

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

Monday, June 8, 2020

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 Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair James Hill and Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: Chair Wendy Jacobs

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Chair Jacobs announced that there were no agenda adjustments.

Announcements

Chair Jacobs read the following announcements:

1. **Serving the Durham Community: COVID-19 Volunteer Opportunities** – If you are looking for ways to give back in your community; please check the list below for volunteer opportunities.
 - Feed Durham by volunteering with a food relief agency or assist seniors through the Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center (formerly the Volunteer Center of Durham: <https://tinyurl.com/feeddarham>
 - Support Durham FEAST, a child and adult feeding collaboration between Durham Public Schools and other partners: <https://www.durhamfeast.org/volunteer>
 - Assist another area nonprofit seeking volunteers by searching the Durham County Public Health website: www.dcopublichealth.org
2. **Free Tax Help Starting in June** – Reinvestment Partners will be offering FREE tax services at Durham's Northgate Mall until July 10, 2020. For drop off instructions and links to download forms please visit www.tinyurl.com/northgatetaxhelp
3. **COVID19 Testing in Durham** – If you are looking for COVID19 testing in Durham, click on the following link to Durham County Department of Public Health's data dashboard which will help you locate COVID19 testing near you: <https://durhampublicpublichealth-durhamnc.hub.egis.com/>

4. **Book Return Now Open** – The book return at Main Library is now open for you to return library materials, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Please wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands before and after use. If you are unable to return your books at this time, please feel free to hold on to them. Fines are not accruing. More details at <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/2020/03/durham-county-library-covid-19-update/>
5. **COVID Rental Assistance Program** – Have you been laid-off or furloughed, and are now behind in your rent? The Department of Social Services may be able to help. Please call 919-560-8000 to schedule an appointment.
6. **Become a Mentor for African American Males** – The African American Male Initiative at North Carolina Central University is seeking mentors for their upcoming 2020 class. The 2020 cohort will include 40 young men who are majoring in various subjects. To apply, please visit <https://bit.ly/2020MacMentors>
7. **There is Still time for Census 2020** – For the first time ever, the Census can be completed by phone, email, or online. Due to health concerns, the time to complete the Census has been extended to October 31, 2020. Please visit <https://2020census.gov/> to complete the Census today!
8. **Did you Know that you can Vote from Home?** – Vote from the convenience of your home for the 2020 General Election! Please visit www.dcovotes.com for more information absentee ballots and how to request a form.

Commissioner Reckhow announced outreach workers were distributing mask in the community. She recommended providing the outreach workers with Census flyers printed in Spanish and English to distribute with the mask. Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manger responded she would provide the outreach workers with Census flyers printed in Spanish and English.

Minutes

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Hill to approve the March 2, 2020 Work Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

20-0262 Proclamation – 11th Anniversary World Sickle Cell Awareness Day: Shine the Light on Sickle Cell

Vice-Chair Hill read the following proclamation:

11TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY: SHINE THE LIGHT ON SICKLE CELL | 2020

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that causes pain, infection, disability, economic strain and even death, primarily among African American children, and adults;
and

- WHEREAS,** no definite cure for this disease exists, although treatment is available to help those with sickle cell disease lead more productive and rewarding lives; and
- WHEREAS,** treatment of these conditions often requires both emergency department care and hospitalization; and
- WHEREAS,** provision of services is a collaborative effort between major medical centers, regional educators/counselors, community-based programs, local health departments and the State Laboratory of Public Health; and
- WHEREAS,** many healthcare professionals, regional educators, and community advocates do not receive adequate and current education about sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** support for research on the treatment and management of this disorder, as well as overall awareness' are vital to improving the health and quality of life for persons with sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1973, The North Carolina Sickle Cell Syndrome Program has provided quality services throughout the State for patients; and
- WHEREAS,** sickle cell experts and advocates from Duke University, and Pi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority are committed to improving the quality of care received by persons with sickle cell disease; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2009, June 19th was officially designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. The international awareness day is observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease, and the challenges experienced by patients and their families and caregivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2020 as

“WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY”

in Durham County, North Carolina.

This the 8th day of June 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Tiffany Bell, Health Educator explained how COVID-19 also impacted people with sickle cell and the increase of people of color effected by the disease. She also thanked the Board for their continued support. The Board thanked Ms. Bell for providing the community with education and awareness on sickle cell.

20-0267 Proclamation – Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

Chair Jacobs read the following Proclamation:

RACISM: A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, the American Association of Pediatrics calls racism a socially transmitted disease passed down through generations, leading to the inequities observed in our population today; and

WHEREAS, racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities of color, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and white communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources, Durham County’s collective prosperity depends upon the equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, historically, white supremacy in the socioeconomic context refers to a system in which white people enjoy a structural advantage (privilege) over other ethnic groups, on both a collective and individual level; and

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is internalized or interpersonal; systemic racism that is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment and criminal justice; and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health; and

WHEREAS, overt racism and discrimination lead to worse health outcomes for people of color that can result in traumatic stress and linked to negative mental health outcomes, such as depression, anger, physical reactions, avoidance, intrusion, hypervigilance, and low self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, microaggressions defined as “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative ... slights and insults.” Microaggressions have been found to increase suicide ideation; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has declared police violence a public health problem; negative police encounters among African American men are associated with depression; pregnant African American women experience stress related to the likelihood that their children will have future negative encounters with police, and that stress from negative youth-police encounters is associated with depression; and

WHEREAS, the greatest disparity in birth weight is seen among Black or African American newborns in Durham. These serve as examples of disparities - Non-Hispanic White 5.4% Non-Hispanic Black 13.5%, Hispanic 7.4%, and Infant Deaths Non-Hispanic White 630 Non-Hispanic Black 850, Hispanic 313; and

WHEREAS, diabetes affects minorities and low-income populations disproportionately. Race is a factor: as of 2015, 10.9% of white Durham residents had diabetes compared to 20.2% of black residents; and

WHEREAS, 11.2% of Non-Hispanic Black or African American women have a history of cardiovascular disease compared to 8.5% of Non-Hispanic White women; and

WHEREAS, the Durham County Board of Commissioners stands with the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and residents of Durham County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners:

1. Assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire county
2. Work to progress as an equity and justice-oriented organization, with the Board of Commissioners and its staff leadership continuing to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and to ensure antiracism principles across Board of Commissioners leadership, staffing and contracting.
3. Promote equity through all policies approved by the Board of Commissioners and enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development and

4. Support community efforts to amplify issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live.
5. To always promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
6. Ensure on-going antiracism, racial equity training with the goal of reaching all members of the Board of County Commissioners, county leadership and staff.
7. Encourage current racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors and tractors.
8. Identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to the Board of Commissioners, to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity.

This the 8th day of June 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter

Brenda A. Howerton

Ellen W. Reckhow

Dr. Wanda Boone, Executive Director of Durham Together for Resilient Youth (T.R.Y.) thanked the Board for the resolution and asked for polices to be changed to address racism. She shared how racism impacted her life, career and kept her involved with social justice for over 50 years. Dr. Boone asked for Kweli Rashied-Henry, Racial Equity Officer or Rod Jenkins, Public Heath Director to attend the Health Committee meetings.

Commissioner Howerton thanked Dr. Boone and stated Durham had work to do with racism. She added the Board should be held liable for goals dealing with policy changes.

Commissioner Reckhow stated she would like for the Board to concentrate on the eight points in the resolution, with emphasis on the third point.

Mr. Jenkins stated racism persisted in the nation and he was proud to be part of an organization committed to changing racism. He added policy changes was the only way to bring about true health care changes and help deal with racism in Durham.

Chair Jacobs stated the Board addressed issues in the community which included racism, medical and childhood abuse. She mentioned letters were received from the Co-Chairs of the City-County Committee on the Confederate Monuments and Memorials as well as feedback from Mayor Steve Schewel and she encouraged the Board to move forward with the plan to remove the Confederate Base, due to the base being a health hazard and risk to the public.

Ms. Rashied-Henry commended the Board for approving the resolution and Dr. Boone for bringing forward the resolution. She hoped the resolution would enrich the County's commitment to address racism and the partnership with the community.

Commissioner Carter thanked Dr. Boone and the African American leaders for the resolution. She stated violence could take many forms and hoped the Board would take concrete actions to help resolve racial equity.

20-00202 Recognize a \$50,000 donation from the Research Triangle Foundation to Durham's Emergency Operation Center

Scott Levitan, President and CEO of the Research Triangle Foundation thanked the Board for the recognition. He explained the foundation was grateful to support the Emergency Operation Center when Jim Groves, Emergency Services Director and County Manager Davis called for assistance. Mr. Levitan stated the foundation supplied \$17,000 of lunches from companies in the Research Triangle Park for the frontline workers. The Board thanked Mr. Levitan for the donation and the Research Triangle Foundation's partnership with the County.

Consent Agenda

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

Hearing none, Chair Jacobs entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Carter to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

20-0200 Service Contract with Animal Protection Society of Durham, Inc.

20-0202 Recognize a \$50,000 donation from the Research Triangle Foundation to Durham's Emergency Operation Center.

*20-0203 Capital Project Amendment No. 20SPA000030 – Appropriating \$2,900,000 of LOBS Funds to the Durham Technical Community College Capital Project (5925300CC014) for the Purchase of Property at 1684 E. Lawson Street (Crocodile Creek, Inc.) and Reducing from the DTCC Newton Building Project (59205300CC012) by \$2,900,000 of "PAYGO" Funds.

20-0205 Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the County of Durham and the City of Durham for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Local Government Management Fellowship Position.

20-0216 Manhole Inspection Services for Utilities Division.

20-0217 Local Water Supply Plan for Rougemont Water System.

20-0220 Library requests to Award Contract for Sole Source Purchase of Digital Content Management Services and for eBooks and eAudiobooks from OneDrive.

20-0221 Approval of Contract for Psychiatric Services at the Durham County Detention Center.

20-0222 Contract Approval for Electronic Monitoring Services.

*20-0233 Budget Amendment 20BCC000062 for the Department of Social Services. Recognizing SHIFT NC funds in the amount of \$3,500.

20-0234 Approval of the City of Durham and County of Durham Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Sub-Grant Agreement.

20-0238 Approval of Contract Amendment to Extend Contract with Child Care Services Association for Management of Durham Pre-K through FY22-23.

*20-0252 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 20BCC000063 – Recognize \$58,008 Grant Funding from the FY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplement Funding (CESF) Program to the Durham County Sheriff’s Office.

20-0253 Renewal of Interlocal Agreement for Little River Regional Park.

Consent Agenda Item #20-0203

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2019-2020 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 20CPA000030**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2019-2020 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Project	Current Budget	Increase/ Decrease	Revised Budget
DTCC Newton Building Project (5920CC012)	\$22,000,000	(\$2,900,000)	\$19,100,000
DTCC Property Purchase Project (5920CC014)	\$0	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000

Adopted this the 8th day of June 2020.

Consent Agenda Item #20-0233

**Durham County, North Carolina
2019-2020 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 20BCC000062**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2019-2020 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>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$45,592,728	\$3,500	\$45,596,228

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Human Services	\$86,028,579	\$3,500	\$86,032,079

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

Approved June 8, 2020

Consent Agenda Item #20-0252

**Durham County, North Carolina
2019-2020 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 20BCC000063**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2019-2020 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>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$45,596,228	\$58,008	\$45,654,236

Expenditures:

<u>Function</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
Public Safety	\$70,867,582	\$58,008	\$70,925,590

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

Approved June 8, 2020

Other Business

20-0265 Adoption of the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance

Chair Jacobs stated additional information about the Cooperative Extension agriculture position, events in the community and issues related to the budget should be discussed before the approval.

Commissioner Carter thanked staff for working on the budget and the role management played to help contain the cost due to the economy. She stated she would like to change the funding amount for Durham Public Schools (DPS).

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Chair Jacobs to allocate the full funding amount of \$3.8 million to fund the \$15 hourly wage proposal for DPS classified staff.

Ayes: Commissioner Carter and Chair Jacobs

Nays: Vice-Chair Hill, Commissioner Howerton and Reckhow

The motion failed.

Chair Jacobs explained the difficulty with the budget; adding majority of classified workers were people of color and an important action could happen related to the racism resolution with the priority change to the budget. Commissioner Reckhow stated the Board made the budget a priority and the County faced uncertainty with revenues and a sales tax split with the City. Commissioner Howerton stated the Board had the responsibility to maintain the local government and had a limited budget. Vice-Chair Hill stated he would approve the funding in a normal budget year and desired for all classified workers to make \$15 an hour; adding the City implemented the \$15 hourly wage over a two-year time period.

Chair Jacobs asked how the County could fund the full amount for the \$15 hourly proposal. County Manager Davis explained the County was carefully managing cost in the time of uncertainty. Chair Jacobs stated many of the County expenses were Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursable. County Manager Davis responded the County paid for the expenses and was hoping to get reimbursed by FEMA. He added the County could re-evaluate expenditures in six months to determine if the County could provide additional funding to DPS.

Chair Jacobs inquired about the cost of the Cooperative Extension agriculture position. Keith Lane, Budget Director replied 60 percent was funded by the County and 40 percent was funded by the State. Commissioner Reckhow expressed concern due to the economic uncertainty. Donna Rewalt, Cooperative Extension Director explained the position would collaborate with farmers, water resources, agricultural grants and gap certification. She added the department staff were stretched and had a growing need for additional staff.

First Motion:

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve the Cooperative Extension position.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Jacobs inquired about the process to add the Cooperative Extension agriculture position to the budget. Mr. Lane responded the Board should add that they were appropriating \$42,714 for the Cooperative Extension agriculture position.

Second Motion:

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton to approve the budget with the amendment to increase Cooperative Extension’s budget by \$42,714 for the agriculture position.

Ayes: Vice-Chair Hill, Commissioner Howerton and Reckhow

Nays: Commissioner Carter and Chair Jacobs

The motion carried.

Chair Jacobs stated the Board requested at a budget work session meeting for staff to provide options for property tax relief and COVID-19 related issues. She asked Bryan Wardell, Senior Assistant County Attorney and Dwane Brinson, Tax Administrator to present the options at the July 13, 2020 Regular Session meeting. Mr. Brinson responded he was working to find solutions and would have options for the Board to consider at the July 13th meeting. Chair Jacobs welcomed the City to be a partner with the tax relief options. Commissioner Howerton asked if the City was committed to supporting half of the relief. Chair Jacobs responded the City sent a letter to support with the relief program. Commissioner Carter requested that the Tax Department meet with community groups on the tax relief program. Mr. Brinson responded he would be happy to meet with community groups, noting those meetings would need to be virtual due to COVID-19.

Mr. Lane stated the tax rate would be approved in the budget and would allow limited options to implement means of significant value after the approval of the budget. Commissioner Reckhow recommended a virtual meeting with the Legislatures to discuss options and to seek funding from the state COVID-19 funding. Chair Jacobs recommended the Clerk and Deborah Craig-Ray, General Manager to schedule the meeting with the Legislatures and Mr. Brinson to give guidance for the discussion with the Legislatures.

Directives:

- **Chair Jacobs requested Bryan Wardell and Dwane Brinson to provide the Board with options for the property tax relief and COVID related issues at the July 13, 2020 Regular Session meeting.**
- **Commissioner Carter requested for the Tax Department to meet with community groups on tax relief.**
- **Commissioner Reckhow and Chair Jacobs recommended the Clerk and Deborah Craig-Ray schedule a meeting with the Legislatures and Mr. Brinson to give guidance for the discussion.**

20-0264 Proposed Durham County Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Plan

Jodi Miller, General Manager shared the *Proposed Durham County Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Plan* which highlighted the following: Proposed Durham County CRF Plan with Expenditures from March 1 through December 30, 2020 and Framework for Durham County CRF Funding Plan.

Commissioner Reckhow stated 2000 test was not abundant for the size of the community. Rod Jenkins, Public Health Director responded the Health Department was not directly providing test to the community and would only test in an emergency. Commissioner Reckhow asked if payroll expenses included the ten percent differential pay for essential staff for COVID hazard pay. Ms. Miller responded yes; adding the expenses covered base salary, overtime and hazard pay. Chair Jacobs asked if the County was required to first apply for reimbursement to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), then to the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES). Ms. Miller responded the County would apply for reimbursement from both until CARES money was depleted.

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to approve the Durham County Coronavirus Relief Fund Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

20-0266 Capital Improvement Plan Update

Keith Lane, Budget Director shared the *Revisions to June 2019 Approved Capital Improvement Plan, Expenditures and Capital Improvement Plan Debt Funding FY 2020-21*.

Commissioner Reckhow inquired about the Snow Hill pump station cost increase from \$13 million to \$19.6 million. Jay Gibson, General Manager replied the increase was due to a shortage in labor from COVID-19 and the \$13 million was an estimated cost and the \$19 million was actual cost. Commissioner Reckhow asked if the City would consider offsetting the cost. Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services responded he would work with Mr. Gibson to discuss with the City and report the outcome to the Board. Chair Jacobs asked for an explanation of the process considering the City would benefit from the pump station. County Manager Davis explained the agreement with the City was for the recruitment of major city expansion to benefit both entities.

Commissioner Reckhow stated Administration I renovation cost increased to \$11 million before the reduction in the budget and inquired about reducing the cost to \$8 million. County Manager Davis responded the renovation project cost could be revisited at a later date. Commissioner Reckhow stated the Museum of Life and Science had projects adding up to \$36 million and the maintenance and upkeep cost were increasing with the new projects. She added the new projects should be reviewed and discussed before approval. Commissioner Reckhow stated the new youth home cost increased and asked if the state was helping to fund that cost. Jodi Miller, General Manager replied she was working with the state to partner with the cost of the youth home. She recommended working with the Durham Delegation on partners and funding.

Chair Jacobs asked for clarification for the increase in Alliance's budget. Mr. Manns responded the budget was increased after Alliance was unable to take advantage of planned cost savings. Chair Jacobs stated new parking deck projects may need revisions due to the increase of people working remotely. Chair Jacobs requested for staff to evaluate the Capital Improvement Plan and present to the Board. Commissioner Reckhow recommended for the item to be discussed at the June 22nd Regular Session meeting.

Directive: Commissioner Reckhow recommended the Capital Improvement Plan be discussed at the June 22nd Regular Session meeting.

20-0194 Durham County Update on the COVID-19 Crisis

Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director thanked the Board and County Management for their support in the COVID response.

Mr. Jenkins provided the following updates for Durham County:

- 2247 total cases and 53 deaths
- 17.66 percent of cases were community spread;
- 0 percent of cases were travel related;
- 56.32 percent of cases were close contact of a confirmed case;
- 25.57 percent of cases were still under investigation;
- 0.46 percent of cases were lost to follow up;
- 19 percent were African American; 12 percent were Caucasian; 67 percent were Latinx; and 5 percent were Unknown;
- 47 percent were female; 55 percent were male

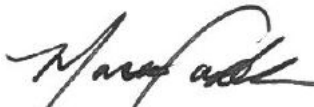
The Board asked about free testing, mobile testing and testing at home. Mr. Jenkins responded he was confident testing would continue to expand and the state would provide funding.

Adjournment

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 10:55 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board