on demonstrations that showcase Durham Cooperative Extension's impact throughout Durham. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how they serve our community through education, outreach, and partnership. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/durham-cooperative-extension-report-to-the-community-2026-tickets-1987411371913?aff=oddtcreator>
2. **Durham–Orange County Pond Clinic** – Join the Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District for the annual Durham–Orange County Pond Clinic on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. at 6602 Orange Grove Road in Hillsborough. This free clinic is perfect for anyone who owns—or plans to own—a large or agricultural pond. Learn about pond construction, pond management, weed control, pond wildlife, and more. Free lunch provided for those who pre-register. Kids ages 5–17 can also participate in a Catch and Release Fishing Tournament before the clinic, with prizes awarded. Register by April 30 at <https://dconc2.jotform.com/260683020996866> or call 919-560-0558.

3. **Hattie Meadows Gardening School Announces Spring Class Series** - The community is invited to join a new round of classes in the Hattie Meadows Gardening School. This free community learning series is a partnership between Durham Cooperative Extension, Durham County Library, and the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Classes will run through June at the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library. These free monthly classes led by local teachers and gardening experts, session topics include soil health, seed starting, garden design, native plants, and vegetables. All classes are free, but registration is required. More information here: <https://dconc.gov/DurhamCo-News/Hattie-Meadows-Gardening-School-Announces-Spring-Class-Series.htm>.
4. **Get “In Touch with Durham County”!** - This month’s “In Touch with Durham County” features two can’t miss segments. Meet Our New Library Director, Dana Conners, who joined the County in January 2026. Get to know Conners as she shares her vision for the future of Durham County Library. The second segment highlights National County Government Month, an annual celebration recognizing the nation’s 3,069 counties. Watch the full episode here: <https://youtu.be/INnX8ZmWfuM>

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Members of the Board shared the following announcements:

- Thousands of public-school educators, families, and advocates from across the state gathered in Raleigh on May 1<sup>st</sup> to advocate for public education, state budget concerns, and educator pay. Community groups provided lunches to students and families who attended the gathering. A May Day protest about school funding was held at 5 p.m. at the CCB Plaza in Durham.
- The sixth annual Library Fest was held April 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in celebration of National Library Week.
- The Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network’s Democracy Protection Policy Academy held a national gathering in Durham from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Watermelon 5k Family Fest was held at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to support aid and solidarity for the Palestinian community through a run and related activities.
- The Board highlighted the Volunteer Appreciation Event for Durham County Boards and Commissions members and thanked the Northern High School Culinary Program for catering the event.

## Minutes

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to approve the April 6, 2026, Work Session and the April 13, 2026, Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Ceremonial Items

### **26-0216 Introduction of Newly Appointed Internal Audit Director, Shirley McFadden**

Maurice Jones, Deputy County Manager, introduced Shirley McFadden, Internal Audit Director, to the Board and shared a brief overview of her education and work experience. Ms. McFadden thanked the Board and stated she looked forward to working with the County. She added she received warm welcomes from leadership, staff and residents during her first two weeks.

The Board thanked Ms. McFadden for accepting the Internal Audit Director role and stated their appreciation for her commitment to strengthening the County.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Hearing none, Chair Dr. Lee entertained a motion for approval.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

26-0105 Consideration and Adoption of Updated High Performance Building Policy

26-0210 Approve Execution of Construction Contract with Central Builders of Mebane for the Renovation of the South East Corner of the Legal Department Suite in the amount of \$144,500 plus (10%) contingency, \$14,450, for a total not-to-exceed \$158,950

\*26-0221 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2026

26-0226 Approve Certain Adjustments to the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocation and the Allocation of \$1,690.296 to Early Years, Inc.

### **Consent Agenda Item #26-0221**

#### Releases and Refunds – April 2026

<b><u>Current Year 2025 Taxes</u></b>	<b><u>Releases</u></b>	<b><u>Refunds</u></b>	
Real Property	\$ 1,671,704.37	\$ 1,793,472.27	
Personal Property	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
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	\$ 0.00	
Gross Rec. /Bev. Lic.	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00	
<b>SUB – TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,671,704.37</b>	<b>\$ 1,793,672.27</b>	<b>\$3,465,376.64</b>
<b><u>Prior Year 2015-2024</u></b>	<b><u>Releases</u></b>	<b><u>Refunds</u></b>	
Real Property	\$ 0.00	\$ 636.72	

Personal Property	\$	0.00	\$	1,190.51	
GAP Vehicles	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
Motor Vehicle	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
Solid Waste	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
Stormwater Utility	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
VTS Refunds	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
Gross Rec. /Bev. Lic.	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>0.00</b>	\$	<b>1,827.23</b>	\$ <b>1,827.23</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>1,671,704.37</b>	\$	<b>1,795,499.50</b>	\$ <b>3,467,203.87</b>

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**Public Hearings**

**26-0217 Public Hearing on Bond Order; Adoption of Bond Order; and Adoption of Bond Resolution for Not to Exceed \$240,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2026B**

Chair Dr. Lee opened the public hearing

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board stated she would like to report to the Board that the bond order entitled, “**Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$240,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the County of Durham, North Carolina,**” which was introduced at a meeting of the Board held on April 13, 2026, was published on April 20, 2026, with notice that the Board would hold a public hearing thereon on April 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. She added she would like to report that there had been filed in my office a statement of debt showing the net indebtedness of the County to be 1.48 percent of the assessed valuation of property in the County subject to taxation, and a statement of disclosure showing the estimated total interest to be paid on the proposed bonds over the expected term of the bonds is \$97,022,250.

Motion 1:

Chair Dr. Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to hold a public hearing, notice of which was properly made as referenced by the Clerk, on the general obligation refunding bond order.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dr. Lee stated the Board would now hear anyone who wished to be heard on the questions of the validity of the general obligation refunding bond order and the advisability of issuing the general obligation refunding bonds. He added the Clerk held a copy of the bond order and the notice of public hearing relating thereto if anyone would like to see a copy.

Ms. Wallace stated that no one was signed up to speak.

Motion 2:

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to close the public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion 3:

Chair Dr. Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine for the Board to adopt the general obligation refunding bond order entitled **“Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$240,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the County of Durham, North Carolina,”** which was introduced at the meeting of the Board held on April 13, 2026, and directed the Clerk to publish a notice adoption of the bond order, as prescribed by The Local Government Bond Act.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dr. Lee stated the Board had a resolution entitled **“A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Durham, North Carolina Providing for the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$240,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 20206B of the County of Durham, North Carolina”** before the Board for consideration.

Motion 4:

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine for the Board to adopt the Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

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**Other Business**

**26-0215 Presentation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Financial Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the FY 2025 Annual Single Audit and Compliance Report**

LeAnn Bagasala, Partner with Mauldin and Jenkins shared the *Durham County Audit Results* presentation which highlighted the following: Agenda, Mauldin and Jenkins by the Numbers, Audit Opinion, Compliance Report and Audit Scopes and Procedures, Audit Findings, Financial Performance Indicators of Concerns, Required Communications, New Accounting Pronouncements and Free Quarterly Continuing Education.

The Board thanked Ms. Bagasala for her detailed review of the financial audit and comprehensive financial report. The Board asked if all the findings in the audit report were addressed. Ms. Bagasala responded that all the audit findings were addressed.

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**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.

Board of Equalization and Review  
**Cynthia Burns** (Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Discover Durham Tourism Development Authority  
**Wendy McManus Abram** (Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Durham-Wake Counties Research and Production Service District Advisory Committee  
**Randi Saulles** (Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)  
**Edward M. Webb, Jr.** (Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council  
**Kamiyah Mullen** (Burton, Jacobs, Lee, Valentine)

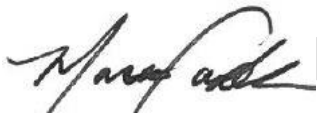
Commissioner Jacobs thanked all the applicants who applied for the Discover Durham Tourism Development Authority and encouraged them to continue to apply for vacancies.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board