



200 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 560-0025

Durham County

Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

Michael D. Page, Chair
Brenda A. Howerton, Vice Chair
Fred Foster, Jr., Commissioner
Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner
Ellen W. Reckhow, Commissioner

Commissioners' Chambers

Monday, November 23, 2015

7:00 PM

7:00 pm Regular Session

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Page announced the absence of Lowell Siler, County Attorney and stated that Willie Darby, Senior Assistant County Attorney would be sitting in during the Regular Session meeting.

Agenda Adjustments:

Commissioner Reckhow asked to have a brief discussion regarding the Durham Public Schools (DPS) classified staff pay increases.

Chairman Page stated he would acknowledge where the County was in the process. He added he would place the brief discussion on the agenda but asked the Board to remember the questions which were already asked.

Announcements:

Chairman Page read the following announcements:

- 1)PremiumHelp.Org is a United Way program designed to help qualified individuals reduce your monthly health care premium to zero in these specific Silver-Level Plans purchased on the North Carolina Health Insurance Marketplace. To apply for 2015 support, please call 919-463-5000.
- 2)Imagine not having a turkey or sweet potato pie to eat for Thanksgiving dinner. Sadly, that is the case for many of our older adults in Durham County. The Durham Center for Senior Life is holding a holiday food drive and will be accepting toiletry donations for seniors from November – December 18. For more information about the Holiday Drive, please call Emoni' Battle (919) 688-8247 ext. 103 or Laurie McNeil (919) 688-8247 ext. 115.

- 3)These announcements may also be found on the County’s website or you may call the Clerk’s Office at 919-560-0025.
- 4)Commissioner Jacobs announced the Durham Center for Senior Life would be hosting a Christmas Extravaganza scheduled for December 23, 2015 from 11am-2pm. She added the event would provide a free dinner for senior citizens hosted by Tooties Restaurant.
- 5)Vice Chair Howerton announced the Durham Rotary was also working with Durham Center for Senior Life and was hosting a Christmas Party at Little River Elementary School located on 2315 Snow Hill Road on December 18, 2015 from 10am-12pm. She also announced Christmas parties scheduled for December 16, 2015 at WD Hill Recreation Center located on 1308 Fayetteville Road and JFK Towers located on 4900 North Roxboro Street. Vice Chair Howerton asked the citizens to contact the Durham Center for Senior Life at 919-667-9404 for more information.
- 6)Commissioner Reckhow highlighted the first announcement mentioned by Chairman Page and stated there was assistance for those purchasing health insurance through United Way. She encouraged the audience to contact PremiumHelp.org before dropping insurance, or purchasing insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Minutes:

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to approve the November 2, 2015 Worksession minutes and the November 9, 2015 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Added Item – Brief Durham Public School Discussion:

Chairman Page stated the Board was waiting to receive and review the audit from DPS prior to moving forward with the pay increases for the classified workers. He added the Board was committed to honoring the request but it could not be done until the audit was adequately reviewed.

Commissioner Reckhow stated the Board had been very consistent over the past two months and asked Wendell Davis, County Manager to locate the funds needed for the increase. She continued to say the request from DPS was made in September, yet the audit was still not available.

Commissioner Jacobs mentioned the County was ready to move forward with a decision.

Chairman Page stated the Board was told that the audit would be ready in 30 days and it was going by what DPS told them.

Ceremonial Items:

15-753 Recognition that the Information Services and Technology Department has Received a National Awards that Demonstrates World-Class IT Effectiveness

Chairman Page recognized the IT&S department for the national award received in October 2015 for their customer service, innovative business transformation and business process improvements.

Greg Marrow, Chief Information Officer thanked the Board for the recognition and acknowledgement.

Consent Agenda:

Chairman Page asked the Commissioners if they desired to pull any items from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Reckhow requested to pull item #15-752 and asked to comment on item #15-768.

Vice Chair Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

*15-731 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 16BCC000023 to Recognize \$600 from the Strong Fathers Program in Support of Durham County 4H and \$3140 as the Annual Commercial Mail Allocation from NCCES CALS. The total Amount to be added to the Budget is \$3740.

15-737 Approval of Closed Session Minutes

*15-750 Property Tax Releases and Refunds for October 2015

15-756 Reimbursement Resolution -Research Triangle Foundation

15-759 Appointment to GoTriangle Board of Directors

15-768 Resolution Creating Task Force to Support Early Literacy Efforts and Pre-K Expansion

The motion carried unanimously.

Item 15-768

Commissioner Reckhow requested to acknowledge the approval of creating a task force to study and support the expansion of the Pre-K literacy. She added this was an important step for the community.

Consent Agenda Item #15-731

**Durham County, North Carolina
2015-2016 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 16BCC000023**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2015-2016 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Revenue:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<i>GENERAL FUND</i>			
Intergovernmental	\$57,773,238	\$3,740	\$57,776,978

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<i>GENERAL FUND</i>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$6,611,032	\$3,740	\$6,614,772

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

This the 23rd day of November, 2015.

Consent Agenda Item #15-750

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 October, 2015.

Releases & Refunds for October 2015

Real Property	\$ 1,226.57
Personal Property	\$ 29,833.25
Motor Vehicle	\$ 23.11
Solid Waste Fees	\$ 278.00
VTS Refunds	\$ <u>17,886.54</u>
Total	\$ 49,247.47

Releases & Refunds for Prior Years

Real Property	\$ 4,123.41
Personal Property	\$ 7,110.01
Solid Waste Fees	\$ <u>261.00</u>
Total for 2014 Taxes and Fees	\$ 11,494.42

Grand Total \$ 60,741.89

Other Business:

15-745 Report to the Board: 2016 Reappraisal

Kimberly Simpson, Tax Administrator shared the *2016 Reappraisal Presentation* which highlighted the following:

- General Information
- Taxable Property Types
- Reappraisal Objective
- Tracking Market Value
- Sales Ratio – Results
- What does this mean?
- The Big Picture
- Another Way to Look at it
- Included with the Notices
- Appeals Process
- Meeting Locations
- Appeal Timing
- Contact Information

Commissioner Foster asked if the process would decrease the number of appeals or would they continue to increase. Ms. Simpson responded it would depend on the taxpayer and how well they accepted the appraisal.

Vice Chair Howerton asked if the property owner sold the property for less than the appraised value, would the owner have to pay the appraised tax value. Ms. Simpson responded the owner would have to

pay the appraised value unless they could prove the property sold was purchased at a lower value. She continued to say that would not mean the tax payer did not have the right to appeal.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the abbreviation COD. Ms. Simpson stated COD stood for Coefficient of Dispersion which meant how closely the appraisal matched the sale price of the property. Commissioner Jacobs asked what the percentage difference from the number of appeals in 2001-2008. Ms. Simpson stated it was around 30%.

Ms. Simpson stated the website would be released on December 9, 2015 and if citizens had questions, they could call the tax department to schedule an appointment.

Commissioner Reckhow questioned the copies provided to the citizens. She wanted to make sure the information was clear for them to understand.

Commissioner Jacobs asked if the department was working with the library staff to assist citizens in filing a request for a reappraisal. Ms. Simpson stated her team would be at the libraries for 30 days to assist citizens with the process. Commissioner Jacobs added January 8, 2016 was the deadline for a face-to-face meeting and it was very urgent that the public was aware of this. Ms. Simpson responded there was a press packet that would be mailed out to all citizens with all necessary information.

Commissioner Reckhow inquired about how people would know when tax representatives would be at the locations. Ms. Simpson responded the locations and dates would be posted. Commissioner Jacobs asked for clarification on appointments being scheduled as needed. Ms. Simpson stated the goal was to resolve the needs; she added appointments were encouraged to ensure staff availability.

Commissioner Reckhow commended Ms. Simpson on the presentation and the packets for the citizens. She mentioned the outreach method used and suggested they meet with home owners associations to answer questions directly. Ms. Simpson agreed adding that they were waiting to see what the values would look like before making arrangements to meet with neighborhoods.

Board and Commission Appointments:

Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board, distributed ballots to the Board to make appointments to boards and commissions.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

Alice Petersen (Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Page, Reckhow)

Anne Schneider (Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Page, Reckhow)

City-County Appearance Commission

Pamela Porter (Jacobs, Page, Reckhow)

Ann Woodard (Foster, Howerton)

Library Board of Trustees

Taylor Harris (Page)

Luis F. Olivieri-Robert (Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Reckhow)

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

Deirdre Thornlow (Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Page, Reckhow)

Transportation Advisory Board

Jacobs Rogers (Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Page, Reckhow)

Items Pulled From Consent Agenda:

15-752 Judicial Parking Lease

Commissioner Reckhow questioned the cost per month with the additional lease. She stated it was listed at \$55 per month and had a concern that it was not being listed at the current market rate. Commissioner Reckhow mentioned the staff checked and the current rate was \$65 a month; which was what the City of Durham charged.

Wendell Davis, County Manager stated the County would adjust the rate for parking and asked George Quick, Chief Finance Office to provide additional comments.

Mr. Quick stated the current monthly rate was \$55 and mentioned if the Board wanted to change the rate effective immediately to \$65 for all renewals and moving forward, they could do so because no commitment had been made.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested the County make the rate change and asked if the item could be approved.

Commissioner Foster inquired about the annual cost of parking if the figure was changed. Mr. Quick responded it would cost \$3,250.00.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs the approval of the lease subject to amending the rate to the market rate of \$65.00 per month.

The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session:

Chairman Page stated the Board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- 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, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and
- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of a business or industry, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4) and
- To consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3)

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton to adjourn to Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session:

Chairman Page announced the Board met in closed session and provided direction to staff.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Toomer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monica W. Toomer
Deputy Clerk to the Board