

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

Monday, February 2, 2026

9:00 A.M. Virtual Work Session

**MINUTES**

Place: Due to inclement weather; the meeting was held virtually and can be accessed by visiting:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6xM2jDnMPs>

Present: Chair Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair Nida Allam, Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 41

Clerk Wallace opened the meeting with a roll call.

Chair Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Session meeting.

**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, virtually or via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, February 1st at 12 noon.

The following citizens spoke in objection to the Cheek Road annexation which pertained to three (3) parcels outside of the Urban Growth Boundary: *Pamela Andrews, Wanda Allen, Betty Hamilton, Donna Stainback, and Carey Stainback.*

The Board asked for Planning staff to present information pertaining to the Cheek Road annexation.

The Board asked for additional information regarding to the population growth of goods and services, and to add the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) service capacity as part of staff reports.

County Manager Hager stated those items would be brought to staff for additional discussions.

**Directive**

- Planning staff to present information pertaining to the Cheek Road annexation.

- Staff to provide additional information pertaining to the population growth of goods and services, and to add the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) service capacity as part of staff reports.

**Consent Agenda Approval from the January 26, 2026, Regular Session Meeting**

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

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Dr. Lee entertained a motion to suspend the rules.

Vice Chair Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dr. Lee entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda from January 26, 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0489 Approval of RFP Award for Organizational Assessment Contract in Preparation for Upcoming Enterprise Resource Planning Implementation.

26-0028 Approval to Enter into a Contract with Hayti Reborn – Justice Movement in the Amount of \$500,000.

26-0036 Resolution Endorsing the Downtown Durham Blueprint: 2035

\*26-0048 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC052 Appropriating \$112,400 of General Fund Fund Balance to the Engineering Department and Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Agreement with the UNC School of Government’s Development Finance Initiative for Phase I of the Pre-development Process for the Former Lowe’s Grove School Site located at 4505 S. Alston Avenue for a total not-to exceed \$72,400.00.

26-0064 Approval of Contract with Urban Ministries of Durham to Administer the Homeless Day Shelter and Services Center Pilot Program in the amount of \$350,000.

**Consent Agenda Item #26-0048**

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2026-2026 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 26BCC052**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2026-2026 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments

That the budget capital project 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>			
Environmental Protection	\$10,846,860.67	\$112,400.00	\$10,959,260.67
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$46,273,750.89	\$112,400.00	\$46,386,150.89

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

Approved February 2, 2026

### **Consent Agenda**

The Board reviewed the following Consent Agenda items for the February 9, 2026, Regular Session meeting.

#### **26-0043 Approve Durham County Matching Grants Program Recipients for FY 2025-26 Grant Cycle in the Amount of \$100,000**

Commissioner Jacobs asked Durham Open Space and Trails to provide a list of the number of applicants received, the amount of funds given, and the last time funding was increased.

Brendan Moore, Open Space Land Manager, shared the cycle was not funded due to not meeting the program guidelines to be available to the public. He shared there were five (5) applicants who were recommended for funding:

- Stagville Plantation – To build trails around the property
- Unique Places to Save – To develop park access and a bike repair station
- El Futuro – Implement phase 3 to build musical playground
- Urban Community AgriNomics – To help construct welcome center which would include a toddler play place
- Central Park School for Children – Acquired Trosa Building for middle schoolers to transfer outside space into a play place

### **Directive**

- Staff to provide a list of the numbers of applicants received, the amount of funds given, and the last time funding was increased.

### **There were no questions regarding the items below:**

**26-0022 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA016 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC050 Appropriating \$1,557,339.72 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance to the PAYGO Fund to Support the Construction of a New Radio Tower and the Purchase of Mobile Radios in the Multi-Department Radios and Towers Capital Project (4330DC005)**

**26-0025 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA015 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No. BCC047 Reducing the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Capital Project (4730DC083) by \$104,600 & Transferring \$104,600 to the General Fund to Support the Purchase of Ken Wolfe’s Farm Conservation Easement**

**26-0029 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCA049 Appropriating \$116,780.37 of General Fund Fund Balance to Pay for OES Fleet Facility Rent**

**26-0035 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA018 Appropriating \$10,634,182.00 of Limited Obligation Bond Funding to Support the EMS Station #19 Co-Location Capital Project (4330DC003), as well as Approve Proposed Interlocal Agreement and Joint Use Agreement for the New Station 19 Co-located Public Safety Facility Located at 31 Davis Drive, Durham, NC**

**26-0040 Approve Execution of Contract with AutoTech Solutions (DBA Universal Distribution Group) in the amount of \$143,624.94 for Automotive Vehicle Lifts and Supporting Equipment for the New Office of Emergency Services (OES) Fleet Maintenance Facility**

**26-0041 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA017 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC051 Reducing the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Capital Project (4730DC083) by \$510K and Transferring the Funding to the General Fund to Support Triangle Land Conservancy's Purchase and Protection of 77 Acres and Conveyance of 15 Acres to Durham County**

**26-0042 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC053 Recognizing the Receipt of \$571,000 from the Army National Guard As Paas-Through Funding for Triangle Land Conservancy's Acquisition and Protection of 50 acres at 5017 Dunwoody Road**

**26-0047 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC054 for a Transfer of \$167,418 from the General Government Functional Area to the Economic and Physical Development Functional Area for a Mid-Year FTE Reallocation**

**26-0050 Approval of the FY26 Q3 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Amendment in the Amount of \$200,758.00**

## **Discussion Items**

### **26-0057 Update Presentation on the 911 Consolidation and H.E.A.R.T Expansion Feasibility Study**

The Board received an update from ADCOMM Engineering, LLC and staff on the process and status of the 911 Consolidation and H.E.A.R.T. Expansion Feasibility Study following approval by the BOCC during the November 10, 2025, Regular Session.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director, Engineering and Environmental Services, shared that conversations would be continued on how information would be distributed to the Board ensuring that it was aligned with periodic reports.

County Manager Hager stated work with Mr. Manns would be done to determine which direction to take regarding the timeline of the 911 consolidation. She continued to say staff intentions were to keep the Board updated so that key decision points were not hindered and staff would provide cost analytics pertaining to the consolidation.

Discussion was held pertaining to how data was collected from the 911 centers and the type of calls that were made. Sherri Bush, Vice President, ADCOMM Engineering, shared that data was collected from extensive surveys by the Sheriff's Office and that calls were monitored; however, there were difference in the calls made to the Police Department and Sheriff's Office. She added that training was conducted to observe staff while doing their duties.

The Board suggested staff work with the Stepping Up Initiative.

**Directive**

- Staff to provide cost analytics for 911 consolidation.

**26-0049 Bike & Walk Plan Update**

The Board was requested to receive a presentation on the Bike + Walk Plan update.

The 2026 Bike + Walk Plan update was a combined City of Durham and Durham County plan. It served as an update to the City's 2017 Bike + Walk Plan, and it was the first time that Durham County had participated in this planning initiative. The plan provided updated guidance for walking and biking infrastructure by outlining priority projects and comprehensive network recommendations to inform City and County investment decisions for the next decade and beyond. The plan also guided future policy development by recommending strategies to address key mobility challenges, such as creating a Durham County sidewalk maintenance framework to clarify responsibilities and developing a County Regional Greenway approach to support long-term connectivity.

Brooke Roper, Transportation Planner, clarified that since the County does not have a Countywide maintenance policy, that role would need to be defined either by an outside source or the County creating a department to handle sidewalk maintenance. She continued to say, the cost would be the responsibility of the County, with an estimated maintenance cost of \$5,000 - \$13,000 per mile per year, with a total cost being \$12,000-\$31,000 for approximately 2 ½ miles of sidewalk maintenance. Ellen Beckmann, Transportation Director, added that most sidewalks did not require that much maintenance, just routine inspections.

**26-0060 Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce Update**

The Board was requested to receive an update from the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce on the services it offers in the community related to business, workforce and economic development.

CJ Broderick, President & CEO, Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, shared that the Black Chamber of Commerce had a contract with small businesses to support economic developmental activities and to show how those businesses grew. Mr. Broderick stated many small businesses wanted to expand, so they recruited partners to Durham County to look at real estate opportunities.

Mr. Broderick expressed the need for the County to be more involved with economic decisions, when deciding on incentive packages for the companies. He added that the broader aspect of the needs of the County was to be contracted to engage in economic development, which ensured the collective information from small businesses to show what Durham 2050 would like.

The Board suggested a working group be created consisting of The Durham Chamber of Commerce, the County's Economic Development Department, and the Black Chamber of Commerce to focus more on local businesses to ensure they could be sustained until Durham 2050.

The Board asked for data tracking surrounding the accomplished goals of the Black Chamber of Commerce.

The Board asked for data pertaining to existing programs which the City operated on the County's behalf related to minority and small business development.

CJ Broderick, President & CEO, Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, informed the Board that the Black Chamber of Commerce did not receive any additional funding from the City's Office of Economic & Workforce Development.

**Directive**

- Staff to provide data pertaining to existing programs which the City operated on the County's behalf related to minority and small business development.
- Staff to provide data tracking surrounding accomplished goals of the Black Chamber of Commerce.

**26-0051 Legislative Goals Update in Preparation for General Assembly Short Session**

The Board was requested to receive an overview of the status of the Durham County 2025 Legislative Goals in advance of preparing for the General Assembly Short Session. Lawmakers were scheduled to return in April to continue to work on bills still eligible for consideration, and to approve a state budget. Budget priorities were expected to focus on funding for Medicaid, Helene recovery, as well as raises for hundreds of thousands of state workers.

Deborah Craig-Ray, Chief Communications Officer, informed the Board that the focus was Durham County specific goals and staff would hold Statewide goal conversations for 2027.

The Board expressed the need of the state legislative to fund school-based and state employees to pay a living-wage.

Discussion was held regarding the pressure that was put on the local County property tax due to not receiving adequate funding nor support from the State to pay teachers, school repairs, maintenance and new construction. Should the State legislative remove local taxing authority, the County would not be able to meet basic needs.

Ms. Craig-Ray stated April 17<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to submit projects to the local lobbyists.

**Directive**

- The Board requested a presentation from Central Durham BRT.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to adjourn the virtual meeting at 12:10 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick  
Administrative Assistant