

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

Thursday, May 13, 2021

2:00 P.M. Virtual Special Session

**MINUTES**

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, second floor, Durham County Government  
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chair Brenda Howerton, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns and Heidi Carter; Willie Darby, Senior County Attorney

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

**21-0310 Closed Session**

The Board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Reconvene from Closed Session**

The Board met in Closed Session and direction was given to staff.

Vice Chair Jacobs announced the following motions:

**First Motion:**

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter stating the Board made the decision under Section 4 of the current contract with the County Manager, Wendell Davis to not renew this contract and therefore the contract would terminate on June 29, 2021 and the Board would comply with all obligations under the current contract.

The votes were as follows:

Ayes: Allam, Carter, Jacobs

Noes: Burns, Howerton

Commissioner Burns stated for the record this decision was made without any discussion with any Black Board members. She stated she would prepare a statement which would provide accolades of the County Manager who has gone out of his way to build businesses, schools and

who has kept this County in its best condition. Commissioner Burns added this was not done on merit but on personal decision.

Chair Howerton shared a written statement.

**Second Motion:**

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to relieve the County Manager, Wendell Davis effective immediately of his duties and the Board would be appointing an Interim County Manager.

The votes were as follows:

Ayes: Allam, Carter, Jacobs

Noes: Burns, Howerton

**Third Motion:**

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to extend the existing contract with Attorney Denise Cline to assist with decisions the Board has taken, the process and any actions associated with the executions on those decisions.

The votes were as follows:

Ayes: Allam, Carter, Jacobs

Noes: Burns, Howerton

Chair Howerton noted for the record that the Board does not go into contracts when they have no idea about the cost – this had not been done in the twelve years she has been a part of the Board.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to adjourn the meeting.

The votes were as follows:

Ayes: Allam, Carter, Jacobs

Noes: Burns, Howerton

Respectfully submitted,



Monica W. Toomer  
Clerk to the Board