

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

Monday, May 10, 2021

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 Brenda Howerton, Vice-Chair Wendy Jacobs and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns and Heidi Carter

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Opening of Regular Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Commissioner Allam stated the Board was at a consensus to not add an item to the agenda and agreed to have a Special meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2021.

Announcements

Monica Toomer, Clerk to the Board read the following announcements:

1. **Durham County Public Health Vaccination Clinic Update** – Beginning Monday, May 4th the DCo Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic will offer walk-in vaccinations for first and second doses five (5) days a week.

For additional information, please visit www.dconc.gov

2. **Food for Durham** – Food for Durham is here and is now accepting donations to benefit Durham County food pantries and other food distribution organizations. Food for Durham is a new, community-led initiative to help our incredible local food and hunger relief nonprofits secure food, equipment and other essentials so that they can keep supporting the community in this time of increased need. To learn more, visit the Food for Durham website at www.unitedwaytriangle.org/foodfordurham or follow Food for Durham on social media using the hashtag #food4durham.
3. **A Real Reminder** – Beginning May 3, 2023, Federal Agencies will enforce the **REAL ID** Act – which requires a **REAL ID**, U.S. passport or other federally approved identification to board commercial flights or enter secure federal buildings.

For more information about the **REAL ID**, please visit www.ncdot.gov

4. **Planning Agency Seeks Comment on Changes to Bicycle/Pedestrian and other Transportation Projects in Long-Term Plan** – If you are interested in the future highway, bicycle, multiuse paths, and transit projects for our region, you can submit feedback by May 25, 2021 on a proposed amendment to the long-range transportation plan.

Please visit www.dchcmpo.org to submit your comment online. You are also able to submit comments via email at andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov

5. **Durham Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** – The Durham County Department of Social Services apologizes for the delay in the launch of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). There was a technical glitch today on the launch of the DurhamERAP.dconc.gov website. We now have a ‘work-around’ link that clients can go to and fill out their rental assistance applications.

The link: <https://dcoprod.servicenowservices.com/cares> is **LIVE**. The link can be found directly on the County’s main website, DCONC.gov on the slider head for the Durham ERAP Program. We apologize for the delay and technical difficulty but are now ready to receive rental assistance applications. Further updates will be forthcoming as we continue to address challenges and issues that may arise.

William Ben Rose, Department of Social Services Director apologized to the community for the delay in the launch of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and explained the County was in the process of obtaining an operational website. He added residents could visit the website: dconc.gov to apply until the ERAP website was operational.

Chair Howerton announced May was National Nurses month and recognized nurses for their continued work and dedication to keeping the community safe.

Commissioner Burns thanked Janeen Gordon, Assistant Director for Aging and Adult Services for seeking funding, providing programs and assisting with the ERAP.

Vice-Chair Jacobs thanked County staff and partners for the ERAP.

Commissioner Allam announced India was affected by a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and asked for the community to visit India COVID Mutual Aid for information and to donate.

Minutes

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the April 5, 2021 Work Session minutes and the April 12, 2021 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ceremonial Items

21-0237 Proclamation – Children’s Mental Health Awareness Month 2021

Commissioner Burns read the following proclamation:

CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH | 2021

- WHEREAS,** addressing the complex behavioral and mental health needs our children, youth and families is fundamental to the future of Durham and North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** the leadership in Durham, North Carolina recognizes that addressing the complex mental health needs and treatment be on par with medical needs and treatment; and addressing the social-emotional development are essential early foundations to ensure the best outcomes for our children’s well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Department of Health and Human Services has identified that 1-5 of our state’s 2.2 million children lives with a mental health condition, and the North Carolina Center for State Health Statistics data report that suicide is the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-17 in our state; families shall not feel stigma and shame to seek treatment for their children and youth and be able to discuss openly their need for help without public retribution; and
- WHEREAS,** research shows it is important to seek help early and get effective treatment for trauma, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders among children and adolescents, and provide them quality opportunities to live resilient, health, and productive lives; and
- WHEREAS,** available school based mental health programs and positive behavior, interventions and supports should be considered as best practice, and be encouraged to be practiced in every Durham, North Carolina public school; and
- WHEREAS,** children are recognized for having unique needs for recovery of mental health, emotional, behavioral and substance use issues, and not being combined with the adult mental health population for treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham understand children with mental health challenges and their families benefit from access to timely services, supports and crisis response systems that are family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally appropriate; they also benefit from the integrated behavioral health in the health care, education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County Commissioners along with the State of North Carolina is demonstrating its commitment to children’s mental health through all child, youth adult serving systems to support children’s emotional, resilience, and well-being; emotional and behavioral health issues join to recognize Children’s Mental Health Awareness month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as a

“CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

in Durham County and commend its observance to our citizens.

This 10th day of May 2021.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Teka Dempson, Lead Family Partner Coordinator thanked the Board for the proclamation and introduced Rob Robinson, CEO of Alliance Health. Mr. Robinson gave an overview of the virtual Children’s Mental Health Awareness month events and encouraged residents to follow Alliance Health online by visiting the website and social media pages for more information on the events. He thanked the Board for the recognition and their continued support for children’s mental health.

The Board explained mental health was important for children and families; adding the pandemic impacted children and families due to social isolation. The Board asked about the new facility. Mr. Robinson replied a Child Crisis Facility was under construction with plans to open at the end of Summer 2021. The Board thanked Mr. Robinson and Ms. Dempson for their support and providing services to the community.

21-0256 Proclamation – Durham County Cooperative Extension Week

Vice-Chair Jacobs read the following proclamation:

DURHAM COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION | 2021

WHEREAS, NC Cooperative Extension, Durham County Center creates opportunities for lifelong learning and connects residents with resources that help improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Cooperative Extension is to partner with communities to deliver research-based education and technology that enrich the lives, land, and economy of North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, as a partnership of NC State University and NC A&T University with Durham County Government, Durham County Cooperative Extension serves the Durham community through the Durham County Strategic Plan and its five goal areas; and

WHEREAS, Durham County Cooperative Extension offers Durham County residents programs and education in Agriculture, Family & Consumer Science, 4-H Youth Development, and Parent & Family Advocacy, as well as through our Kids Voting Durham and Welcome Baby programs, at the County Agriculture Building, at the Briggs Avenue Community Garden, and in the community; and

WHEREAS, during the week of May 24- 28, 2021, Durham County Cooperative Extension will be celebrating its Annual Report to the Community, with events that feature the accomplishments of its programs from the past year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 24 – 28, 2021 as

“COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WEEK”

in Durham County, NC.

This 10th day of May 2021.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Donna Rewalt, Durham County Cooperative Extension Director stated the title for Cooperative Extension Week was “A Season to Overcome” to represent how the department adapted to help the community during the pandemic. Ms. Rewalt introduced Christa Gibson, Durham County Cooperative Extension Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Gibson explained a series of events which occurred the week of May 24th through May 28th that highlighted each of Cooperative Extension’s program areas. The Board thanked Cooperative Extension for supporting families in Durham and providing programs and services that educated the community.

21-0258 Proclamation – Older American Month 2021

Commissioner Carter read the following proclamation:

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH | 2021

- WHEREAS,** Durham County includes a growing number of older Americans who have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes and difficulties; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County benefits when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are included and encouraged to share their successes and stories of resilience; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County recognizes our need to nurture ourselves, reinforce our strength, and continue to thrive in times of both joy and struggle; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County is committed to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead which require us to think differently about health and holistic wellbeing, and work together to ensure that older adults can age strong, long and with dignity; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County can foster communities of strength by:
- creating opportunities to share stories and learn from each other
 - engaging older adults through education, recreation, and service
 - encouraging people of all ages to celebrate connections and resilience
- WHEREAS,** Durham County appreciates the value of inclusion and support in helping older adults successfully contribute to and benefit from their communities and will work toward creating an Age Friendly Durham; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

“OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

in Durham County. We commend this observance to our residents and urge all residents, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses to join with the Department of Social Services, The Durham Center for Senior Life, Dementia Inclusive Durham, and the Durham’s Partnership for Seniors committee to honor older adults, and those who care for them, during May and throughout the year. We urge all to promote and participate in activities that contribute to helping older Americans make choices for a healthy, strong, safe, and rewarding future.

This 10th day of May 2021.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Ben Rose, Director of the Department of Social Services stated there was limited funding for seniors, although Durham County provided many services and programs with assistance from partners in the community. Janeen Gordon, Assistant Director for Aging and Adult Services stated she appreciated the opportunity to highlight older Americans, care takers and providers for seniors. The Board thanked Mr. Rose and Ms. Gordon for overcoming challenges during the pandemic and ensuring seniors in the community remained safe.

21-0283 Proclamation – National Foster Care Month

Commissioner Allam read the following proclamation:

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH | 2021

- WHEREAS,** the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the foundation of our communities and our State; and
- WHEREAS,** over 424,000 children in foster care nationwide because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 17,000 children live in foster care in North Carolina because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** foster families, who open their homes and hearts as a support to families and not a substitute for parents, play a vital role in helping children and families to heal and reconnect and launching children into successful adulthood; and
- WHEREAS,** in Durham County, there were 306 children and youth in foster care on April 1, 2021 being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family; and
- WHEREAS,** the needs of the foster care population result in a greater call for skilled foster families, community resources and partnerships; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County foster care system depends on the active support and involvement of the Durham community; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County Department of Social Services is joined by numerous individuals, public, and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents, the Durham County Department of Social Services acknowledges foster care as a “Support to Families and Not a Substitute for Parents. Therefore, we recognize the critical role that everyone has in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

“NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH”

in Durham County. We commend this observance to our community and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help raise hope and foster dreams of children and youth in foster care.

This 10th day of May 2021.

Brenda Howerton, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Ben Rose, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS) stated the County was celebrating foster care children, the families and parents who fostered children. Jovetta Whitfield, Assistant Director of Child and Family Services encouraged anyone interested in becoming a foster care parent to apply online at the DSS website. She added DSS scheduled a drive-thru celebration for foster care parents at the Scrape Exchange parking lot on Saturday, May 15th. Ms. Whitfield thanked the Board for the opportunity to raise awareness for foster care children and parents. The Board thanked Mr. Rose and Ms. Whitfield, staff, foster care parents and non-profits for helping children and families in Durham.

21-0304 Board of Elections Receives National Clearinghouse Award from the United States Election Assistance Commission

Derek Bowens, Board of Elections Director thanked the Board for the recognition and introduced Philip Lehman, Board of Elections Chairman. Mr. Lehman stated he was honored for Durham County Board of Elections to receive the National Clearinghouse Award and explained Mr. Bowens, Elections staff and the City-County Geographic Information System (GIS) created the Early Voting Wait-Time Tracking Tool. Mr. Lehman stated other counties including Wake County, inquired about the tracking tool and created a similar program. The Board thanked Mr. Bowens, Mr. Lehman, Elections staff and the City-County GIS for creating the tracking tool and receiving the National Clearinghouse Award.

Consent Agenda

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

The Board requested to comment on the following:

- Item 21-0292 – Vice Chair Jacobs commented the County was fully funding Northern High School after reallocating \$49 million dollars in 2019 to be used for shovel ready projects including Elementary School “C.”
- Item 21-0293 – Commissioner Burns recognized the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for their funding application process and for providing multi-year funding.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Howerton entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

*21-0205 Capital Project Amendment No.21CPA000031 Creating Three Capital Projects totaling \$12,438,000 for IS&T from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24 (four years); continuing regular IT equipment lifecycle replacement and infrastructure modernization Funding (IT Hardware Replacement, IT Audio-Visual Technologies, and IT Telecommunications); and Will Be funded from A Future Issuance of Bank Financing

21-0248 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the County of Durham and City of Durham for the Purchase and Storage of Sodium Chloride (salt)

*21-0255 Budget Amendment No.21BCC000106 Transferring \$130,412 of Sewer Utility Enterprise Fund FY 2020-2021 Funding to the Collection System Rehabilitation Fund: Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA000032 Appropriating \$130,412 from the Collection System Rehabilitation Fund to Create the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Water Line extension Project (7100SE059); and Approval of a Construction Contract with Pipeline Utilities, Inc. for the Construction of the Project

*21-0260 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000107 Appropriating \$60,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to cover Additional Capital Expenses (Fire-Proofing Cost) for the Durham Convention Center

*21-0261 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000108 Recognizing a \$1,034 Donation from the Durham Friends meeting to the Criminal Justice Resource Center

21-0263 Utilities Division Collection System Scheduled and Emergency Repair Contract Amendment with David Young Utilities, Inc.

21-0267 Durham County FY22 Transit Work Program and Durham County Transit Plan Material Change

21-0273 Emergency and Scheduled Repair Contract Amendment with David Young Utilities, Inc. for the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant

21-0274 Resolution of the Durham County Board of Commissioners in Support of the Building Center's Request to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Economic Development Funds for the Widening of Riddle Road in Durham County.

*21-0282 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000109 Appropriating \$325,428.60 of General Fund Fund Balance for the Durham County Sheriff's Office 0365 Migration Project and Approval of Associated Contracts for the Project

21-0284 Award of Contract(s) for RFP No. 21-011, Janitorial Services for Durham County

*21-0292 Approve Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA000033 Increasing the Northern High School Project (59105400SH239) by 492,785,475 using 2021 Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) and a Future Funding Source for a Total Project Budget of \$101,030,000

21-0293 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023

21-0306 Contract Amendment with The National Institute for Economic Development to Support Durham Public Schools MWBE Efforts (\$10,000)

Consent Agenda Item #21-0205

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 21CPA000031**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2020-21 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Project	FY20-21	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Totals
Hardware: 21 IT Hardware Replacement (42001910DC138)	1,074,000	3,086,000	2,993,000	3,145,000	10,298,000
Audio-Visual: 21 Audio-Visual Technologies (42001910DC139)	148,000	316,000	168,000	638,000	1,270,000
Telecommunications: 21 Telecommunications (42001910DC140)	125,000	350,000	190,000	205,000	870,000
Totals	1,347,000	3,752,000	3,352,000	3,987,000	12,438,000

Adopted this the 10th day of May 2021.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0255

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000106**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
ENTERPRISE FUND			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Government	\$7,670,596	\$130,412	\$7,801,008
Utilities	\$10,997,069	(\$130,412)	\$10,866,657

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

Approved May 10, 2021

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 21CPA000032**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2020-21 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Project	Current Budget	Increase/Decrease	Revised Budget
7100SE059-TWWTP Water Line Extension Project	\$0	\$130,412	\$130,412

Adopted this the 10th day of May 2021.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0260

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000107**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 budget ordinance 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>			
Cultural and Resources	\$14,010,665	\$60,000	\$14,070,665
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Services	\$41,977,977	\$60,000	\$42,037,977

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

Approved May 10, 2021

Consent Agenda Item #21-0261

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000108**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 budget ordinance 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>			
Public Safety	\$72,948,649	\$1,034	\$72,949,683
<u>Revenue</u>			
Contributions and Donations	\$449,217	\$1,034	\$450,251

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

Approved May 10, 2021

Consent Agenda Item #21-0282

**Durham County, North Carolina
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance
Amendment Number 21BCC000109**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2020-2021 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
GENERAL FUND			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Public Safety	\$70,954,018	\$325,429	\$71,279,447
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$42,037,977	\$325,429	\$42,363,406

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

Approved May 10, 2021

Consent Agenda Item #21-0292

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 21CPA000013**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2020-21 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Project Name	Project #	Project Status	Current Budget	Increase / Decrease	Updated Budget
16 Go Northern High School Replacement	59105400SH239	Amending	\$48,141,447.87	\$39,896,923.00	\$8,244,524.87
Elementary School C	59105400SH282	Amending	\$1,200,000.00	\$38,411,923.00	\$39,611,923.00
High School Theater Renovations	59105400SH291	New		\$1,085,000.00	\$1,085,000.00
16 Go - DSA Boiler Replacement	59105400SH286	Amending	\$621,645.00	\$100,000.00	\$721,645.00
16 Go - Easley Boiler Replacement	59105400SH288	Amending	\$189,159.00	\$100,000.00	\$289,159.00
16 Go - Structural Analysis - Various	59105400SH285	Amending	\$261,158.00	\$200,000.00	\$461,158.00

Adopted this the 10th day of May 2021.

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance
Amendment Number 21CPA000033**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:

That the 2020-21 capital project ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments for the following projects.

Northern High School Project Project 5910SH239	Current Budget	Increase/ Decrease	Revised Budget
2007 GO Bond	\$57,341	\$0	\$57,341
2016 GO Bond	\$8,187,183.77	\$0	\$8,187,183.77
2021 LOBs	\$0	\$59,532,962.23	\$59,532,962.23
Future Financing	\$0	\$33,252,513	\$33,252,513
Totals	\$8,244,524.77	\$92,785,475.23	\$101,030,000

Adopted this the 10th day of May 2021.

Other Business

21-0297 Durham County Public Health Focused 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 shared the *COVID-19/Vaccine Distribution Updates* which highlighted the following: COVID-19 Prevention Strategies, Current COVID-19 Statistics, Current Race and Ethnicity Trends, COVID-19 Percent Positive Labs, CDC Vaccine updates for Durham County Residents, NCDHHS Vaccine Updates for Durham County Residents, Vaccine Dashboard Data for Durham County Residents and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Updates. Mr. Jenkins thanked nurses and front-line workers in the community.

The Board inquired about the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the Pfizer Vaccine for children age 12 and older. Mr. Jenkins replied the County was planning to partner with Durham Public Schools and Charter Schools with campaigns and townhalls to provide students and parents information about the vaccination. The Board hoped the children would bring parents along for appointment to get vaccinated.

21-0298 FY2021-2022 Manager’s Recommended Budget Presentation

County Manager Davis shared the “2021-22 County Manager’s Recommended Budget” and provided the following summary:

“Good evening Chair Howerton, members of the Board County Commissioners, County Staff, and Durham County residents.

It is an honor to present to you my recommended budget for fiscal year 2021-22. And what a unique one to develop. Durham County has experienced so much over the last year and has responded in

ways that only our citizens, businesses and governmental entities can. That ability, to soberly face pandemics, economic uncertainties, racial equity, and other critical needs has never been more tested, but I can proudly say, our employees and our citizens continue to prove why this is such an amazing place to live, work, and truly thrive.

The framework for developing this budget recommendation is best characterized by a mixture of optimism and uncertainty. Optimism that the pandemic's most damaging effects are receding, optimism that Durham's local economy is set to be vibrant again, and optimism that significant federal stimulus funds will support strategic investment in the County's future as well as ongoing COVID health and economic relief strategies. Uncertainty, however, remains that the damage already wrought has yet to finish unfolding, uncertainty that traditional modes of public support and needs may continue to be altered, and uncertainty that local revenues can keep up with growing County needs.

With that in mind my recommended budget, through judicious funding decisions, reflects Durham County's response to significant internal and external pressures, known and unknown.

We are in the midst of wrestling with a host of vexing social, economic, and public health challenges, and to navigate these complex dynamics and to keep Durham County on course for a brighter tomorrow, the Board of County Commissioners has a guiding Strategic Plan.

This Plan consists of five strategic goals and related objectives and strategies which tie together service delivery within departments. This guide places a higher priority on collaboration among departments and the community, but also puts performance management – the Managing for Results model – at its core.

This FY 2021-22 Manager's Recommended budget tries to balance the need for resources that were so severely curtailed over the last two years, including unfreezing positions, supporting additional funding for departments, and reinstating pay raises, while also financially supporting services that will help the County and its residents emerge from the pandemic.

But we must also recognize the many needs of County departments and staff that continue to grow, outside of public health concerns, and handle that growth in a financially sound manner. We continue to do this work consistently by trying to forecast our long-term revenue conditions. Ultimately this budget, as previous budgets, is about meeting the near future needs of the community, with an eye toward the ongoing sustainability of Durham County's vibrant economy, culture and life as we have grown to know it here in Durham.

Key priorities I have built into this recommended budget attempt to alleviate the stress our organization has been under the last two years which included significant departmental budget reductions and no salary increases, while also facing the daunting pandemic aftermath needs of our community. With that said, my most important priority was protecting the economic stability of our employees by finding funding for all filled positions and supporting existing benefits. Key priorities include:

- Operational Budget Increases Where Appropriate*
- Reinstatement of Employee Merit Increases*
- A Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees*
- Supporting Additional Position Requests*
- Support for Employee Health Benefits Increase*
- Increased Fund Balance Appropriation as a Revenue Source*

The framework for this recommended budget is structured around revenue estimates for the upcoming year. Establishing a baseline revenue amount is key in assessing how much new funding is available to support COVID-related needs, ongoing departmental operational needs, new positions, new Commissioner goals and directives, and, as always, inflationary increases across the organization.

Broadly speaking, estimated revenue growth for the upcoming fiscal year is distinctly positive. Simply put, due to a stronger than expected recent and current economy, the County is budgeting better than expected growth for next fiscal year in key revenues.

However, even with significant “natural” growth in key revenues, the financial needs presented to and by various departments across the organization are significantly higher than this “natural” growth in revenue alone can fund.

With minimal ability to create substantial additional revenue other than a property tax rate increase, and significant new and more costly ongoing operational needs, the County is left with two stark choices: reduce department budgets, for a third year in a row, in order to fund needs in other areas, or increase the property tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year.

The fundamental challenge for development of the FY 2021-22 budget is that even with significant natural growth in key revenues totaling approximately \$19.7 million, seven key priorities more than consumed this growth, as illustrated here. These priorities total approximately \$22.2 million.

Durham Public Schools continues to be, by far, the largest recipient of County funding, and their recommended increase for the upcoming year is \$10.1 million. In fact, their very size is making it progressively more difficult to find natural growth in revenue just to support their annual increases. Other high priorities are listed in order of approximate additional cost for the upcoming fiscal year.

Of course, there were additional new and expansion costs throughout the General Fund budget not included in this list.

Being mindful that the Biden Administration’s ARPA funding for Durham is approximately \$300 Million for the County, City and DPS, I’m optimistic that we can address many of the challenges presented by COVID and hopefully beyond this pandemic. While we have not received the final criteria from the U.S. Treasury to assure compliance is in order, we look forward to developing a vision in concert with the Board on how those dollars can be spent to maximize the equity and impact for the future of Durham.

Approximately \$2.9 million of these ARPA funds are being used in the Recommended budget to support specific COVID related services including additional County support for the Convention Center due to lost revenue, additional funding of cleaning and security services in our General Services department, continued screening for our many facilities carried out by our Human Resources department, and lost revenue from Court Facility fees.

As part of understanding and development of estimated FY 2021-22 property tax revenue, it is important to assess how FY 2020-21 collection of property tax is progressing. Current estimates of “year-end” collections for property tax have the County surpassing budgeted amounts by approximately \$11.7 million which is close to a 103.7% collection.

Therefore, the high growth in collections for the current fiscal year is largely fueling property tax revenue growth for the upcoming fiscal year, while on top of that is stacked estimated property tax revenue growth for the upcoming fiscal year. A double hit of revenue growth:

- *Natural growth on property valuation is 5% higher (\$2.2 billion) from FY 2020-21 to FY 2021-2, and while this is significant growth, it is important to emphasize that this captures the growth from the current years conservative approach as well as modest growth for this coming year.*

- *All the above explanations translate into estimated additional property tax revenue of \$13.6 million for the General Fund before any property tax rate increase.*

Therefore, as part of the Recommended budget, I am proposing a one cent General Fund property tax rate increase to provide additional revenue of \$4.58 million. This is necessary to support new positions, compensation adjustments for County employees, a continued increase in Durham Public School funding, vital vehicle replacement in key departments, such as the Sheriff and Emergency Medical Services, COVID-related support for County operations, and ongoing support for County resident health needs.

This recommended tax rate increase was not made lightly, but in response to the current and future needs presented by the organization. The displayed table shows what a one cent tax rate increase would cost a homeowner of different valued properties.

We budget property tax revenue in two categories, one to support General Fund expenses and the other to support the Capital Financing Fund, which pays for capital projects and debt service. The proposed tax increase would be for the General Fund.

I would like to remind the Board and Durham County citizens that the property tax rate is the primary revenue source controllable by the Board and is the only significant way to raise additional revenue in future years. While the rate is recommended to increase for the upcoming fiscal year, future increases may also be needed to support ongoing County goals, including our significant commitment to Durham Public School capital planning, and other initiatives.

An additional one cent tax rate increase is needed for the Durham County Fire and Rescue Service District to support consolidation with the City of Durham. As a part of the Interlocal agreement with the City, the district is scheduled to share a portion of the expense for a new Station 18 which is to open late in the next fiscal year. The Lebanon Fire District is also requesting a $\frac{3}{4}$ cent tax rate increase. These additional funds will allow continued operations while also supporting personnel expenses for their 12 full time employees.

The three other County special tax districts are able to continue current operations and service levels without a tax rate increase this fiscal year.

The total amount of budgeted sales tax revenue for next fiscal year is \$94.6 million. For perspective, this is the equivalent of 21 cents of property tax revenue. Sales tax revenue is the second largest revenue source for Durham County government and is entirely related to economic activity.

The estimated current year collections is expected to come in well above budget estimates. In fact, sales tax collection for FY 2020-21 is expected to increase 8.9% over what was originally budgeted.

That over collection for the current fiscal year, along with an estimated 4% growth in sales tax for FY 2021-22 equals the \$11.1 million increase in sales tax revenue a 13.3% increase. It should be noted that \$5 million of that increase goes to the Capital Financing Fund by Board policy, while \$6.1 million helps fund many different General Fund initiatives.

That estimated 4% growth in sales tax collection revenue for this next fiscal year is relatively conservative and still reflects the possible unknown, and as of yet, played out economic consequences of the COVID pandemic.

For this budget I am recommending a transfer of available funds from the Debt Service Fund equivalent to 0.65 cent of property tax revenue or \$3 million. These funds come from accumulated County savings related to lower than planned interest rates on bond issuances for capital projects, as well as slower than expected spending on major capital projects.

Use of General Fund fund balance as a revenue source over the past two years has been flat due to economic concerns, but the current year's significant revenue overcollection will allow for additional use of that funding source.

Together there is \$4.6 million being made available for General Fund use in the recommended budget, equivalent to 1 additional cent on the property tax rate.

It is important to note that a portion of these funds are available only for FY 2021-22 and therefore will support only one-time costs incurred during the year. Such spending restrictions support the continued sound fiscal standing of the County.

While the General Fund is where the vast majority of daily activity and spending for government services occurs, there are a number of other funds that serve specific County financial and operational purposes.

These include the already mentioned special tax districts, the Debt Service fund, and our Sewer Utility fund.

The total County budget, including all of these funds, increases 8% to just under \$730 million, while the General Fund, a subset of that total amount, increases 6.89% to almost \$500 million.

Some, but not all of the increases in the General Fund include:

- Increased employee health insurance costs*
- Increased Durham Public School funding*
- DSS Medicaid compliance support*
- Bull City United expansion*
- DSS Economic Support Program for Low Income Long-Time Homeowners:- Racial Equity Program*
- 3% COLA for all employees*
- Reinstatement of employee "Pay for Performance"*
- Storage space rental for Emergency Services and Sheriff*

Here are a few highlights of some of the major items funded within Goal One: Community Empowerment and Enrichment.

The main priority as expressed by the Board of County Commissioners in the Strategic Plan and reiterated in recent Board retreats is education and this budget recommendation reflects that priority with Durham Public Schools continuing to be the single largest expenditure for Durham County Government at \$163.3 million, or 32.7% of the entire General Fund budget.

This funding includes a current expense increase of \$8.99 million and an additional \$1.13 million for DPS Current Capital needs which specifically addresses an ongoing request from our partners at the Board of Education.

DPS will be receiving significant federal COVID-related funding over the next several years, up to \$136 million. This federal funding support will go a long way toward supporting student needs coming

out of the pandemic. Even in extraordinary times the County's commitment to education is unwavering.

Another integral part of Durham County's support for education of all its residents is funding for Durham Technical Community College. This educational system provides a myriad of services, degrees, and opportunities that either continue education after high school and towards college, or towards a high paying, stable, and lifelong career. Total funding for DTCC increases \$406,367.

DTCC supports and enhances an extremely important pipeline of trained workers for technical jobs in the region and as such I am excited to announce initial funding of \$500,000 in the FY 2021-22 budget for the DTCC "Back to Work Initiative" and the "BULLS initiative and life sciences talent pipeline". As a number of life science oriented companies have chosen to locate in Durham County, discussions soon arose among various economic development groups, the County, and DTCC, around providing them with the human capital needed. As a beginning step, these new programs will help provide or enhance the skills of local residents so they can get and keep these jobs.

More jobs filled by local workers means more dollars in the local economy, which means a more vibrant economy for all Durham residents.

Goal 2 highlights include funding to support a Durham County Long-Time Homeowner grant program for residents at or below 30% of the area median income. The initiative is modeled after the Mecklenburg County Homeowners with Economic Support (HOMES) program. As with the Mecklenburg County HOMES program, the program is structured to aid qualified low-income residential homeowners within Durham County retain their homes by reducing the financial burden resultant from a competitive real estate market. Grant funds awarded through the program will help reduce the amount of property taxes due for qualifying recipient's primary residence.

The budget includes \$750,000 for grant allocations, with an additional \$192,119 (3 new FTEs in DSS) to support administrative cost. Program details will be finalized in upcoming weeks upon review and approval by the DSS Board. We anticipate additional grant support through a partnership with the City of Durham and other funding sources.

I am excited to note the major expansion of an extremely important and effective violence prevention program based on Durham County's Cure Violence model that was implemented in 2016 under the name Bull City United. Bull City United treats violence as a public health concern and employs Violence Interrupters and Outreach Workers to mitigate conflict within census tracts before violence occurs. Their work stops retribution and reduces gun violence that often comes from a lack of communication within the community.

In April 2020 the Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Durham, where the City will provide funds to the County to hire 18 new FTEs including Violence Interrupters, Outreach Workers, and Supervisors that will expand Bull City United into four additional City census tracts. I am recommending two additional County-funded FTEs, including a department supervisor for Bull City United and Project Build and a Data Analyst to serve both areas. In addition to the increased number of FTEs and outreach, Bull City United and Project Build will be moved from the Public Health Department to its own department that will also include My Brother's Keeper. These entities will work with Campaign for Change and our workforce development eco-system to collaborate with many of our "hard to reach" citizens who are in need of basic life skills and gainful employment.

Finally, funds were added to the FY 2020-21 Social Services (DSS) budget to support 39 new positions to begin working toward meeting Medicaid compliance levels set by the state. However, in developing that budget, there were limitations to how many new positions the County could add and this number

was only a portion of the full number of FTEs needed. To finish supplying Social Services with the necessary resources to meet, and exceed, state compliance levels, additional support is still needed this upcoming fiscal year. I am recommending 10 additional positions that will focus on quality assurance work and support the other positions already hired.

The Goal 3 budget includes funding to combat the ongoing opioid epidemic with the Phase II implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment program, including two new positions at the Detention Center. More than 60 percent of individuals in local jails and 58 percent of individuals incarcerated in prisons report substance abuse issues. This program is the most effective, evidence-based approach to address opioid use disorder and prevent fatal overdose.

After a much smaller number of replacement vehicles (20) were provided to the Sheriff's Office in FY 2020-21 due to expected financial constraints I am happy to recommend funding the replacement of 39 Sheriff's Office vehicles for the upcoming fiscal year. It is extremely important that the County continue to replace vital public safety equipment on a set schedule to ensure maximum availability and trusted use of by staff, like the Sheriff's Office and EMS.

Durham County Government is committed to providing equitable access to all its services and that is why this budget is recommending offering parking validation at the Justice Center Parking Deck to those involved in a court case at the Durham County courthouse. Currently, courthouse visitors — with the exception of jurors — must pay for parking, which can run as much as \$12 a day for court cases that can last a week or longer. This can be a substantial financial burden for low-income people involved in these cases. Funding parking validation for those involved in court cases will reduce the financial burden on residents involved in the criminal justice system.

For several years Durham County has been able to store important public safety vehicles and equipment, at no-cost to the County, in the previously vacant Freudenberg industrial facility. That space is no longer available, a casualty of a still humming local economy. To support storage of mission critical equipment, the County is leasing new storage space with an annual cost of \$1 million. The facility provides secure indoor storage for equipment and supplies maintained by the County Sheriff, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services.

Durham County will continue to maintain its focus and efforts to increase economic growth in the County by adding two full-time staff to address the increase in workload, develop a business recruitment model, and support reoccurring engagement and programming in workforce development and small business support. The County also continues to maintain its Economic Development Investment Program to attract and retain new business and industry. It is anticipated that companies and investors will meet their scheduled performance criteria for FY2021-2022. Incentive payments for FY 2021-22 have increased by \$637,400.

The County's Open Space Program manages seven miles of trails in three open preserves, with a fourth preserve in the active planning stages, soon to be open to the public. County-owned open space has grown from 570 acres in 2003 to 1288 acres in 2021, but land management staff has remained at one full time position. A recommended new Land Management and Outreach Assistant would assist the Land Manager with support for regular trail maintenance, resolve encroachment issues, and add a safety measure when dealing with dangerous equipment.

The Sewer Utility department, an Enterprise Fund agency that fully supports operational cost through fees charged to customers, its recommended to add three new positions. One, a Utility Locator position will provide state mandated functions, another is a project manager to oversee the growing list of utility related capital projects, while the final position is an Office Assistant position.

Sewer consumption rates will be increased by 4.76% to address anticipated reinvestments as well as cost related to operations to continue to ensure out high level of operational readiness and environmental protection. Fee increases are listed in the fee schedule.

Durham County continues its intentional pursuit to advance racial equity throughout the organization by bringing racial equity training and education to staff and community stakeholders. As the County begins the process to create a comprehensive racial equity action plan it has become abundantly clear additional personnel and resources are needed. I am recommending funding two new full-time positions, a Racial Equity Specialist, and a Community Analyst. Two paid graduate student internships are also included in budget to support racial equity efforts.

Due to the pandemic the County has seen a substantial increase to its building cleaning and security costs largely paid to contracted vendors. Thankfully, many County COVID-19 related expenses are eligible for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reimbursement including cleaning and security costs. It is expected that these costs will see a reduction in FY 2022-23 as the pandemic and related health issues and protection measures recede.

Also, as part of necessary pandemic related safety protocols for Durham County employees the County's Human Resources department will oversee COVID 19 screenings at all County buildings throughout the upcoming year, at a cost of a little over \$500,000. Like General Services pandemic related costs, these employee health safety costs can be offset by ARPA (federal) funds. Our employee health safety is an absolute top priority.

In an effort to bolster the support to the county's information technology infrastructure, the Information Services & Technology department had a plan to add four new FTEs in FY 2020-21. As part of budget development process, in order to limit the financial burden of four new positions, vacant positions in Finance (1), Budget (1), and General Services (2) were moved to IS&T. In turn I am recommending that those "taken" positions be re-funded back in their original departments.

Between the March 2020 cyberattack that hit our organization and the ongoing COVID pandemic, Durham County employees have experienced many challenges over the past year, but have more than risen to the occasion. County employees have had to adapt, accommodate, and resiliently carry on in the face of unknown threats, all while facing budget cuts, including elimination of scheduled merit pay increases for FY 2020-21.

While targeted differential pay recognized the health threats experienced by public-facing department employees, it does not begin to address the lost salary dollars from a pay raise that will be felt across entire careers and retirements. To try and remedy that lost pay raise, I am recommending a 3% cost of living increase (COLA) for all employees for the upcoming year along with a reinstatement of the 2% to 3% merit pay increase based on annual employee performance.

Durham County owes a debt of gratitude to the many "front-line" County employees for their extraordinary work over the past year in the face of very serious health consequences. All our employees deserve to have salary increases that at least keep up with inflation and surrounding County compensation trends. This two-pronged recommendation helps us acknowledge and demonstrate our very real appreciation.

Staff and I look forward to working with you during these budget deliberations.

Budget Work Sessions will begin on Tuesday, May 18th where we will provide an overview of the budget and the environment in which it was built.

Monday, May 24th the Board will hold a Public Hearing for the FY 2021-22 budget as part of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Additional work sessions will occur on Thursday May 27th, a half-day session, and Tuesday June 1st, a full day session, to begin the review of departmental budgets in earnest

If additional work sessions are needed June 3rd has allotted time.

Budget adoption is planned for June 14.

Copies of the Recommended budget and this presentation will be made available online at the Durham County website. Citizens can view the entire document as well as find links to interactive Recommended Budget reports there.

The road to recovery for Durham County begins with the acknowledgment that it takes every County resident working towards a greater good in order to find our way back to the pre-pandemic momentum...it is my belief that this recommended budget supports a healthy recovery and movement down that road.

There will be vigorous discussion about how much and where to fund many different areas of need, and such discussion can only be helpful in developing a consensus in how to move forward and together as a community and County.

With that I conclude this presentation of the FY 2021-22 Manager's Recommended Budget.

Management looks forward to the upcoming Board Work Sessions.

Thank you."

Chair Howerton thanked County Manager Davis for the Recommended Budget presentation.

21-0285 2020 Durham City-County Appearance Commission Annual Report

Kayla Seibel, Senior Planner shared an overview and highlights of the Appearance Commission Annual Report. The Board inquired about the members attending 20-30 percent of meetings with some absences excused. Ms. Seibel replied the County Clerk's Office could provide her with policy guidance on attendance and excused absences.

21-0286 2020 Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) Annual Report

Carl Kolosna, Senior Planner shared an overview and highlights of the DOST Annual Report. The Board stated DOST requested \$190,000 in funding although they had an annual budget of \$77,175. It appeared that DOST budget was reduced from \$100,000 to \$77,175 in 2008 during the recession and the Board would consider the budget to be increased back to \$100,000.

Public Hearings

21-0288 Public Hearing – Parmer Way Renaming

Cole Renigar, Planner explained ARE-NC Region Number 19, LLC applied to change the street name, Parmer Way, to Alexandria Way. He added the parcels adjacent to the street were owned by the applicant.

Chair Howerton opened the public hearing and stated the public hearing would be open for 24 hours for receipt of comments.

21-0289 Public Hearing – Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendment, Omnibus Changes 16 (TC2100001)

Michael Stock, Senior Planner explained Text Amendment TC2100001 proposed technical revision and minor policy changes to various provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). He added the amendments were identified as necessary corrections, clarifications, re-organizations, or other minor changes to clarify the intent of the regulations or codify interpretations of regulations, or reflect minor policy changes, some of which are not solely technical in nature.

The Board asked if City Council discussed the building height increase from 50 to 55 feet. Sarah Young, Planning Director responded the height was increased to remain consistent with other buildings in the area and five feet was not an issue at North Gate Mall due to it being zoned Convenience Commercial (CC). She added The Shops at North Gate Mall were zoned Commercial General (CG) with height limitations of 24 feet and the information was explained to City Council. The Board asked about driveways being increased from 25 to 30 width feet. Mr. Stock replied limitations were placed on driveways in the previous year and was creating nonconforming concerns with two car garages and wrap-around driveways.

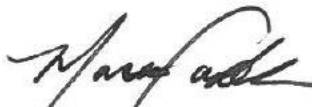
Chair Howerton opened the public hearing and stated the public hearing would be open for 24 hours for receipt of comments.

Adjournment

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Jacobs to recess the Regular Session meeting at 9:49 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton
Deputy Clerk to the Board