

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

Monday, April 3, 2023

9:00 A.M. Work 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

Presider: Chair Brenda Howerton

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person or virtually via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, February 5th at 12 noon.

In-Person speakers

James Svara, on behalf of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit, Mr. Svara encouraged the Board to include support for extremely low-income tenants while considering the 2023-2024 budget allocations. According to the City's Community Development Department, over 8,000 households in Durham with income less than 30% of Area Median Income (AMI) were spending more than half of their income on rent. He suggested helping them by providing a payment of \$600 per month through the Rental Assistance Guaranteed Income Program; adding that the program could start with a scaled back number of recipients (250). He hoped the County would take the lead in starting this pilot program just like they did when creating the Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program. The Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development Corporation was interested in managing the program and advising recipients. The Centre worked on the Durham Emergency Rental Assistance Program and was a HUD approved counseling agency and planned to prepare a detailed grant proposal and share information with the Department of Social Services about how to run this program. He asked that the County take on this pilot program with ARPA funds in the amount of \$1.875 million dollars. He noted ARPA funds could even be used to fund a second year of the program and more recipients could be chosen if the City could be persuaded to join the program.

James Chavis, Jr., PAC 1 representative, shared his disappointment with the lack of support and response from the Chair and County Manager regarding an event they were invited to attend in July 2022. He invited the Board and the County Manager to an upcoming event addressing affordable housing and the impact of developers on low-income homeowners in Durham.

Virtual speakers

Robert “Bob” Chapman provided the Board with an update on the simplifying codes for affordable development text amendments. He announced that the team members were offering to meet with anyone who had any questions.

DeWarren Langley thanked Assistant County Manager Joanne Pierce for her correspondence with him regarding MBK Durham and reiterated his suggestion of creating an MBK Durham governance board and revising the Local Action Plan. As the volunteer executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, he requested a \$250,000 investment from the County for the Foundation’s career aspiration and development programming which provided career and skills mentoring to boys and young men of color in Durham County.

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the April Regular Sessions.

23-0197 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.23BCC00077 Appropriating \$300,800 of General Fund Fund Balance to Fund a Contract with Child Care Services Association for Provider Selection Services for the Operation of the 300 E. Main St. Childcare/Pre-K Space; as well as Authorize the Execution of the Contract with Child Care Services Association for the Provider Selection Services in the amount not-to-exceed \$300,800

Discussion was held regarding how the County could uplift and highlight this at the local and national level. Suggestions included submitting it to NACo for publication in their newsletter and having staff consider how to get the local business community involved.

Commissioner Burns noted this was the County’s second major investment in daycare in the downtown area. She highlighted the importance of increasing access to safe and affordable housing and childcare in Downtown Durham.

Directives:

- **Staff to provide this information to NACo for publication in their newsletter.**
- **Staff to consider how to get the business community involved and brainstorm other ways to get the word out locally and nationally.**

23-0200 Award Contract for Feasibility Study of Durham County Farm Campus (RFP 23-014) to HR&A Advisors

Directive: Staff to include looking at all publicly controlled land—land owned by DPS, City, and/or the County—in the scope of work.

23-0201 Increase the 500 E. Main Street Affordable Housing Redevelopment Master Development Agreement through PAYGO Funding of \$10,618,417 for Loan #4; Execute the Revised Lender Commitment Letter for the Loan in the Amount of \$10,618,417; as well as Approve an Amendment to the Master Development Agreement for the Project

Peri Manns, Engineering and Engineering Services Deputy Director stated that the number of units were not previously defined because it depended on the way the project developed—staff was now able to estimate 195 units of affordable housing at the 500 E Main Street block.

Mr. Manns stated that the County's financing loan gaps were \$10.6 million for the 195 units at the 500 block and \$11.3 million for the 110 units at the 300 block. He also noted the additional investments into the childcare space (a little over \$2.5 million) and parking.

23-0213 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00078 Appropriating \$4,030,961 of General Fund Fund Balance to Purchase Eleven (11) Replacement Ambulances through the SAVVIK Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the Office of Emergency Services EMS Division

The Board inquired as to whether the Stealth Power system would increase the ambulances' lifespan. The "Stealth Power" anti-idling system reduced emissions by keeping critical systems and climate control operational without the ambulance having to continuously idle when not responding to calls. Jim Groves, OES Director, stated it was a possibility but was yet to be seen.

Discussion was held regarding supply chain issues and how County staff worked to stabilize the ambulance fleet after concerns were raised by the community.

Directives:

- **EMS staff to update the Board with how the new ambulances fared and whether the Stealth Power system made a difference in lifespan.**
- **County Manager to research grants that would help with the purchase of these environmentally friendly vehicles.**
- **Staff to calculate how much the County saved when a maintenance person was on staff instead of contracting out ambulance repairs and provide the information to the Board.**

23-0223 Interlocal Agreement with TJCOG for Low to Moderate Income Solarize Program

Mr. Manns noted a prior conversation with Tobin L. Freid, Sustainability Manager, revealed that there were four (4) participants slated to receive the solar PV system installments. Ms. Fried had also mentioned there were others who were interested in the program, but Mr. Manns did not have an exact number.

Directive: Staff to provide the Board with information regarding how many other residents were interested in participating in the program and whether the County should increase the budget to allow for expansion.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

23-0094 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00082 for the Department of Social Services to recognize funds in the amount of \$473,659 from the Low Income Household Water Assistance Federal Program as part of the Program's ARPA-American Rescue Plan Act Funding and America Rescue Plan Act Administration funding to Provides Emergency Assistance to Low-Income Households to Prevent Disconnection or Provide assistance with Reconnection of Drinking and Wastewater Services

23-0192 Capital Project Amendment No.23CPA00020 Appropriating \$875,000 of Future Taxable Limited Obligation Bond Funding (LOBS) to the 500 E. Main St. Downtown Parking Deck Capital Project (47302635DC151); as well as Authorize an Increase in the Owner's Contingency in the Amount of \$875,000 to Execute Any Necessary Change Orders for the Deck Development Agreement with ZOM Living for a Total Not-to-Exceed of \$32,701,100.00

23-0193 Durham County Sheriff's Office Contract Approval with J & A Engineering LLC, in the amount of \$145,520 for the Electronic Security System Replacement Project at the Detention Center

23-0202 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00076 for the Department of Social Services to recognize funds in the amount of \$13,230.36 from the Adult Protective Services (APS) Essential Services Funds to Arrange for Essential Needs on Behalf of an Individual Receiving Protective Services for Adults Planning and Mobilizing Services

23-0203 Approve the Purchase of VMware Site Recovery Manager License in the amount of \$151,150 using existing CIP Funds

23-0204 Approve Renewal of Durham County's Contract with Gather Consulting Service in the Amount of \$161,800 Using Existing Funds

23-0205 Renew the Current License Agreement and Continue our Enterprise License Agreement for DocuSign and DocuSign Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM) in the amount of \$97,742.05 using existing funds

23-0206 Approve the Usage of Existing Funds in the Amount of \$99,844.31 for the Renewal of AvePoint Cloud Governance Software Licenses and Online Support Services

23-0222 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00081 Public Health to Recognize Funds in the Amount of \$53,723 From the Division of Child and Family Well-Being, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education (DINE) Program Implementation including using the Funds to Support a New .52 FTE Nutrition Specialist Position to Expand the DINE Program

23-0224 Durham City-County Appearance Commission Interlocal Agreement Renewal

23-0226 Approve the Purchase of ServiceNow Professional Services in the amount of \$204,000 using Existing Funds to Provide Technology Strategy Support and Training

23-0228 Execution of the Contract Amendment with DTW Architects, Inc., for the Utilities Administration Building in the amount of \$ 182,250.00, Project (7100SE057)

23-0229 Execution of the Contract Amendment with Metcon Inc., for the TWWTP Utilities Administration Building in the amount of \$43,340.00. Project No. (7100SE057)

23-0246 Application for Funding for Triangle WWTP Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project for Utilities Division

Discussion Items

23-0230 Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Update

The Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) project would provide passenger rail service between Durham, Wake, and Johnston counties in the existing North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) corridor. This project was in the adopted and proposed Durham County Transit Plan. In March 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the regional partners to support continued development of this project. The MOU authorized a

study led by GoTriangle that would provide information on the benefits, costs, risks, engineering challenges, public engagement, and stakeholder support to inform a decision by the regional partners on whether to continue development of this project. The Board last received an update on this project in September 2022.

Charles “Chuck” Lattuca, CEO of GoTriangle, and Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle Chief Development Officer, provided a presentation on the results of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, public engagement feedback, and the next steps for decision-making.

Ms. Eggleston listed the suggested improvements that would increase bus speed and reliability.

Discussion was held regarding cost sharing methods between the counties, such as mileage by county or ridership, that could be used for the GTCR project.

Discussion was held regarding which of the two options would be the most cost effective and beneficial for Durham, Raleigh-to-Ellis Road or Raleigh-to-RTP/Auburn-to-RTP. Ms. Eggleston and Mr. Lattuca discussed the possibility of extending from RTP to Ellis Road at a later time and what could be done during development to set the stage and reduce the time and money required to do so later.

Ms. Eggleston described how service planners ran ridership models and considered which assumptions were reasonable to make for the bus services that connected to the stations in question.

County Manager Dr. Sowell announced the County would be contracting with a group to guide the conversations and help the Board come to a consensus on how to move forward.

Mr. Lattuca shared that the cost sharing discussions would take place within the next three months. In terms of how much was spent on this project before the cost sharing was discussed, the County committed \$9 million to the completion of the feasibility study—most of which was spent.

Ms. Eggleston stated that it would cost around \$50 million dollars to move the Ellis Road station up one mile to Angier Avenue/Glover Road location and close to \$70 million to add it as an additional station at the Angier Avenue/Glover Road location.

Vice-Chair Jacobs announced she was representing the County on the DCHC MPO workgroups and CAMPO subcommittees that were looking into this issue. She emphasized the importance of the corridor and of investing in land use in addition to transportation.

Vice-Chair Jacobs noted most of the projected job growth for 2050 was going to be in downtown Raleigh and she did not want Durham residents to be left behind. She wanted to meet the transportation needs of today as well as the ones of the future.

Vice-Chair Jacobs suggested the following:

1. Adopt the corridor regionally and develop and adopt a Land Use Plan around the station areas for transit-oriented development (TOD) in an effort to increase ridership—which could then satisfy eligibility requirements for FTA funding.

2. Create a strategy for BRT that incorporated the station areas.
3. Relocate the East Durham rail yard.
4. Develop a new Regional Transportation Plan.

Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Manager, estimated that the public hearing and approval for the Transit Plan would take place in May/June. Discussion was held regarding the ILAs and which items would be brought to the Board in the near future.

Directives:

- **GoTriangle to provide the Board with a cost estimate for engineering to get to Ellis Road or further.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding how much land was publicly controlled around each of the stations on the Durham side.**
- **GoTriangle to provide the Board with the plan they used to guide their work with the NCDOT Rail Division and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).**

23-0231 Annual Reporting Updates from the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Durham, Inc.

The Board was requested to receive annual report presentations from the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Durham, Inc. The presentations focused on annual reporting, programming, and activities to date in alignment with their County contracts as well as their broader organizational efforts.

Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce

CJ Broderick, Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, presented to the Board.

Discussion was held regarding the importance of building institutional relationships that did not rely solely on individual relationships between institutions.

Directive: CJ Broderick to follow up with the Board regarding how he was getting people connected to the resources at the SBA, credit unions, and community development banks.

Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce

Matt Gladdek, Vice President of Economic Development, the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, presented to the Board.

Discussion was held regarding the partnership between Durham Technical Community College and Wolfspeed. Wolfspeed's partnership with Durham Tech started in 2020 and the goal was to offer customized training to Durham Tech students for Wolfspeed to build its workforce.

Questions were raised about how to better engage the business community in providing childcare services for employees. Bryan Fox, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce Vice President, mentioned the statewide childcare coalition that formed to look at public policy needs at the state level and connections into the federal level. He stated they were seeing large businesses taking on the work themselves, but it was not something they were going to commit to in the course of

an incentive process. He stated the Chamber would highlight childcare as an emerging need within the business community.

Vice-Chair Jacobs appreciated the Chamber's focus on talent development and the education-to-jobs pipeline. She believed it was important for Durham to keep focusing on growing its talent from within and investing in Durham residents. She highlighted the connection of economic opportunities to transportation.

Commissioner Burns encouraged the Chamber to regularly tap into the resources at the Black Chamber, HUB certified companies, and Discover Durham's small business lists by contacting CJ Broderick, Tammie Hall, and Susan Amey. There were plenty of opportunities to work together and ensure Durham residents and businesses, especially those from marginalized communities, were intentionally sought out, actively prioritized, and helped to thrive.

Downtown Durham, Inc. (DDI)

Nicole Thompson, Downtown Durham, Inc. President and CEO, presented to the Board.

Vice-Chair Jacobs emphasized the economic importance of the downtown area to Durham County. She hoped Durham would invest in permanent supportive housing and noted the difference made by the HEART (Holistic Empathetic Assistance Response Teams) program. Vice-Chair Jacobs believed it was essential for Downtown Durham, Inc. to be involved with the City's study regarding undoing the damage of the Durham Freeway (N.C. 147).

Ms. Thompson discussed the festivals that used to be hosted in Durham but stopped due to the pandemic.

In terms of the percentage of available office space in Downtown Durham, Ms. Thompson estimated that the office vacancy was in the low 90s. She noted, however, that this was a calculation of leased office space and did not mean office workers were physically using the spaces (since many jobs remained hybrid after the pandemic). She stated staff was using a different program to calculate how many people went and worked in the downtown area and those numbers would be available at a later date.

Ms. Thompson confirmed DDI was including sustainability as a focus in the Downtown Durham Blueprint: 2035. She discussed the attempts for sustainability in the Bullpen—downtown Durham's social district, which allowed people to purchase alcoholic drinks from ABC permittees in a designated cup and walk around outside within a defined area; it went into effect on December 1, 2022—and how requiring compostable cups was too much of a burden on the businesses. The prohibited use of plastic cups constrained the options since paper cups did not work for beer and wine. She stated they had not yet found a solution but were regularly thinking about the issue.

Directive: Ellen Beckmann and staff to provide the Board with a status update regarding the City's study of undoing the damage of the Durham Freeway (N.C. 147) via an agenda item at a future meeting.

23-0212 Informational Report for the BOCC on Durham County's Emergency Preparedness

Jim Groves, OES Director, and Elizabeth Schroeder, Chief Emergency Manager, provided the Board with an informational report from the OES Emergency Management Division regarding local preparedness efforts for critical incidents, including event such as the Ohio train derailment that occurred on February 3, 2023.

The Board thanked staff for their work and the accessible presentation.

Ms. Schroeder discussed staffing capacity issues and noted how it would benefit the team to have more support should an emergency ever arise.

Staff stated that a flow study could be conducted to see what typically passed through on the rail but there was no way to know what was passing through on any given day. If there was an incident, however, staff did have tools at their disposal to identify what a specific train or railcar contained.

Mr. Groves stated that there were 65,000 individuals who had registered to receive notifications from AlertDurham. He described why the civil defense sirens in Durham were decommissioned in the late 80s/early 90s and noted that the weather service could send a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) to warn residents through their cell phones faster than sirens could.

Directive: County Manager to find ways to push more awareness of AlertDurham and promote enrollment.

23-0220 Tax Administration Revaluation Update

At its February 8, 2021, Regular Session meeting, the Board of Commissioners, upon recommendation from the Durham County Tax Administrator, voted to delay the County's next countywide reappraisal from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2026. The main impetus behind the initial delay, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, was an aging tax software that was affecting Tax Administration operations and extended workflow restrictions to other departments. Delaying the 2023 reappraisal allowed the Tax Administration Department to immediately pursue a modern tax software solution that allowed best practices and enhanced workflow management; Farragut Systems' NCPTS product was selected. At the March 14, 2022, meeting, at the recommendation of the Tax Administrator, the Board voted to advance the General Reappraisal to January 1, 2025.

Dwane Brinson, Assistant County Manager, and Starlin Beatty, Deputy Assessor Real Property, presented to the Board. The presentation provided the Board with current market statistics, information on how current market statistics could impact Durham County's upcoming countywide revaluation, the revenue neutral tax rate (TNTR), and market trends.

Corey Moore, Staff Development Supervisor, confirmed employees were currently in the field, wore vests to help with identification, and drove marked vehicles.

Mr. Brinson announced his plan of using the Nextdoor app during the next cycle to notify residents of which neighborhoods Tax Office employees would be visiting during which dates.

Discussion was held regarding Duke University and the properties they paid taxes on; these were properties that were not used for educational purposes such as the Washington Duke Inn.

County Attorney Alan Andrews clarified that the request was for an assessment of tax revenues that would be received by Durham County if the Duke-owned properties that were not used for educational purposes were taxed.

Discussion was held regarding exploration of the idea of Duke providing a substitute in lieu of paying taxes—e.g., a pilot PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) program with Duke. Commissioners described the strong Duke-County partnership, Duke’s help in revitalizing downtown Durham, and how many County programs aligned with Duke’s mission.

Directive:

- **Mr. Brinson to add another column to the slide titled “Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Illustration Micro (Hypothetical)” to show what the tax bill would be for a home in 2025 if the tax rate from 2019 was applied.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with an assessment of tax revenues that would be received by Durham County if the Duke-owned properties that were not used for educational purposes (and therefore not clearly exempt) were taxed.**

23-0232 ARPA Update

Claudia Hager, Deputy County Manager, and Reginald Johnson, City of Durham Director Community Development, provided the Board with an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funding including potential joint funded projects with the City of Durham. Staff provided an update on the status of the community grant contracts and shared highlights on remaining allocations. Staff also presented draft Interlocal agreements for proposed partnerships with the City of Durham in affordable housing, digital equity, and arts and cultural support.

The American Rescue Plan would deliver \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency; Durham County received \$62,445,275. ARPA funds could support several priorities including a public health response due to COVID-19, address negative economic impacts, replace public sector revenue loss, and fund premium pay for essential workers.

Funding use could also address water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure and other priorities as identified in the US Treasury Final rule. Funding must be encumbered by 2024 with all invoices paid by 2026.

Ms. Hager discussed the State award to Frontier and noted that staff had an RFP for a provider to assist the County with broadband expansion.

Discussion was held regarding the Frontier Affordable Connectivity Program (which covered up to \$30 of residents’ internet bills). Ms. Hager acknowledged that Lumos announced a capital investment of approximately \$50 million to provide its 100% fiber-optic internet service to approximately 35,000 more residents and businesses in North Carolina, across the local areas of Durham and Orange Counties.

Ms. Hager discussed the “leftover” funds and clarified that staff would return to the Board should any realignment be necessary for plan refinement. Vice-Chair Jacobs voiced her support for continuing to invest in everything related to housing (e.g., affordable housing, supportive housing, transitional housing, rental assistance, etc.). Chair Howerton concurred and added her support for investing in ways to help people be able to stay in their homes.

23-0173 Criminal Justice Resource Center’s Detention Services

The Board was requested to receive a presentation on the services provided by the Criminal Justice Resource Center at the Durham County Detention Facility. Presenters included Gudrun Parmer, CJRC Director; Tremaine Sawyer, STARR Program Supervisor; Kelli Egnaczak, Jail Mental Health Supervisor; and Christie Long, Pretrial Services Supervisor.

Vice-Chair Jacobs excused herself from the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Ms. Parmer discussed the Family Drug Treatment Court which was defunded by the State in October 2012. Since the Family Drug Treatment Court (and Youth Drug Treatment Court) in Durham was state funded, she did not have any data or information to illustrate how successful it was or how much it cost to be in operation. The CRJC’s involvement was only with the Adult Drug Treatment Court, and it took over management when the State defunding occurred.

Commissioner Allam stated she would forward information to Ms. Parmer regarding MacKenzie Scott’s recent announcement of a \$250 million “open call” for community-focused nonprofits that Ms. Scott would fund.

At Vice-Chair Jacobs’ request, Commissioner Burns announced that Counties Building Safe and Healthy Communities featured the work of Ms. Parmer and her staff at the CJRC.

Directive: Gudrun Parmer to provide the Board with information on how many people were seen for mental health services while at the Detention Center.

23-0225 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00083 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$28,258.57 of General Fund Balance for a Contract with Farmer Foodshare to Provide Funding for Durham County Double Bucks Program

The Board was requested to suspend the rules to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00083 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$28,258.57 of General Fund Balance for a Contract with Farmer Foodshare to Provide Funding for Durham County Double Bucks Program.

In terms of funding sources, this contract would use local dollars in April and May 2023 to ensure additional food supports were available to residents, especially those experiencing a reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits. Staff anticipated additional support for Double Bucks through December 31, 2025 would be through ARPA funding, which would be presented to the Board in a separate request. The proposed amounts aligned with information presented to the Board at the February 28th budget retreat.

The aim of this contract was to increase access to fresh, seasonal, local food for low-income individuals in Durham County via matching “double bucks” incentives at farmers’ markets, as well as support local businesses and producers, especially historically marginalized groups.

The Double Bucks program, as operated in the Triangle, was the only program like it in the state, in that the program matched not just Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits, but also all Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers and cash for WIC recipients (Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children) and Section 8 or public housing residents. Additionally, these incentives could be spent on any SNAP eligible market purchase, not just fruits and vegetables (which was often the case with incentive programs).

The program outgrew the smaller grants and funding opportunities that previously supported it. For the program to continue operating and grow, more sustainable funding was needed. Many shoppers receiving SNAP made their local Triangle farmers’ market their primary grocery shopping place. Investing in this program was an investment in making healthy food access sustainable and strengthening the region’s local food system.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00083 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$28,258.57 of General Fund Balance for a Contract with Farmer Foodshare to Provide Funding for Durham County Double Bucks Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Directive: Kelly Warnock to provide the Board with information regarding how much money was spent in the Double Bucks program per farmers market and how many people were using the program.

23-0227 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00080 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$503,795.56 of General Fund Balance and Approve Contract with Interfaith Food Shuttle to Provide Food to Persons Seeking Food Assistance in Durham County

The Board was requested to suspend the rules to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00080 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$503,795.56 of General Fund Balance and Approve Contract with Interfaith Food Shuttle to Provide Food to Persons Seeking Food Assistance in Durham County.

This contract would use local dollars in April and May 2023 to ensure additional food supports were available to residents, especially those experiencing a reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits. Staff anticipated additional food supports through December 31, 2025 would be provided through ARPA funding, which would be presented to the Board in a separate request. The proposed amounts aligned with information presented to the Board at the February 28th budget retreat.

The aim of this contract was to help ensure access to safe, nutritious food for low-income individuals in Durham County seeking food assistance at food banks, food pantries, and other emergency food providers.

With the end of the SNAP emergency allotments in March 2023, Durham County staff and community partners anticipated a substantial increase in food needs from SNAP participants. The County could not make up for this estimated \$3.2 million monthly reduction in Durham County SNAP benefits; however, providing additional support to community partners was essential to supporting food security efforts.

Considering that food bank partners were able to purchase food at wholesale or bulk rates, supporting the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and the Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina greatly multiplied the amount of food resources the County was able to provide for families. For example, an average meal cooked at home with items purchased from the grocery store was about \$3-\$5 per person, whereas Feeding America estimated each meal they provided cost \$1 due to wholesale purchases.

For this agreement, Durham County would contract directly with Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and the Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina would be a subcontractor receiving 50% of the total funding.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 23BCC00080 Cooperative Extension to Appropriate \$503,795.56 of General Fund Balance and Approve Contract with Interfaith Food Shuttle to Provide Food to Persons Seeking Food Assistance in Durham County.

The motion carried unanimously.

23-0251 Letter to Durham Delegation Supporting Modifications to Senate Bill 156/House Bill 340 to Allow Counties to Decline to Participate in a Statewide Specialty Care Plan for Foster Care Children and Families

Item was pulled for the April 13th Regular Session.

23-0248 Commissioner Comments

The Board allowed each Commissioner six minutes to report on conferences or make comments regarding issues that may be of interest or concern to the Board.

Directive: County Manager to introduce new leadership team members at a future meeting.

Closed Session

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to adjourn into Closed Session 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).

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene from Closed Session

Chair Howerton announced the appointment of Teresa Hairston effective today as the Interim Tax Administrator.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to approve the appointment of Teresa Hairston effective Monday, April 3, 2023 as the Interim Tax Administrator

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant