

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

Monday, March 4, 2024

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

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid

Participants: 6

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, March 3rd at 12 noon.

Sheryl Smith spoke on the issues surrounding her DSS case. She requested that her case be heard in open court, not virtual. She does not believe that she can properly defend her case virtually.

Rafik Zaidi, President of Men and Women of Boots on the Ground Durham spoke on the issue of the foster care system and asked for an update on the gas leak that was reported in the DSS building.

Amanda Wallace spoke on the need for a change of the board members in the upcoming election.

DeWarren Langley spoke on encouraged County investment for the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Sowell County Manager provided an update on the gas leak in the DSS building.

Consent Agenda

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

24-0076 Authorize the County Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with City of Durham for the Southeast Durham Watershed Improvement Plan including contribution of \$910,895.51 towards its development.

Ryan Eaves, Stormwater and Erosion Control Manager, Storm Water and Erosion Control Division confirmed that a presentation was being prepared and once the interlocal agreement was finalized the consultant team would present it to both agencies. Mr. Eaves highlighted the major components of the project.

24-0080 Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Division of Sales Tax Between the County of Durham and the City of Durham July 1, 2024, to June 30,2025

Commissioner Jacobs raised concerns regarding this being a one-year contract instead of a three-year contract.

24-0088 Approval to Amend a Contract with First Flight Technologies LLC in the amount of \$52,155 for a (new total of \$92,055.00) for contracted SAP Development Support Services.

Vice Chair Burns questioned why this amount doubled and requested that bids be more accurate going forward.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

24-0082 Approval of Contract with LYME Technology Solutions for the RAVE Alert Pro Mass Notification Platform for Emergency Management in the Amount of \$55,389

24-0083 Approval of a Contract with Foursquare ITP Inc. in the Amount of \$60,355 for Website Design Services for Durham County Transit Plan Tracking Dashboard

24-0085 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 24BCC00083 Public Health to Recognize \$150,000 from the NC DHHS Division of Public Health Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section to Support Women’s Health Services in Durham County

24-0086 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 24BCC00082 Public Health to Recognize \$30,000 from Guilford County’s Division of Public Health to Assist Public Health Infrastructure Foundational Capabilities to Respond to Covid-19

24-0087 Budget Ordinance Amendment No.24BCC00081 Public Health to Recognize a Donation of \$ 1,000 from Dr. Nadine Barrett to Support Activities of the Men’s Health Council.

24-0089 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 24BCC00084 Social Services to Recognize Funds in the amount of \$45,734 to Temporarily Assist Social Services in Addressing Identified Placement Needs for Children.

24-0106 Approval of Contract Extension with Buddi US, LLC for Electronic Monitoring Services Through the Justice Services Department for People Assigned to Durham County Pretrial Services in the Amount of \$165,000

24-0110 Authorize the County Manager and Chief Financial Officer to Execute the Letter of Intent to Fulfill the Local Government Notification Requirements for the Loan for Chin Page Lift Station in the amount of \$19,298,025.

24-0111 Approve Interlocal Agreement with Orange County to provide livestock agent services in Durham County through Cooperative Extension for up to \$7,000 in FY 24 and \$17,000 in subsequent fiscal years.

Discussion Items

24-0117 Durham Destination Master Plan and Implementation Steps

The Board was requested to review and provide feedback on a plan presented for pursuing a community-wide vision for Durham's advancement as the best place to live, work and visit, and to endorse proposed NC legislation that would 1) Authorize Discover Durham to engage in "tourism-related activities" and 2) authorize the redistribution of occupancy taxes currently received by the County to provide a permanent funding stream for investment in the plan's recommendations. The recommended change in occupancy tax distribution would move Durham into compliance with the 1997 NC Uniform Occupancy Tax guidelines.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Curtis Massy clarified that Durham County was in compliance with the 1997 NC Uniform Occupancy Tax guidelines.

Susan Amey, President & CEO of Discover Durham shared a presentation and answered questions pertaining to the benefits of non-profit organization oversight versus government oversight. She also addressed and answered questions pertaining to the redistribution of occupancy taxes. Ms. Amey stated that private corporations in Durham were interested in being a part of this project.

Directive:

- **Staff to add this item to the agenda for the March 12th budget retreat for further discussion.**

24-0105 Presentation of 2023 City-County Resident Survey Results

The Board was requested to receive a presentation on the 2023 City-County Resident Survey results. Durham County partnered with the City of Durham to conduct a resident survey for the ninth consecutive year. The survey, which was conducted in late Fall 2023, presented information about service quality and resident prioritization of services. This data, which included trends from the past several years, would be used to help Durham County departments make service improvements in the spirit of responding to the emerging needs of residents. The survey also enabled Durham County to compare itself to other, similar-sized communities across the state and nation.

Jason Morado, Director of Community Research (ETC Institute) answered questions and reviewed the key findings from the survey. He also summarized the main objectives of the survey, listed priorities for the community, spoke on trends from previous surveys and compared our performance with other similar sized communities.

Directive:

- **Jason Morado to provide the Board with results from cross-section mapping based off residents' income and services received by Durham County.**

24-0103 Hayti Reborn - Justice Movement Presentation

The Board was requested to receive an update from Hayti Reborn - Justice Movement. The Hayti Reborn - Justice Movement served as an “umbrella organization” that worked in concert with existing community partners, with a goal of developing coordinated strategies that interrupted the cycle of violence, while concurrently increasing the health and prosperity within marginalized communities.

Lisa Jones, Co-Executive Director-Hayti Reborn-Justice Movement and Steve Chalmers Co-Founder and Executive Director of Movement programs, spoke on the progress and growth of the Hayti Reborn - Justice Movement over the past year. They shared an outlook on plans for next year and requested continued funding for the program in the upcoming budget. Candace Rashada, Director of Career Services & HRD Career Services discussed the collaboration between Durham Technical Community College and the Hayti Reborn-Justice Movement. Leah Bergman, Managing Director, Bergman Real Estate spoke on the housing assistance that was needed for program participants and how her agency was contributing to the solution. Commissioners were encouraged to download the work force app to see data in real time <https://www.hrjm.org/>.

Directive:

- **Staff to invite the 2024 graduates of the program to a BOCC meeting for recognition.**

24-0002 Presentation and Update on Durham County Farm Campus Site on Orange Factory Road

The Board was requested to receive a presentation on the Orange Factory Road Project that included the future Durham Farm Campus and recreational uses.

Celest Burns, MS, Open Space/Real Estate Division Manager gave an overview of the Orange Factory Road Property purchase that closed on February 29, 2024. The deed included restrictions that limited land use to conservation, recreation, agriculture education and general governmental purposes. The land had four ponds, one habitable house and forty-two acres of land. Christy Raulli, MCRP, Project Manager presented a timeline which included.

- Summer 2024 repairs to the farmhouse, dam and stabilizing the ponds.
- Fall 2024 coop Ext Programming, begin trials and recreational planning and cooperative extension contracts completed.
- Winter 2024-2025 RFQ for entire property uses, design and public engagement.

Ms. Raulli also spoke on project budgeting and working within Capital Improvement Plan and budget processes to request funding for the design, public engagement, farm management and equipment.

Directive:

- **Staff to plan a community event at the Orange Factory Road Project site for residents to be able to see the property and receive information pertaining to upcoming improvements and projects on the property.**
- **Staff to plan a Board tour of the Orange Factory Road Project site.**

Appointment of Interim County Attorney

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Vice Chair Burns, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to appoint Curtis Massey as Interim County Attorney until such time that a permanent appointment to the position was made.

The motion carried unanimously.


Adjournment

Vice Chair Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Georgina Nicole Moreno
Administrative Assistant