

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

Monday, June 14, 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**

Chair Howerton announced that there were no agenda adjustments.

**Announcements**

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

1. **Durham County Library: Summer of Learning** – DCo Summer of Learning begins June 14 – July 30<sup>th</sup> and is open to all ages. This summer, they have partnered with Book Harvest to provide free book bundles to pre-K – tween participants. Also, in partnership with DPS, meals will be available at the library for anyone under the ages of 18. Those details are as follows:
  - Main Library: Monday – Friday (June 14 – August 6) from 12noon – 1pm
  - North Regional Library – Tuesday – Friday (June 15 – August 6) 12noon – 1pm
  - Bragtown Branch Library – Tuesday – Thursday (June 15 – July 29) 12noon – 2pm

For more details on this year’s Summer of Learning, please visit [www.durhamcountylibrary.org/SummerofLearning](http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/SummerofLearning) or contact Scott Frawley at [rfrawley@dconc.gov](mailto:rfrawley@dconc.gov)

2. **Are you Behind in Rent Due to COVID-19** – The Durham Emergency Rental Assistance Program is here for you! Visit [www.durhamerap.dconc.gov](http://www.durhamerap.dconc.gov) to learn the requirements and to apply TODAY. For questions, please call 919-560-8000 and select option “7”
3. **Durham – Chapel Hill – Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Seeks Public Comment on Transportation Needs Analysis** – If you’re interested in highway, bicycle, multi-

use paths, and transit projects for our region, you're invited to give your feedback now on an assessment of future transportation needs.

Residents and other stakeholders are asked to review the Deficiency and Needs Analysis at [www.dchcmpo.org](http://www.dchcmpo.org) and provide comments by email to Andrew Henry at [andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov](mailto:andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov) no later than Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

4. **Drowning in Bills: Community Health Coalitions Can Help!** – If you live in Person, Durham Granville or Orange County, we can help pay your utility bills.

For more information, please call 919-470-8680, email [contact@communityhealthcoalition.com](mailto:contact@communityhealthcoalition.com) or visit [www.communityhealthcoalitions.com/utility-assistance](http://www.communityhealthcoalitions.com/utility-assistance)

5. **Help Us Save Lives by Donating Blood on June 15** – The COVID – 19 Pandemic has led to a sharp decrease in blood donations. Come out to the Durham County Department of Public Health on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 from 10am – 3pm to donate blood and help save lives.

Please visit [www.donate.thebloodconnection.org](http://www.donate.thebloodconnection.org) and use sponsor code 6347 to schedule an appointment.

Chair Howerton announced June was LGBTQ+ Pride month and most Durham County offices would be closed on Friday, June 18th to recognize the Juneteenth holiday. Commissioner Burns recommended for the Board to prepare a proclamation for Pride Month.

**Directive: Commissioner Burns recommended of the Board to prepare a proclamation for Pride Month.**

## **Minutes**

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve the May 10, 2021 Regular Session minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Ceremonial Items**

### **21-0396 Proclamation – 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Sickle Cell Awareness Day: Shine the Light on Sickle Cell**

Commissioner Burns read the following proclamation:

#### **12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY: SHINE THE LIGHT ON SICKLE CELL | 2021**

**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,** Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

**“WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY”**

in Durham County, North Carolina.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

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Brenda Howerton, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

Tiffany Bell, Health Educator thanked the Board for their continued support, awareness on sickle cell in the Afro-American community and educating the Durham community about sickle cell. She added vaccine hesitancy by some residents was placing sickle cell patients at risk of contracting COVID-19 and encouraged all residents to get vaccinated. The Board thanked Ms. Bell for her advocacy in informing and educating the community about sickle cell.

**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:

- Vice Chair Jacobs commented the consent agenda items were a reflection of the tremendous amount of work on behalf of County staff and partnerships with non-profits to provide food, housing and student learning locations in Durham.
- Commissioner Burns commented the consent agenda items exhibited the investments the County made to help make local non-profits, businesses and restaurants resilient during the pandemic.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Jacobs to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda except 21-0339.

The motion carried unanimously.

21-0262 Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) to provide planning and technical assistance for the newly formed Triangle Region Solid Waste Consortium

21-0278 Approval to renew IS&T's contract engagement with Gartner consulting service with existing IS&T operational funds in the amount of \$146,700

21-0303 Award for Contract for Meal Preparation and Food Services at the Detention Center

21-0307 Award of Contract for Commissary at the Detention Center

21-0314 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Durham County and the City of Durham for Consolidation of Access Services

21-0320 Approval to renew IS&T's OpenSesame, Inc. contract in the amount of \$69,400.50. Requested funds will be funded from existing IS&T operational funds. Open Sesame, Inc. is a contract partner for Durham County Training Content and Classes to include cybersecurity and County wide training education classes

21-0322 Approval of an Amendment to the Contract of Architectural Design Services with Mossley Architects for the New Youth Home, Project No. DC-001

21-0323 Extension of Interlocal Agreement for Little River Regional Park

21-0326 Medicaid Transformation – Public Ambulance Providers (PAPs) Contracts with Public Healthcare Providers (PHPs)/Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

21-0327 Execution of Building Envelope Design Services Contract with REI Engineers for the Stanford L. Warren Library

\*21-0328 Budget Amendment No. 21BCC000117 – Appropriating \$162,000 of Debt Services Fund Fund Balance and Transferring to Support Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA000039 – Increasing the Sheriff's Tactical Training Facility Capital Project (DC091) budget by \$162,000 in order to Support

Execution of an Amendment to the Architectural Design Services Contract with RND Architects, PA for Renovations to the Durham County Sheriff's Tactical Training Facility (formerly Sheriff's Firing Range). Project No.: DC091

21-0329 2020 Annual Report – Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

\*21-0334 Capital Amendment No.21CPA000037 Appropriating \$549,600 of Enterprise Capital Project Fund Funding to the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWWTP) Utilities Division's Administrative Building Project (7100SE057) to Fund Engineering Project Fees (\$300K), Execution of a Contract with Metcon, Inc. for Preconstruction Services (\$149,600), and Architect Project Related Fees (\$100K)

21-0335 New Utility Administration Building – Approval of Plat Recombining Three Existing Parcels into One Parcel

\*21-0336 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000113 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$3,000 from a Grant Contribution from the George and Susie Polsky Fund via the NC Agricultural Foundation Inc. to Increase Staff Support for the Kids Voting Durham Civic Education Efforts

21-0338 Extension of Contract with Reinvestment Partners for COVID Homeless Housing

21-0340 Lease Agreement Between Durham County and the Durham Center for Senior Life

21-0341 Award of the Collection System Emergency and Scheduled Repair Services for the Utilities Division (RFP 21-022) contract for Carolina Civilworks Inc., David Young Utilities Inc., and Axis Utility Inc.

21-0342 Award of the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Emergency and Scheduled Repair Services for the Utilities Division (RFP 21-020) contract to Carolina Civilworks Inc., T.A. Loving and Axis Utility Inc.

21-0343 Award of Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Residuals Transport and Disposal to McGill Environmental Systems of NC, Inc. in the amount of \$272,006

21-0344 Award of Painting and Coating Services for Utilities Division to Carolina Management Team, LLC in the amount of \$150,000

21-0347 Lease Agreement Between Durham County and the Urban Ministries of Durham

\*21-0352 Capital Project Amendment No. 21CPA000036 Increasing the Administrative II Capital Project (4730DC073) by \$338,000 to Support the Retail Space Lease Requirements, and Reducing the Administration I Boiler Replacement Capital Project (4190DC071) by \$500,000, and Approve Budget Amendment 21BCC000112 Transferring the Funds for the Admin II Project (\$338,000) and the Remaining \$162,000 to the Debt Service Fund for Future Use

21-0354 Award of Utility Locating Services Contract for Durham County Utilities Division

21-0356 Authorize Contract and Award for Durham County Cooperative Extension's participation in the Visit NC Farms App

21-0357 Execution of the Contract Amendment with DTW Architects, Inc., for the Utilities

Administration Building in the amount of \$100,000.00. Project (7100SE057)

21-0358 CJRC – FY22 Contract Approval for Transitional Living Facility

21-0359 CJRC – FY22 Contract Approval for Electronic Monitoring Services

21-0360 CJRC – FY 22 Service Contract Approval for Psychiatric Services at the Durham County Detention Center

21-0361 – Approval of the Maintenance Contract with Granicus, LLC

21-0376 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000114 to Recognize \$22,982 from the City of Durham to Support Bull City United Expansion through Hiring Contract Workers Positions

21-0377 Request for the Board of County Commissioners to support an application by Engineering and Environmental Services (E&ES) staff for an Environmental Enhancement Grant from the State of North Carolina

\*21-0380 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000115 Appropriating \$270.101 of General Fund Balance and Contract Approval for Recity Network, Fiscal Agent for Kate’s Korner to provide Summer Learning Camps to support Durham Housing Authority Communities

\*21-0381 Project Amendment No. 21CPA000038 – Appropriating \$3,967,500 of Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Funds for Multiple Durham Public School’s (DPS) Capital Projects

21-0383 Approval of Interlocal Agreement between Durham County and Alliance Health and Authorize the manger to Execute the Agreement

21-0384 Contract Approval for Board of Elections Supplemental Voting Equipment

21-0386 Durham Racial Equity Commission By-Laws

21-0387 North Carolina State Department of Transportation Request to Abandon Maintenance of a 0.91 Mile Section of SR 1680 (Lake Michie Dam Road)

21-0388 Service Contract Approval for \$243,720 in funding to Beyu Caffè, and EAT NC partner, to continue serving home delivered meals to food insecure families and seniors

21-0390 Service Contract Approval for \$52,500 to Farmer Foodshare to create food boxes for emergency food agencies to support food insecure families

21-0397 Authorize the County Manager to sign the Consent Letter for the Approval of Minor HVAC and Parking Lot Renovation at the Lincoln Community Health Center under \$500,000 – Utilizing the Federally Awarded American Rescue Plan Grant HRSA 21-114 (Project No. DC133)

21-0400 Durham County Temporary COVID-19 Screening Staff Contract Amendment to Support Additional Contract Cost

Consent Agenda Item #21-0328

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21BCC000115**

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>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Education	\$169,915,801	\$270,101	\$170,185,902
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Source	\$42,363,406	\$270,101	\$42,633,507

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

Approved June 14, 2021

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**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21CPA000039**

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.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
Sheriff's Tactical Training Facility (43103200DC091)	\$757,608	\$162,000	\$919,608.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$757,608.00</b>	<b>\$162,000.00</b>	<b>\$919,608.00</b>

Adopted this the 14th day of June 2021.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0334

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21CPA000037**

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.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWWTP) Utilities Division’s Administrative Building Project (7100SE057)	\$1,172,441.42	\$549,600	\$1,722,041.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,172,441.42</b>	<b>\$549,600</b>	<b>\$1,722,041.42</b>

Adopted this the 14th day of June 2021.

Consent Agenda Item #21-0336

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21BCC000113**

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>			
Economic and Physical Development	\$9,368,217	\$3,000	\$9,371,217
<u>Revenue</u>			
Contributions and Donations	\$465,251	\$3,000	\$468,251

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

Approved June 14, 2021

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
2020-21 Capital Project Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21CPA000036**

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.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
Admin. Bldg. Boiler Replacement (4190DC071)	\$500,000	(\$500,000)	\$0
Administration Building II Renovation (4730DC073)	\$50,409,129.18	\$338,000	\$50,747,129.18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$50,909,129.18</b>	<b>(\$162,000.00)</b>	<b>\$50,747,129.18</b>

Adopted this the 14th day of June 2021.

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**Durham County, North Carolina  
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21BCC000112**

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>DEBT SERVICE FUND</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Government	\$143,217,466	\$162,000	\$143,379,466
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Sources	\$142,409,051	\$162,000	\$142,571,051

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

Approved June 14, 2021

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Consent Agenda Item #21-0380

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2020-2021 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21BCC000115**

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>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Education	\$169,915,801	\$270,101	\$170,185,902
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other Financing Source	\$42,363,406	\$270,101	\$42,633,507

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

Approved June 14, 2021

**DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
2020-2021 Capital Project Ordinance  
Amendment Number 21CPA000038**

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.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
Pearsontown ES – Paint interior of gym (SH300)	\$0.00	\$8,000	\$8,000	New
Multiple Schools – Repair or replace campus access gates (SH301)	\$0	\$65,500	\$65,500	New
Multiple Schools – LED lighting installation (SH302)	\$0	\$1,239,000	\$1,239,000	New
MES, LGMS, SoCS – Safety system upgrades (SH303)	\$0	\$67,000	\$67,000	New
Merrick-Moore ES – Replace kitchen ceiling grid (SH304)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	New
Little River ES – Roof replacement (SH289)	\$87,500	\$1,390,000	\$1,477,500	Bid Phase
K-5 Schools – Replace playground equipment (SH305)	\$0	\$860,000	\$860,000	New
Holt ES & Hillside HS – Replace hot water system (SH306)	\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000	New
GES, LR ES/MS, SoCS MS/HS – Replace dish washing machines (SH307)	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000	New
George Watts & Holt ES – Replace flooring and carpet (SH308)	\$0	\$48,000	\$48,000	New
Durham School of the Arts – Replace cooling tower (SH309)	\$0	\$105,000	\$105,000	New
City of Medicine Academy – Repair entrance awning (SH310)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	New

Totals	\$87,500	\$3,967,500	\$4,055,000
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Adopted this the 14th day of June, 2021.

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**Other Business**

**21-0399 Adoption of the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance**

Claudia Hager, Interim County Manager thanked Keith Lane, Budget Director and the Budget Department staff for their assistance with the budget.

Commissioner Carter read the following statement:

*“I want to thank our residents who followed our budget process and reached out to us with much-needed input in record numbers. I also want to thank our staff across all of County government for the massive amount of work that goes into preparing our budget. As ever, I especially thank the members of our budget department (Keith Lane, David Ades, Anna Hawksworth, Matthew Hunt, Shannon Wright, Jonathan Yeomans, and Bethany Shewmaker). Their tireless work helps ensure our expenditures line up with our County’s values.*

*I also thank my commissioner colleagues for the robust discussions that are part of the annual budget preparation and for working together toward consensus in this budget. I would like to say a special thank you to Interim Manager Hagar for ongoing communication with us about our individual concerns or questions, and also for guiding productive conversations on critical policy issues, even as there are points of difference among us at times and totally shared values at others.*

*There are many awesome elements of this budget. Some notable items include:*

- *Additional funding for DPS, putting full public school funding within sight when we look across all funding sources. This includes about \$1.2M for public health nurses for schools, a key provider of many health services, including a primary source of mental health care for our youth. We now must commit to a 3-year plan to phase in the addition of nurses to achieve the goal of one per school...and meet the recommended nurse to student ratio. This also includes an appropriation of \$6M for ongoing capital and maintenance needs, which meets the board of education’s full request.*
- *Low Income Property Tax Assistance Grant program (approximately \$1M investment): We fought hard for this last year and are thrilled to offer this to our residents. This will replace the deferred loan program we established last year in which residents did not participate. We know that many low-income homeowners in neighborhoods that are gentrifying are being pushed out of their homes, losing that source of wealth and connection to community, because their taxes have increased at a disproportionately high rate. This new program will help slow gentrification and help families build wealth through homeownership.*
- *Additional \$1M to be appropriated for mental health services*

*There are also areas where this year’s budget fell short. This budget cycle, we heard from many Durham residents who don’t feel comfortable calling the police and sheriff when their safety is*

*threatened, who have had traumatic experiences interacting with armed law enforcement during mental health crises, and who have felt unsafe when encountering an armed officer for a traffic stop or an animal services incident. Our current system across the US is not keeping all people safe or meeting their needs and is perpetuating harm, through police violence and systemic racism.*

*I also heard from many people weighing in about the Sheriff's budget whose greatest concern is gun violence. I share this concern. I believe we can address all these concerns by reimagining our approach to public safety. National studies show that the police currently spend very little of their time addressing violent crime (about 4% on average). Instead, much of their time is spent on tasks like responding to mental health crises, homeless outreach, and traffic incidents – situations that would be better served in many cases with a trained mental health professional or an unarmed agent.*

*Many localities are piloting models of safety response that use these unarmed responders, and in so doing are able to shift positions away from their police and sheriff's departments, as officers are no longer responsible for these duties. I see this approach as aligned with the goal of reducing gun violence, because it unburdens law enforcement from these other duties and allows them to shift their focus to responding to violent crime.*

*Traditionally we have invested heavily in law enforcement as our singular strategy for violence prevention. We need to look beyond policing as our only solution to violence, and invest in other evidence-based practices for violence reduction and policies that foster wellbeing and stability.*

*I support the County taking the initial steps towards these new models of public safety and advocated for moving five officer positions out of the Sheriff's department and using those positions in a pilot of unarmed mental health crisis response. To be clear, this would not affect funding for treatment of opioid addiction or mental health inside the detention center, which I fully support, nor would it affect the crisis intervention training officers receive. These services must remain.*

*However, we did not reach a consensus for moving any positions out of the Sheriff's budget this cycle. I know the leaders and advocates who organized for a better system will be disappointed in this.*

*But I am hopeful that we are building momentum towards future progress. This work is urgent. A different, more human approach to public safety is possible, and we must all continue charting this brave, new path forward together."*

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Vice Chair Jacobs read the following statement:

*"This is the first budget our Board is adopting together tonight. I want to acknowledge the work of staff, the community and our Board that has resulted in this FY 21-22 budget. Adopting a budget is the most important job we do as county commissioners, as elected representatives of the people of Durham. Our budget is a moral document. It is a reflection of our priorities and values and the tough choices we make on how to spend public dollars and best invest in the many needs of our community.*

*I first want to acknowledge the outstanding work and leadership of our Interim County Manager Claudia Hager and Budget Director Keith Lane. Claudia has worked tirelessly to foster communication and collaboration between commissioners, county staff and community members. Keith and his budget staff have worked hard to provide detailed responses to commissioner questions and additional information requested throughout the budget process. Claudia, Keith and staff have worked to incorporate commissioner and community priorities and implement creative solutions reflected in this final budget.*

*I am excited about important investments that were part of the recommended budget we are finalizing today:*

- *Investing \$5.4m in our county staff for a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and reimplementation of annual merit pay increases. I am grateful for our amazing county staff who each and every day, throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, provide vital services to people in our community.*
- *More than \$849K for a new Tax Grant Program to help address the negative impact of rising market values and increasing taxes on our long time, low- income Durham residents. Thank you to advocates who have fought long and hard for this!*
- *Two additional positions to support the work of our Racial Equity Officer under way to transform culture, policies and decision making in Durham County Government.*

*I also want to celebrate the revisions our Board - with the help of our staff and thanks to community input - has incorporated into the final budget. This final budget reflects intentional and increased investment in the people of Durham. Thank you to the hundreds of Durham residents who provided us important feedback about your budget priorities:*

- *Increasing our funding of Durham Public Schools. On top of the \$10.1 million in new funding for DPS in the recommended budget, we are allocating an additional \$1.4 million for DPS operations, \$1.5 million for annual maintenance and repairs and \$1.1m in direct county funding for school nurses and support staff (that also saves DPS \$245,000 in expense to charter schools). I am committed to the vision of providing a school nurse and social worker in every DPS school over the next three years!*
- *Increasing our investment in Durham PreK and our early childhood system, adding \$250,000 in funding to the more than \$5.7 million we are providing for Durham PreK, our Early Childhood Action Plan and other direct investments to support our children and families*
- *Increasing our funding for Durham Tech's Back to Work and Bull's Initiative by \$175,000 for a total investment of \$675,000 to help address the disparate impact of the pandemic on low wage workers of color and put Durham residents first in line for the good paying jobs in growing sectors in Durham County.*
- *Increasing funding for the Durham Open Space and Trails (DOST) program to support community rooted organizations and their efforts to improve neighborhoods and quality of life for residents.*
- *Jointly funding a Refugee Coordinator with the City of Durham to help all members of our community feel welcome, valued and connected to resources.*
- *Joint implementation of the Master Aging Plan (MAP) with the need for the city to provide their portion of funding. I am excited for us to take action for our growing senior population and finalize Durham's international designation as an Age Friendly Community!*

*I also want to acknowledge what is not in this adopted budget. I support the vision of community members who want to see a reallocation of county resources and investments to address community wellness and safety needs. I support the work of the Community Wellness and Safety Task Force and look forward to their recommendations. In this budget there is funding to update a study of our current*

*crisis response system. Our staff is planning to bring back recommendations in January or February. It is a personal priority for me that we make decisions about reallocation of resources to non- law enforcement crisis response and increased investment in equitable access to behavioral health services.*

*We currently fund 186 law enforcement positions and 231 Detention Center positions within the budget of the Office of the Sheriff and within these positions there are currently 66 vacancies. At the same time, we provide funding for three positions for our Community Paramedicine Program/Mobile Integrated Health Unit- one director and two paramedics each working a 12 hour shift. One community paramedic on duty helps respond to opioid overdoses, connects people to treatment and makes mental health referrals. Ensuring we have trained professionals best equipped to respond to non- violent and mental and physical health 911 calls, will free up our law enforcement professionals to focus on the violent crime they are skilled and equipped to respond to in our community.*

*In addition to the study our 911 crisis response system, I have also requested staff provide our Board an analysis of county 911 calls, an assessment of county funding for the 911 Call Center and Sheriff 911 system as well as Detention Center operations and personnel costs to help guide our deliberations over coming months.*

*I am proud of our Board's new investment of more than \$1.15 million in our ground- breaking MAT- Medically Assisted Treatment- Program to provide opioid addiction treatment for detainees and those released from jail. But I believe our overarching goal must be to prevent people from ending up in our criminal justice system and jails in the first place. We must invest upstream in the mental and physical health needs of our residents, harm reduction and address issues like poverty that are root causes of violence. When someone in our community calls 911, I want to make sure the person who shows up to help them is the appropriate person for the crisis at hand. I thank the community for challenging us to imagine and make possible a different future. Working together I know we can. I look forward to reinvesting in these priorities in the year ahead.*

*Lastly, I want to thank my fellow Board members for your insight and input as we work together to make tough decisions on the allocation of our precious and finite public resources. I want to acknowledge the continued partnership with Durham City Government and Durham Public Schools as we all strive to best serve our residents. The vision of a preschool program, social worker and school nurse in every school is a reflection of this collaboration as is our Tax Grant Program and substantial expansion of the Bull City United Violence Interruption Program.*

*We have limited resources and vast unmet needs in our community. While we are fortunate to have about \$15 million in new tax revenue, we had more than \$30 million in requests for this funding. It is critical that we have the data, ask the tough questions and make well informed decisions about the effective use of public funds for identified priorities and needs. In this budget, we are allocating about \$23m in fund balance and \$4.5 m In ARPA funds to make additional investments in the people of our community. This leaves about \$57.5 m in ARPA funds that can be allocated through 2024. I look forward to seeing the results of this budget's investments and future conversations on the strategic ways we can invest our public funds for the transformative change we seek to ensure health and wellbeing for all."*

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Chair Howerton read the following statement:

*"I would Highlight to say two things.*

*First, I extend my sincere appreciation to Durham County employees, essential workers in Durham County, and the Durham community at large for your collaboration and coordination as we navigated through the worse parts of the COVID pandemic. Your perseverance and sacrifices are not lost by me. You ensured the community was safe, able to get food and supplies when needed, able to get from here to there, all while having to take care of yourselves and your families. We owe you a debt of gratitude. I can't say enough how much I appreciate you from the bottom of my heart. You have been the true superheroes to this saga.*

*Secondly, I would like to share a few words about the budget.*

*Despite the challenges of getting on the other side of the pandemic, met with so many needs, and also currently in a leadership transition, I believe we put together a budget that reflects shared principles around:*

*Valuing employees for their work and service. This budget supports our greatest assets, our employees. I am grateful there is funding to support a 3% cost of living salary adjustment and the dollars for the annual merit pay increases.*

*There are significant increased investments to support education including over \$14 million for Durham Public Schools and \$900,000 for Durham Technical Community College.*

*This budget also funds additional positions in key areas that have increased service demands from the overall population growth over the years and from the impact to the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*There are many other areas that could be highlighted. Due to time constraints, I will not address them all.*

*There is one priority that requires continued work over the next several months. This is the funding allocated to support mental health services. Now more than ever we must identify approaches to improve behavioral health services in the community. I look forward to staff's recommendations mid-year on a comprehensive approach for additional investments beyond current funding levels.*

*I would like to thank the Board for their support during the budget development process. We made many tough decisions. I am proud we came to consensus on important strategic investments that continue to make Durham County a thriving community."*

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Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve the FY2020-21 Budget Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously

**21-0391 Discussion of Durham Recovery and Renewal Task Force and Discover Durham's Funding Requests and Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000116 Allocating \$238,700 to Support Funding Requests**

Susan Amey, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Discover Durham introduced Sherry DeVries, Executive Director of Durham Arts Council and Leonardo Williams, Co-Owner of Zweli's Kitchen.

Ms. Amey shared the *Discover Durham Supporting Travel and Tourism Recovery* which highlighted the following: Travel and Tourism's Board of County Commissioners Role in Durham's Recovery, North Carolina Hospitality Business Hit Harder Than Any Other Sector, Durham Hotel Occupancy: Improving But A Long Way To Go, How These Support Values of Shared Prosperity, Hospitality Workforce Development, Hospitality Workforce Survey Highlights, Concept and Total Cost, Bring Back Leisure Travelers, Travelers Are Ready and Planning Travel Now, Rediscover Durham Leisure Travel Marketing Campaign, Concept and Total Cost, Bring Back Business Travel: Groups and Meeting, Durham's Convention Center Space Limits Us To Smaller Meetings, Four Iconic Durham Venues, Concepts - What It Will Take – Total Cost, Return on Investment and Partners.

Ms. DeVries stated the project should be seen as a recovery effort for Durham and partners worked over the last five years to direct activities to the Convention Center. She added the Convention Center was small at 30,000 square feet and was not able to handle large reservations and recommended to increase the size to 60,000 square feet. Mr. DeVries stated the Convention Center would be competitive with surrounding areas and allow for the large reservations to be at one location instead of different locations in Durham.

Ms. DeVries explained the pandemic had eliminated earned revenues of facilities and the facilities needed to re-open to begin regenerating revenues. She added the Art Council would use the project to create jobs and income for local artist.

Mr. Williams stated churches, non-profits and locals supported and the vigilant community during the pandemic. He added he worked with partners in the community to feed the food insecure residents in Durham and worked with Durham Delivers to generate revenue during the pandemic. Mr. William explained his restaurant was surviving, although it was difficult to find employees and thanked the community for their loyal support. He added expanding the Convention Center would help his restaurant acquire more event catering contracts.

The Board stated the timeline showed the project starting in April and asked for an updated timeline. Ms. Amey responded the project was moving forward with plans and needed the County to help fund scheduled job fairs and hospitality programs. She added she was working on logistics, booking, and signage for the program to start in the Fall of 2021. The Board asked if the job fairs would prioritize businesses paying \$13 plus dollars an hour. Ms. Amey replied a survey was sent to local businesses inquiring about pay rates and over 50 percent responded their pay was \$13 dollars or more. She added Discover Durham was working with local businesses to provide data on the amount of pay required to recruit employees. The Board thanked Ms. Amey, Ms. DeVries and Mr. Williams for the great presentation, leadership, partnerships and the hard work they do for the Durham community.

Vice-Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to approve Budget Amendment No. 21BCC000116 to fund the three RRTF and Discover Durham funding requests to help support the recovery of hospitality businesses and jobs in Durham.

The motion carried unanimously

**Directive: Commissioner Burns asked Susan Amey for an updated timeline of the project.**

**Closed Session**

Chair Howerton 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; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee; pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

Chair Howerton announced the Board met in Closed Session and provided direction to staff.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 8:54 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Macio Carlton  
Deputy Clerk to the Board