

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

Monday, June 3, 2024

9:00 A.M. Work Session

**MINUTES**

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

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

Excused Absence: Chair Nida Allam

Presider: Vice-Chair Nimasheena Burns

Zoom Hybrid

Participants: 6

**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, June 2nd at 12 noon.

DeWarren K Langley, asked the Board for support of the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation.

Brandon Mitchell, spoke on the changes being made to the Durham County retirement benefits and pensions and asked for the County to fund retirees under 65.

Pam Andrews, Donna Stainback and Wanda Allen, spoke on future growth areas and the need to stop blasting's pertaining to Virgil Road. They also expressed the need for the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to be rewritten.

Valerie Lewis, asked the Commissioners to fully fund the DPS budget and expressed the need for teachers and staff to be paid accordingly.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**24-0285 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.24CPA00028 Appropriating \$1,696,670 of ARPA grant funds to support the New Slater Road Lift Station, Force Main, and Outfall Capital Project (SE066); as well as Approval of a Contract with Design-Build Firm Crowder Construction Company to Provide Pre-Construction Services in the Amount**

**of \$1,615,879; and Authorize the County Manager to Execute the Contract and Any Related Contract Amendments not to exceed \$1,696,670.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to approve the Capital Project Amendment No.24CPA00028 Appropriating \$1,696,670 of ARPA grant funds to support the New Slater Road Lift Station, Force Main, and Outfall Capital Project (SE066).

The motion carried unanimously.

**24-0290 Approval of the FY25 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Global Operating and Capital Agreements**

Ellen Beckmann, AICP, Transportation Director, confirmed the performance metrics and finances would be included in the transit tracker for each project and updated twice a year. She added funds from previous years would carry over for future projects and could follow up with GoTriangle for any additional expenditures.

Ms. Beckmann shared that light rail stations were flagged as a policy for the County to determine and make the decisions for what would happen to those properties. She continued to say discussions were held pertaining to using shuttles or micro transit for citizens to get to the Museum of Life and Science.

**24-0295 Approval to Grant of a Permanent Sign Easement to the City of Durham for a Historical Marker at the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library at 1201 Fayetteville Street**

The Board requested a copy of the public art and history policy.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director, E&ES, explained that easement were acknowledged for twelve (12) historic neighborhoods and the City would request for quote (RFQ) for additional funding. He continued to say staff would return with more specifics on what the marker would look like.

**Directive:**

- **Staff to provide a copy of the public art and history policy.**

**24-0315 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.24BCC00106 Transferring Available Unspent Funds Among Departments and Functional Areas to Support Personnel Expenses through the End of Fiscal Year 2023-24. No Additional Funding is being Requested**

The Board requested the current vacancy rate per department.

**Directive:**

- **Staff to provide data for the current vacancy rate per department.**

**24-0319 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.24CPA00029 Appropriating \$5,000,000 of Limited Obligation Bond Funding (LOBS) for the New Emergency Operations Center (EOC) & Backup 911/Sheriff's Call Center Capital Project (4730DC158), and Execution of Contract for Architectural/Engineering Design Services with O'Brien Atkins Associates for the EOC & Backup 911/Sheriff's Call Center Project for a fee of \$4,820,510**

County Manger Sowell confirmed the policy was originally in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and was a joint project with the City. She continued to say discussions were held pertaining to having a unified 911 center; however, the Sheriff was confident in the County's side of the 911 center operations due to no outages and the need to ensure an accurate system should a joint center be created.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director, E&ES, added the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) did not address the issue of combining centers; however, the backup systems were shared by both jurisdictions.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

**24-0291 Approval to Enter into a Contract with Elections Systems and Software Maintenance, Firmware, and Software**

**24-0294 Approval to Grant a Permanent Utility Easement to Duke Energy and Charter Communications at 406 Rigsbee Ave. and 215 W. Seminary Ave**

**24-0318 Review of the Draft Grant Agreement between Durham County and the Federal Railroad Administration for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Study**

**24-0321 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 24BCC000104 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$241,500 from the Duke Endowment to Enhance Parenting Skills and Support Services for Fathers by Offering a Culturally-Adapted Fatherhood Program through Extension's Welcome Baby program.**

**24-0323 Approval of the Maintenance Contract with Granicus, LLC**

**24-0339 Appoint Voting Delegate - 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference**

**Discussion Items**

**24-0288 Unified Development Ordinance Rewrite Audit and Approach Presentation**

The Board received a presentation on the Unified Development Ordinance Rewrite Audit and Approach.

A team of consultants, led by Code Studio, worked on the rewrite of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and presented their preliminary findings from their code audit and analysis of the current UDO. The presentation highlighted issues within the existing UDO, described potential challenges associated with implementing the Comprehensive Plan, and provided a roadmap for the drafting of the new UDO.

Bo Dobrzeski, AICP, CZO, Assistant Planning Director, shared that all efforts and content would be shared with residents to ensure they were being heard regarding the UDO and urban growth boundaries. He added units per acre were limited by sites and staff would explore options on the number of units that could be placed on the sites.

#### **24-0320 Project Access Presentation**

The Board was requested to receive a presentation from Project Access of Durham County.

Project Access started in 2008 with core operating support from Durham County to significantly expand the healthcare safety net in Durham, by providing access to donated specialty medical care for uninsured Durham residents who received primary care at Lincoln Community Health Center. Those who received donated specialty medical care were also able to receive medications prescribed by the specialist with low co-pays and were provided with case management and transportation as needed to be able to follow the treatment plan.

Virtually all medical specialists and clinics in Durham generously donated care each year, along with the three (3) hospitals, radiology, lab practices and pharmacies. To date, 15,000 patients have received nearly 47,000 episodes of care provided by thousands of physicians and health care providers treating the patients at no cost. Conservatively the donated medical care approached \$84 million. Patients benefitted from lifesaving and life-enhancing care, helping address historical and current inequities.

Sally Wilson, Executive Director of Project Access, answered questions pertaining to Medicaid expansion impacting the work being done. She stated with the expansion, staff were able to assist more patients who qualified and did not anticipate a decrease in work. She continued to say future challenges were negotiated for upcoming years, but they were limited.

Ms. Wilson added housing discussions were held with Duke Health to fund the homeless program, but there was not a set location and staff were looking for a permanent home for the homeless.

Discussions were held regarding the amount of funds the County contributed to the budget and if the budget changed over time. Ms. Wilson shared the County contributed \$480,040 to the budget; with \$15,000 paying for medications for the homeless. She continued to say the program started 15 years ago with a budget of \$300,000 and had increased over the years.

The Board inquired if dermatology including outrageous disorders were treated. Ms. Wilson confirmed treatments were held onsite at Lincoln Health Community Center.

#### **24-0307 Final Update on Durham County's FY 2025-2029 Strategic Planning Process – DCo Forward 2029**

The Board received an update on the ongoing process for the FY 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. The update included a recommendation to update the Values, Mission, and Vision for Durham County and the most current version of the Strategic Plan Objectives and Initiatives.

Discussions were held regarding how the strategic plan would be implemented and would it be integrated into the budget. Josh Edwards, Director of Strategy and Performance, stated outreach with employees and department heads would be held, as well as flyers would be posted throughout

County buildings. He added work with the budget department would be held to determine how to incorporate strategic planning into the budget development cycle.

**24-0330 Review of County Commissioner Directives**

The Board was requested to review staff follow-ups regarding previously issued directives.

Board directives from previous meetings as well as staff follow-ups were reviewed at monthly work sessions. Staff strived to have all directives input into the system as accurately as possible as soon as they were issued and to follow-up with the Board and/or other relevant parties in an appropriate time frame.

Shannon Trapp, Chief of Staff, confirmed some of the 2024 directives were addressed and scheduled for future work sessions.

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Danyelle Bryant, Assistant to the County Manager, introduced the County Manager’s Summer Internship/Fellowship Participants:

- Eve Candelo-Mosquera – UNC Chapel Hill, Bachelor of Science, Information Science
- Elliot DeWire – University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Pramesti Puspitasari – Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, Master of Public Policy (MPP)
- Jonathan Pyka – Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, Master of Public Policy (MPP)
- Valeska Alvarado – Duke University, Bachelor of Public Policy

The Board congratulated the interns and inquired about the projects they may work on. Ms. Bryant stated Directors and upper leadership were asked if they could utilize an intern for projects and a spreadsheet was created to showcase all projects they would work on. She added work was being done to partner with North Carolina Central University for additional engagement in the Fall 2024.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick  
Administrative Assistant