

**Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023**

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Special Session for the 2nd Budget Public Hearing in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2023.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair George Dunlap, Vice Chair Elaine Powell,
and Commissioners Leigh Altman, Patricia “Pat” Cotham,
Arthur Griffin, Mark Jerrell, Vilma D. Leake, Laura J Meier,
and Susan Rodriguez- McDowell
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunlap, followed by introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**23-0257 PUBLIC HEARING: AMEND MINOR SYSTEM FEES FOR THE CITY OF
CHARLOTTE AND THE TOWN OF CORNELIUS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to open the public hearing for comments on proposed amendments to the Minor System components of Storm Water fees.

No Speakers were present.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Griffin and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to close the public hearing.

Background: In 1994, the County implemented a Storm Water fee to fund the administration of storm water management programs to improve water quality, reduce flood losses and repair and or maintain the storm drainage system.

Minor System Component for municipal jurisdictions: By Interlocal Agreement, the minor system of the storm water system is defined as ditches, swales, pipes, etc. that drain less than 1 square mile and is the responsibility of the City inside the City limits and each Town inside the town limits. The revenue generated from the minor system component of the storm water fee charged within each municipal jurisdiction is returned to that jurisdiction to fund their storm water management programs.

To address the substantial increase in unfunded projects, residents' requests for services, projects in the right-of way, and aging infrastructure, the City of Charlotte is proposing a change to the minor system component of the Storm Water fee. The Towns are experiencing similar challenges, and the Town of Cornelius also requests an increase to its minor system component of Storm Water fees.

The changes that have been approved are as follows:

City of Charlotte (City Council approved):

Tier I: \$6.27 to \$6.56, per month

Tier II: \$9.25 to 9.68, per month

Tier III: \$13.67 to \$14.30, per month

Tier IV: \$22.61 to 23.65, per month

Commercial: \$163.20 to \$170.71, per acre of impervious acre

Town of Cornelius (Town-approved):

Tier I: \$1.89 to \$2.24, per month

Tier II: \$2.75 to \$3.25, per month

Tier III: \$4.12 to \$4.87, per month

Tier IV: \$7.61 to \$9.01, per month

Commercial: \$48.79 to \$57.72, per acre of impervious acre

Public Hearing Request: As part of the City and Town's budgeting processes, the City of Charlotte and Town of Cornelius have already approved changes to their minor system rates.

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The County's public hearing will provide interested parties an opportunity to comment to the Board of County Commissioners on changes to the minor system components of the Storm Water fee for those properties located in the City of Charlotte and the Towns of Cornelius. Each municipality has conducted their own public hearing prior to altering their minor system component of the fee.

MCSWS requests a public hearing be conducted in accordance with the Storm Water Management Interlocal Agreement and State law for considering such increases. After closing the public hearing, the Board is requested to adopt the Resolution setting the minor system component of the storm water fee to the amount as directed by The City and the Town of Cornelius.

On March 16, 2023, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC) unanimously recommended approval of the City's FY24 Operating and Capital budgets, which included a request for a fee increase, and forwarded its recommendations to the City Manager and City Council. The SWAC does not review the Town's operating and capital budgets.

**23-0284 PUBLIC HEARING: REVISIONS TO THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY AIR
POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (MCAPCO)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Griffin and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to open the public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on proposed revisions to the Mecklenburg County Air Pollution Control Ordinance.

No Speakers were present.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Griffin and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to Close the public hearing.

Background: MCAPCO provides for the administration and enforcement of an air pollution control program for the protection of the environment and protection of the public health and applies throughout Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, including but not limited to all cities, towns, hamlets, and villages whether incorporated or unincorporated.

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Revisions have been proposed by Mecklenburg County Air Quality involving adjustments to permitting and compliance monitoring fees found in MCAPCO Regulation 1.5231 - "Air Quality Fees." On April 18, 2023, a public review and comment period was opened by the Board. This public hearing is being held to receive comments on the proposed revisions.

23-0362

PUBLIC HEARING: RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY2023-2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to open the Public Hearing to receive public comment on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for FY2023-2024.

Background: Annually, the Board holds a public hearing to receive public comment on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is scheduled for adoption on June 6, 2023.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection on-line at www.mecklenburgcountync.gov <<http://www.mecklenburgcountync.gov>>.

The following speakers were present:

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BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING							INDICATES A GROUP	
	First Name	Last Name	Group?	Topic	Contact Information	District	In person/Zoom	Notes
1	Allison	Allen-Mongo	Arts and Science Council	speaking as a County-appointed ASC Advisory Council Member, advocating for arts and culture funding through Arts & Science Council in the FY24 County budget.	4223 DingleWood Avenue Charlotte NC 28205 Phone: 704-713-6464 Email: aallens016@gmail.com	District 3	In Person	
2	Hope	Wright	Sustain Charlotte	I will be speaking about the importance of greenway funding in the county budget	2311 Crestview Drive Charlotte NC 28216 Phone: 434-473-4162 Email: hope.wright@sustaincharlotte.org	District 2	In Person	
3	Liz	Lewis		Park & Recreation's budget request	830 E Park Ave Charlotte NC 28203 Phone: 7043010135 Email: 704-301-0135	District 4	In Person	
4	Ruth Ann	Grissom	Latta Park Volunteers	Park funding	914 Magnolia Ave Charlotte NC 28203 Phone: 7045642019 Email: ruthgrissom@bellsouth.net	District 4	In Person	
5	Nancy	Nicholson	Latta Park Volunteers	Park funding	914 Magnolia Ave Charlotte NC 28203 Phone: 704-840-6020 Email: nancyenicholson@gmail.com	District 5	In Person	

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	First Name	Last Name	Group?	Topic	Contact Information	District	In person/Zoom	Notes
6	Beth	Poovey	Partners for Parks	Budget	3459 Spencer Street CHARLOTTE NC 28205 Phone: 7042582002 Email: beth@partnersforparks.org	Other	In Person	
7	Sloan	Crawford	Foster Village Charlotte	Budget as it pertains to YFS and social workers and their direct impact on child and family wellbeing and reunification	2137 queens rd e charlotte NC 28207 Phone: 704-443-1059 Email:sloan@fostervillagecharlotte.org	District 5	In Person	
8	Kenneth	Robinson	Freedom Fighting Missionaries Inc	Affordable Housing	1635 Waybridge Ln apt 3a Charlotte NC 28210 Phone: 7045210878 Email:	District 4	In Person	
9	Kim	Alexander	Our Daily Bread Foundation@ourdailybreadcharlotte	Thank the Commissioners for supporting the Arts and how the Arts has helped with Trauma of youth in our most vulnerable populations.	501 N. Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202 Charlotte NC 28202 Phone: 9802672883 Email:ourdaillybreaddisciples@gmail.com	District 4	In Person	
10	Cynthia	Dey	Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools - Renaissance West STEAM Academy/ Arts and Science Council	I would like to share about the impact County funding for Arts & Science Council programs and residencies have had on our students and in our community: Renaissance West STEAM Academy. I am in favor of funding	11918 Broadwater Lane Charlotte NC 28273 Phone: 704-517-1710 Email:cindyandmike1986@gmail.com	District 6	In Person	
11	Angela	Edwards	Springfield Community	Funding to repair the park inside of Springfield Community. THERE are plans already drawn up.	748 Edge Green Dr Charlotte NC 28217 Phone: 7044305483 Email: edwardsangela70462@gmail.com	District 2	In Person	

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	First Name	Last Name	Group?	Topic	Contact Information	District	In person/Zoom	Notes
12	Robert	Moran		Capital Improvement Plan	4531 Blackmuir Wood Circle Charlotte NC 28270 Phone: 9144416350 Email: robertmoran2880@gmail.com	District 6	In Person	
13	Patrice	Wilson		The importance of arts funding for creative sustainability.	PO BOX 42798 Charlotte NC 28215 Phone: 7049074750 Email: patricenw@live.com	Other	In Person	
14	Charles	Thomas	Charlotte Mecklenburg Library	In support of County Manager's budget recommendations.	3003 Phillips Fairway Drive Charlotte NC 28216 Phone: 7049755384 Email: cthomas@kf.org	District 1	In Person	
15	Patrice	Commodore	Order My Steps	In support of arts and culture funding being increased in Mecklenburg's FY24 budget, the group will	9229 Lawyers Rd Suite 1 Mint Hill NC 28227 Phone: 704-221-4787 Email: pcommodo@aol.com	District 6	In Person	

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16	Shonda	Hooper	Order My Steps, Asst Artistic Director	In support of arts and culture funding being increased in Mecklenburg's FY24 budget, the group will share about Order My Steps' Culture Blocks program "Dance Without Limits," which is fully funded by the County through Arts & Science Council and provides free, accessible dance classes for seniors in our community.	9230 Lawyers Rd Suite 1 Mint Hill NC 28227 Phone: (704)648-3416 Email: omsclt@gmail.com	District 6	In Person	
17	Marcella	Barnette	Order My Steps	In support of arts and culture funding being increased in Mecklenburg's FY24 budget, the group will share about Order My Steps' Culture Blocks program "Dance Without Limits," which is fully funded by the County through Arts & Science Council and provides free, accessible dance classes for seniors in our community.	2965 Shady Lane Charlotte, NC 28208 Phone: 240-522-7567 Email: pcommodo@aol.com	District 2	In Person	

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Munro	Richardson	Read Charlotte	Early literacy funding in the proposed county budget	15420 Country Lake Drive Pineville NC 28134 Phone: 7049549828 Email: munro@readcharlotte.org	District 6	In Person	
Sue	DuChanois		Budget	5852 Coatbridge Ln Charlotte NC 28212 Phone: 704-661-0469 Email: sduchanois@gmail.com	District 4	In Person	
Ricky	Woods	Clergy	County Managers recommended budget	4725 Kirkgard Trail Charlotte NC 28269 Phone: 7044568334 Email: pppjg@aol.com	District 1	In Person	
Jerry	Lee	Greenway Advisory Council	Parks & recreation	2018 Princeton Ave Charlotte NC 28207 Phone: 917-968-5629 Email: jerrylee4urbanplanning@gmail.com	District 5	In Person	

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22	Jeffrey	Reisberg		Education	11705 Abernathy Rd Charlotte NC 28216 Phone: 7087923278 Email: tschaff@gmail.com	District 1	In Person	
23	John	Chen	Carolinas Asian American Chamber of Commerce	Speaking in favor of increased arts and culture funding for the Arts & Science Council in Mecklenburg's FY24 budget and lifting up the community impact that County funding to ASC has had through the Charlotte Dragon Boat Association and Festival.	4700 Carson's Pond Road, Charlotte, NC, USA Charlotte NC 28226 Phone: 7046216668 Email: johnc217@aol.com	District 5	In Person	
24	Eugene	Kiser	Vice Chairman of The PRC	Eugene Kiser is the Vice Chairman of The PRC and would like to talk about The CIP and The Annual Budget	2223 Beverly Drive Charlotte NC 28207 Phone: 7046343755 Email: kiskiser48@gmail.com	District 5	In Person	
25	Clayton	Sealey	NoDa Neighborhood Association	Increasing park funding in the budget and the need to move quickly to include opportunities like Cullman Avenue park which qualify for incremental grant funding	3501 Benard Avenue Charlotte NC 28206 Phone: 704-534-0186 Email: clayton.sealey@mintmuseum.org	District 4	In Person	
26	Cindy	Campbell	no	Budget Request	616 Commons East Drive Apt M Charlotte NC 28277 Phone: 2062294457 Email: cxthree@yahoo.com	District 5	In Person	

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	First Name	Last Name	Group?	Topic	Contact Information	District	In person/Zoom	Notes
27	Sheila	Winter	Friends of Feral Families	Lack of city/county funding for spay and neuter services for stray and feral (community) cats who's population is exploding.	9204 Tillot Drive Matthews, NC 28105 Phone: 704-293-7798 Email: sheilawinter00@gmail.com	District 6	In Person	
28	Jennifer	Barthel	Friends of Feral Families	Community Service Grant	2020 Chesterfield Ave Charlotte NC 28205 Phone: 919-414-1019 Email: jenniferbarthel@mac.com	District 4	In Person	
29	John	Holmes	no	Recommended Budget for FY23-24 - Regarding Greenway Funding for Parks & Rec	5124 McAlpine Glen Drive Apt 6 Charlotte, NC 28227 Phone: 704-898-5513 Email: j.e.holmes1775@gmail.com	District 6	In Person	
30	Michael	Blackwelder	Smart Start of Mecklenburg County (MECK Pre-K)	Recommended Budget FY 23-24	1218 Green Oaks Lane Charlotte, NC 28205 Phone: 704-943-9492 Email: mblackwelder@smartstartofmeck.org	District 4	In person	
31	Rita	Frye	Smart Start of Mecklenburg County (MECK Pre-K)	Recommended Budget FY 23-24	6530 Kinder Lane Landcaster, SC 29720 Phone: 704-943-9601 Email: rfrye@smartstartofmeck.org	Other	In Person	

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The following Speakers made emailed comments:

Dear County Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about a subject I take seriously and that you have supported historically. Greenways and parks are ranked as luxury budget items in an uncertain economy. However, one reality is Charlotte's dramatic growth and comparable projection for the future. Green areas are essential to the health of citizens and the ecosystem. They serve different cultures, ages and economic conditions. Being surrounded by native plants, fresh air and clean water relieves stress and decreases depression and obesity. You could say Nature heals and it never goes offline. Maintenance is minimal compared to the benefits. Even land abandoned to dumping and species exploited to a small fraction can be restored. Although, reclaiming developed land is unusual and mitigation does not serve as well as an evolved, established ecosystem. Postponing protection of natural space makes it more expensive, complex and drawn out later.

I am grateful for your dedication and effort to be fair and honest. Balancing the needs of a big education system, the cultural benefits of libraries, the framework of courts, safety services and community resource centers is exacting. All are traditional priorities. This year I urge you to think of the era we have entered. Every piece of green space or canopy benefits us as we prepare for crisis warming in the next four years. Greenways are a step to stable weather and a cooler future.

Sincerely,

Christie R. Benoit

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From: Ben Tacka <btacka@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:38:36 AM
To: County Clerk <Clerk@mecknc.gov>
Subject: [External]Request to fund Meck County Parks & Rec

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there -

To whomever reads this, I hope to make an earnest plea to the Meck Board of County Commissioners regarding the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) you will be voting on June 6th. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the open session in May 25 or I would have loved to share more with you in person.

I hope you will consider funding the Parks & Rec budget fully and completely. This county has grown into such an incredible place to live in just the past 5 years that I am so utterly excited to see what P&R could do to make it a world class city for all its residents in the next 5.

I recently joined a friend of mine on a long bike ride down Sugar Creek Greenway to Pineville. I started from my front door, not too far from the Stewart Creek Greenway, and took that greenway to Mint St in Uptown near BoA stadium. He left his door in NODA taking the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. With very little interference from cars we met just south of Metropolitan and continued on south together. I can't wait to see the construction around there complete so the Greenway is fully connected but the current detour was easy enough to navigate.

Let me share with this Board that it was an incredible delight to be on a bike and completely protected from all car traffic the entire way down. The trail was lovely and really well constructed. There were many people out enjoying themselves. It was an absolutely wonderful experience. The money that has been funding P&R has already gone to such wonderful projects and it seems many more are in the works. This is such a good investment in our county, in our neighborhood and in ourselves.

Please find the ability in the budget to make P&R while moving forward. Dollar for dollar it's one of the best investments our taxes can go to. We will enjoy the benefits of their work for generations to come as Charlotte and all the surrounding cities in Mecklenburg county push further to becoming one of the best places to live in the country.

Thank you,
Ben Tacka - Enderly Park Resident, Mecklenburg County
--
Ben Tacka
817-319-8038

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Griffin and unanimously carried (8-0) voting yes, to close the Public Hearing.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Dunlap declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board

George Dunlap, Chairman