

**Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2026**

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

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Informal Session in the Meeting Chamber Conference Room CH-14 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, at 5:09 p.m. and in Formal Session in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chair Mark Jerrell, Vice-Chair Leigh Altman  
and Commissioners Arthur Griffin,  
Laura J. Meier, Vilma D. Leake,  
Elaine Powell, Yvette Townsend-Ingram  
Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, and George Dunlap  
County Manager Michael Bryant  
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade  
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith  
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

**Absent:** None

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**-INFORMAL SESSION-**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerrell, after which the matters below were addressed.*

**REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT**

The Board identified item(s) to be removed from Consent and voted upon separately. The items identified were Items:

**26-0076** Commissioner Leake  
**26-0086** Commissioner Leake  
**26-0091** Commissioner Leake

**STAFF BRIEFINGS – NONE**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**26-0060 Closed Session**

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell seconded by Commissioner Meier, and unanimously carried, to go into Closed Session for the following purpose(s): Consult with Attorney, Discuss Business Location and Expansion, Discuss Personnel Matter, and to Prevent Disclosure of Information that is Confidential.

***The Board went into Closed Session 5:08 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 6:00 p.m.***

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*The Board then proceeded to the Meeting Chamber for the remainder of the meeting.*

**-FORMAL SESSION-**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Jerrell called this portion of the meeting to order, which was followed by reading of the County's Mission and Vision and the FY2026 Board Budget Priorities, introductions, invocation by Commissioner Dunlap and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; after which, the matters below were addressed.*

**AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

**26-0118      PROCLAMATION - COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

*Background: Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States with more than 150,000 Americans diagnosed and over 50,000 deaths each year. Greater awareness of this cancer and the means to prevent it could save the lives of people in Mecklenburg County and tens of thousands of lives in the United States.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram read the proclamation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Townsend-Ingram, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, and unanimously carried to adopt a proclamation designating March 2026 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Judy Caswell and Conor O'Neil from the Colon Cancer Coalition accepted the proclamation and gave remarks.



**26-0090      PROCLAMATION - SOCIAL WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH**

*Background: Social Worker Appreciation Month is celebrated in March each year. This month is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the invaluable contributions social workers make to society. The theme for Social Work Month 2026 is "Uplift. Defend. Transform".*

*The 2026 Social Work Month theme honors the prime mission of the Social Work profession - to enhance human well-being, meet the basic human needs of all people, and put special attention on the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. The ability of Social Workers to uplift, defend, and positively transform the millions of people they work with each day is needed now more than ever. That is because our nation is experiencing a period of deep cultural, political, and economic divide.*

*Social Workers are on the front lines, helping individuals and communities so they can overcome personal and societal challenges and even thrive. Social Workers are also adept at bringing people and communities together - so they can find common ground and work to improve the welfare of all.*

Commissioner Griffin read the proclamation.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and unanimously carried to adopt a proclamation declaring March 2026 as "Social Worker Appreciation Month" In Mecklenburg County.

Deputy Director Leticia Loadholt accepted the Proclamation and gave remarks.



26-0110 Joint Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention Month (Chair Jerrell)

*Background: Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual campaign that has been held for the last twelve years and is organized by the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team (CAPT). The purpose is to create awareness and to educate the community about child abuse prevention strategies.*

Commissioner Leake read the Proclamation.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and unanimously carried to adopt a proclamation declaring March 2026 As "Social Worker Appreciation Month" In Mecklenburg County.

Angelica Foster and K'neadee Lester-Jackson, Child Abuse Prevention Team Leaders, accepted the proclamation and gave remarks.



# City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County



## JOINT PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life, as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities that foster their healthy growth and development; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect are a public responsibility, affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

**WHEREAS**, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children, to ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and Mark D. Jerrell, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

### **"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"**

and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

**WITNESS OUR HANDS** and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

  
Vi Alexander Lyles  
Mayor

  
Mark D. Jerrell, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of County  
Commissioners

## ARTS & CULTURE MOMENT

### **26-0103      ARTS & CULTURE MOMENT - BEYOND THE CLASSROOM - THE POWER OF ARTS EDUCATION GRANTS**

The Board received a presentation on the impact of the Mecklenburg County-funded Arts Education Grant.

*Background: On January 5, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved the addition of an agenda topic to the second Regular meeting of the month entitled Public Art Moment in partnership with ASC. The purpose of this item was to raise public awareness and appreciation for the Mecklenburg County tax dollars that are spent on enriching lives through support of public art. On June 3, 2025, the Board approved 1) a name change from "Public Art Moment" to "Arts &*

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Culture Moment" and 2) Expanding content to include, among other things, community-supported arts and science cultural programming and cultural educational programs for schools.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell gave the presentation.

# Beyond the Classroom

The Power of Arts Education Grants

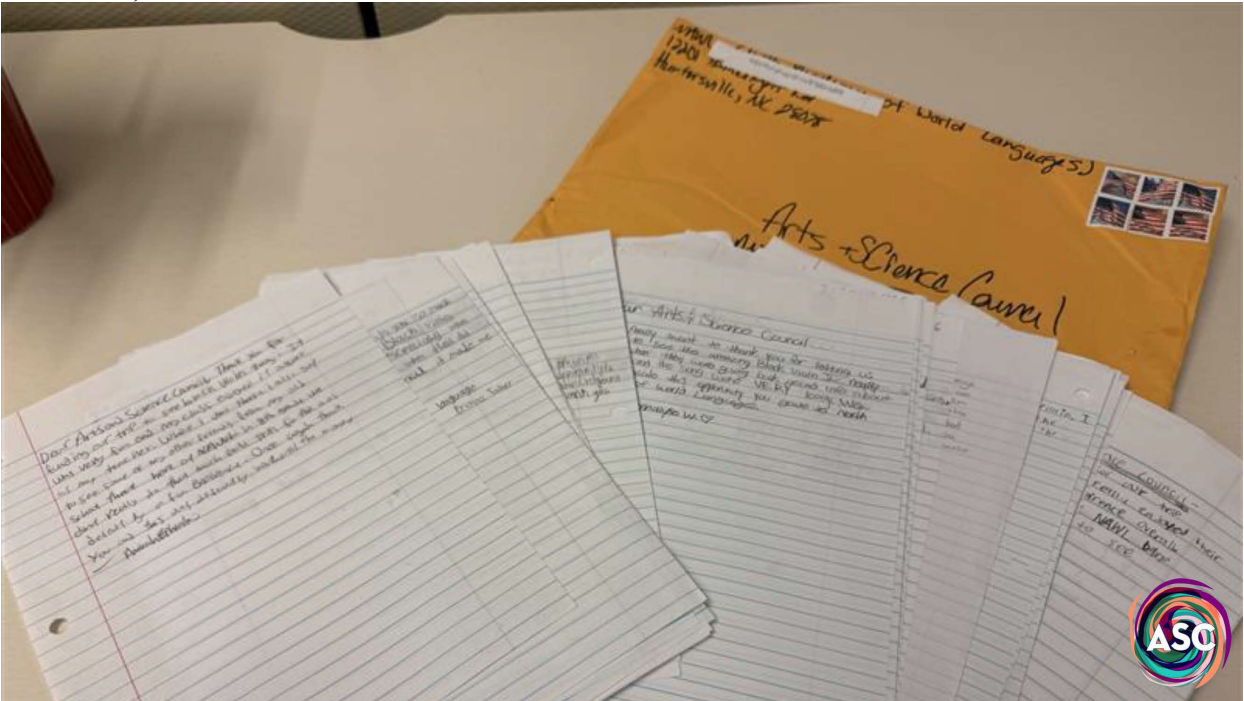
In Partnership with ASC and Mecklenburg County



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**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**26-0095      Public Appearance**

The following persons appeared to speak during the Public Appearance portion of the agenda:

- 1. David Reboloso - New FEMA bill proposed, H.R.4669 addressing the one mitigation project per county
- 2. Rae LaGrone – Public School teacher – Put Kids First – Resolution
- 3. Sheriff Gary McFadden – Jail population - Update to the Commissioners

**APPOINTMENTS**

**26-0048      Appointments- Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**

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Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to reappoint Kimberly Anderson, Benita Mason, and Regina Tisdale to the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for three (3) three-year terms expiring February 28, 2029.

### **26-0083      2027 Citizens Revaluation Advisory Committee**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and carried 8-1 with Commissioners Altman, Dunlap, Griffin, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell voting yes, and Commissioner Townsend-Ingram voting no to nominate and appoint Kathy Davis, Peter Gallo, Mike Hege, Nasif Majeed, Rosa Newman, Matthew “Ben” Robinson, Deon Smith, Jake Springer, and Michael Wong to the 2027 Citizens Revaluation Advisory Committee to fill nine (9) slots expiring December 31, 2026.

*Background: The Committee will serve from March - December 31, 2026. The Committee is appointed a year prior to a Countywide Reappraisal. The committee is charged with meeting with the County Assessor, management, and staff to review overall operations; studying statistical reports on the progress of the 2027 Revaluation; monitoring progress; and reporting its conclusions to the Board of County Commissioners.*

### **26-0084      Appointments- Women's Advisory Board**

Appointments were needed on the Women's Advisory Board to fill six terms.

*Background: On February 17, 2026, the Board nominated: Shante Acuna, Dayna Alexander, Renee Barfield, Satoria Craft, Tanya Fowlkes, Kaovny Jonas, Caitlyn Lee, Sharon Scott, and Holly Sullivan for appointment consideration to the Women's Advisory Board. It has since been discovered that Sharon Scott is currently a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee and has been removed from consideration for appointment.*

The votes were as follows:

Shante Acuna: Commissioners Dunlap, Meier, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

Dayna Alexander: Commissioners Altman, Griffin, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

Renee Barfield: Commissioner Jerrell

Satoria Craft: Commissioners Altman, Dunlap, Griffin, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

Tanya Fowlkes: Commissioners Altman, Griffin, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram.

Kaovny Jonas: Commissioners Altman, Griffin, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

Caitlyn Lee: Commissioner Jerrell

Holly Sullivan: Commissioners Altman, Dunlap, Griffin, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

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Shante Acuna (2<sup>nd</sup> Round): Commissioners Altman, Dunlap, Griffin, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Townsend-Ingram

The Board appointed Shante Acuna, Dayna Alexander, Satoria Craft, Tanya Fowlkes, Kaovny Jonas, and Holly Sullivan to serve on the Women's Advisory Board.

### **26-0092      Appointments - Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board**

*Background: The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board has three unexpired terms available. Two (2) Expiring March 31, 2027, and one expiring March 31, 2028.*

Nominations were needed for the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board to fill three (3) unexpired terms.

The nominations were as follows:

Commissioner Powell: Courtney Savoy  
Commissioners Powell and Meier: Anna Pupo  
Commissioner Griffin: Renee Barfield  
Commissioner Townsend-Ingram: Shey Morton  
Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell: Jasmine Williams

The appointment will be brought back at the next Regular Board Meeting.

### **26-0094      Architectural Selection Committee**

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and unanimously carried to reappoint Carl Goodman on the Architectural Selection Committee for one (1) three-year term expiring January 31, 2029. Carl Godman is eligible for reappointment.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **26-0079      Public Art Commission- Annual Report**

The Board received an Annual Report of the Public Art Commission; and received the Public Art Commission FY2027 Advisory Board Budget Priorities.

Todd Stewart, Vice President, Public Arts & Science Council, and Erin Taylor gave the presentation.

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MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
North Carolina

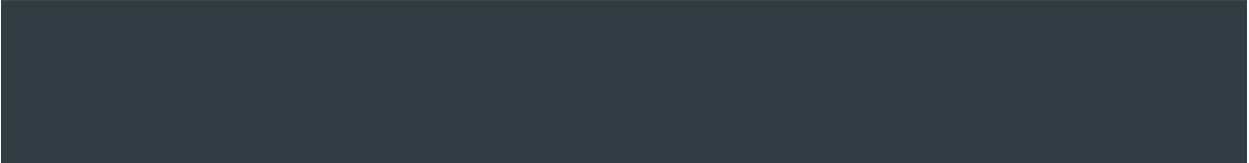


Nestor / Iva Re-Site Studio, 2020, Eastway Regional Recreation Center  
Photo Credit: Basic Cable



ASC  
ARTS & SCIENCE  
COUNCIL

ASC + Public Art Commission  
Annual Board of County Commissioner's Report  
Fiscal Year 2026



PUBLIC ART COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2026

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>LIZ RICHMOND<br/>(Appointee - Mecklenburg County - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2028)<br/>Professional Category: Education</p>        |  <p>ANDREW MARCO<br/>(Appointee - Mecklenburg County - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2027)<br/>Professional Category: Business</p>      |  <p>Erin Taylor<br/>(Appointee - Mecklenburg County - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2025)<br/>Professional Category: Community</p> |
|  <p>DR. DAVID-GAIL CHUBB<br/>(Appointee - City of Charlotte - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2026)<br/>Professional Category: Community</p> |  <p>NINA FORD JACKSON<br/>(Appointee - City of Charlotte - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2026)<br/>Professional Category: Education</p> |  <p>LAUREN HAREY<br/>(Appointee - City of Charlotte - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2027)<br/>Professional Category: Business</p>  |
|  <p>HILARY BLUNT<br/>(Appointee - ASC - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2027)<br/>Professional Category: Art + Design</p>                    |  <p>DR. KEITH CRADLE<br/>(Appointee - ASC - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2027)<br/>Professional Category: Art + Design</p>             |  <p>John Conrad-Espinal<br/>(Appointee - ASC - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ends 2022)<br/>Professional Category: Art + Design</p>     |

Background image: Steens, John Grade, Marsh Park, 2021  
Photo Credit: John Grade



ASC  
ARTS & SCIENCE  
COUNCIL



Public Art Commission Responsibilities

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                         |                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommend the Annual Work Plan to the Board of County Commissioners                                                                                                                                                                   | Chair the Artist Selection Panels                                       | Review and approve Artist Selection Panel recommendations                     |
| Approve all public art designs for Mecklenburg County                                                                                                                                                                                 | Represent the PAC at community meetings, dedications and special events | Ensure community outreach and citizen participation in the public art program |
| Monitor the overall development of the Public Art Collection-ensure that local and regional artist representation, balance over time, with respect to ethnicity and gender of artists selected, styles of expression, media and genre |                                                                         |                                                                               |



ASC  
ARTS & SCIENCE  
COUNCIL





*Balancing Act. Daily Tous Les Jours. 2020. First Ward Park.*

### PUBLIC ART PROCESS

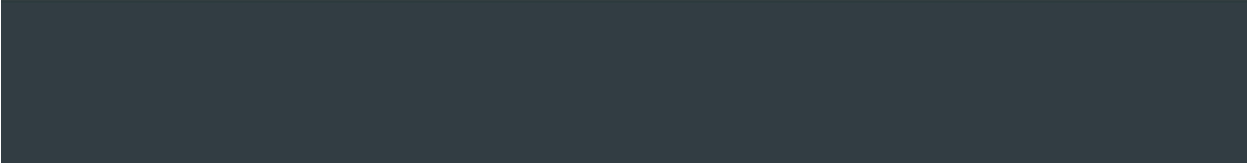
Fund allocation from County with determination of sites

Artist Selection

Design Development & Community Meetings

Fabrication & Installation

Final Acceptance



### Public Art Program: Facts and Statistics

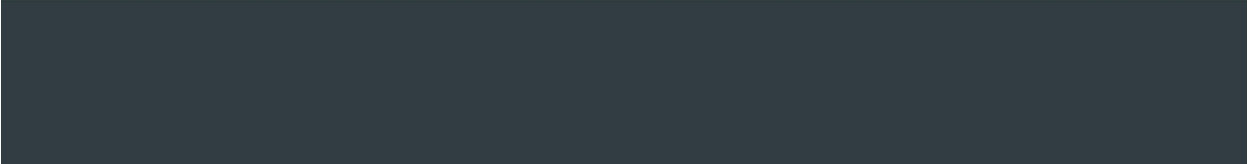
ASC Program Management for the:

- County
- City
- Airport

- Mecklenburg County 1% For Art Ordinance adopted on December 17, 2002.
- Ordinance appropriates 1% of eligible capital improvement project funds for public art. 1% allocations are split 85% for Art Fees and 15% for ASC Administrative Fees.
- ASC Scope: Planning, artist selection, contracting, community engagement, facilitation of fabrication and installation.
- 210 Completed Projects to Date (County, City, Private)
- Total Mecklenburg County Investment: \$7,957,093+
- Total Mecklenburg County Projects: 95
- Total North Carolina Artists Commissioned for Mecklenburg County Projects: 52

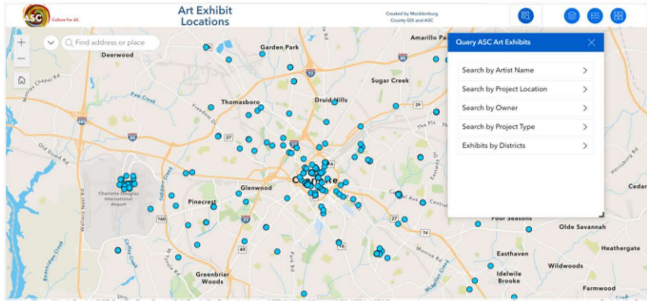


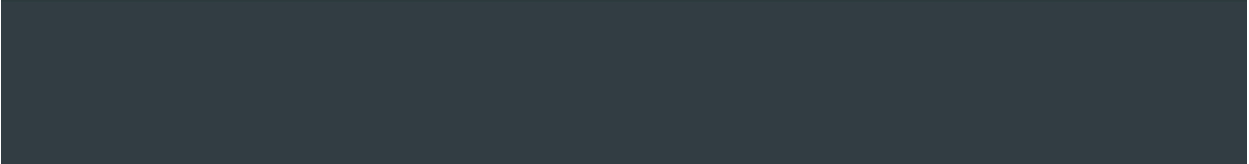
*Orge Rotations. Jill Anholt. 2022. Northern Regional Recreation Center. Photo Credit: Mitchell Kearney Photography*



### Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Art Collection Mapping

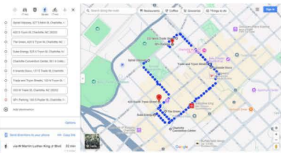
ASC partnered with **Mecklenburg County Geospatial Information Services** to map the public art collections of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte. This online tool allows users to explore the **210** current artworks created through the **County and City Percent for Art Ordinances**, as well as search for artworks based on specific queries.





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### Volunteer Docent Led Public Art Tours



Uptown Charlotte Tour Route

ASC Public Art offered volunteer opportunities to serve as public tour docents. Training was provided for docents to lead a small group of individuals through Uptown Charlotte, stopping at various public artworks and providing background information for each work.

Several of the projects included in this tour were managed by ASC and represents an artist's collaboration with communities. ASC believes that public art is an excellent means of accentuating the unique character and history of our diverse communities. It's an accessible form of art that plays a critical role in creating a sense of belonging.



ARTS & SCIENCE  
COUNCIL



Mecklenburg County  
In-progress Public Art Projects



Irwin Creek Greenway

Location: 6000 Statesville Rd (Nevin Park)  
Art Budget: \$102,000  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2026  
Artist: Rachel Dickey, Local Artist



Artist's Final Design Rendering (detail)



Acrylic tile design samples (detail)

Main Library

Location: 310 N. Tryon St  
Art Budget: \$460,700  
Project Scope: Grand lobby wall artwork  
Anticipated Install: Summer 2026  
Artist: Tiff Massey



Long Creek Greenway

Location: 9841 Northlake Centre Parkway  
Art Budget: \$131,750  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2026  
Artist: Studio KCA/Jason Klimoski



Spirit Square Garden Walk

Location: 301 N. Tryon St  
Art Budget: \$340,000  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Winter 2027  
Artist: Thomas Schmidt, Local Artist

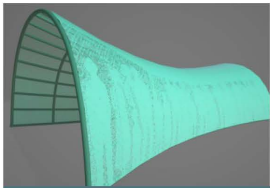


Mecklenburg County  
In-progress Public Art Projects



Park Rd Park

Location: 6220 Park Rd  
Art Budget: \$70,173  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2026  
Artist: Oliver Lewis, Local/Regional A. D.



Latta Place

Location: 5225 Sample Rd  
Art Budget: \$121,957  
Project Scope: Integrated design  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2027  
Artist: Maxwell Emcays



Discovery Place Nature Museum

Location: 1658 Sterling Rd  
Art Budget: \$115,600  
Project Scope: Site integrated sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2026  
Artist: Walter Hood/Hood Design Studio



Ezell Park

Location: 4101 Mintwood Rd, Mint Hill  
Art Budget: \$122,501 (\$76,100-\$49,401)  
Project Scope: Integrated, free-standing sculp.  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2026  
Artist: Meredith Connelly, Local/Regional A. D.

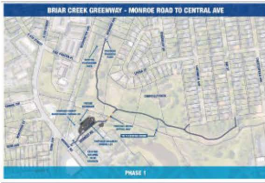


# Mecklenburg County In-progress Public Art Projects



Eastland Park

Location: 6000 Statesville Rd (Nevin Park)  
Art Budget: \$102,000  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Spring 2028  
Artist: Rachel Dickey, Local Artist



Briar Creek Greenway

Location: Central Ave to Monroe Rd  
Art Budget: \$96,281  
Project Scope: Integrated sculptures  
Anticipated Install: Fall 2028  
Artist: TBD (Regional Artist Directory)



East Community Resource Center

Location: Cagle Rd  
Art Budget: \$963,050  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture series  
Anticipated Install: Summer 2029  
Artist: TBD



Sugaw Creek Park

Location: 943 W. Sugar Creek Rd  
Art Budget: \$160,459  
Project Scope: Free-standing sculpture  
Anticipated Install: Summer 2027  
Artist: TBD

# Mecklenburg County Completed Public Art Projects



Bree Stallings, Local Artist  
Regional Artist Directory

Project: Naomi Drenan Recreation Center  
Title: "Generations of Growth"  
Location: 750 Beal St.  
District: County - 5, City - 6  
Art Budget: \$63,750  
Project Scope: Exterior Mural  
Media: Exterior acrylic paint, spray paint, anti-graffiti sealant  
Category: Park and Recreation  
Installed: August 2025

**Artist's Statement:**  
The motifs chosen are the visual interpretation of the community's feedback representing the sunshine after a tumultuous storm; planting, growing and harvesting of food to share. There are multi-generational learning experiences included in the design as well as raindrops/tears fertilizing the soil making room for new prosperity. In addition, silhouettes of recreational activities that occur at the center are present, creating a place for safety, experimentation and community building.

## Fiscal Year 2026 Public Art Planning

| CIP Project                                    | Site Address                  | 1% Allocation | 85% Art Budget | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| Colonel Francis Beatty Park                    | 4330 Weddington Rd, Matthews  | \$20,093      | \$17,079       |       |
| McDowell Greenway                              | Gilead Rd to Beatties Ford Rd | \$190,859     | \$162,230      |       |
| Bryant Park                                    | 1701 W Morehead St            | \$96,528      | \$82,049       |       |
| Ribbon Walk Nature Preserve                    | 4601 Nevin Rd                 | \$117,811     | \$100,139      |       |
| Rozelles Ferry and Hay Market Nature Preserves | Mt. Island Lake               | \$74,573      | \$63,387       |       |



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**Further Information:**

**Staff Contacts:**

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**Justin Hicks**  
704-335-3059  
Program Officer, Public Art  
[justin.hicks@artsandscience.org](mailto:justin.hicks@artsandscience.org)

**ASC Website:**  
<https://www.artsandscience.org/>

**ASC Public Art:**  
<https://www.artsandscience.org/programs/for-community/public-art/>

**Calls to Artists:**  
<https://www.artsandscience.org/resources-for-artists/calls-to-artists/>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ASCharlotte

**Randella Davis**  
Program Director, Public Art  
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[randella.davis@artsandscience.org](mailto:randella.davis@artsandscience.org)





**Thank You!**

Natural Rhythm. George Nakima 2022. Independence Park.  
Photo Credit: Mitchell Kearney Photography



Comments

Commissioner Rodriguez McDowell thanked the staff for their presentation. She said that, as Chair of the National Association of Counties Arts and Culture Commission, she was grateful to have this in the community. She said it made the community stand out and was a legacy she was very proud of.

Commissioner Meier thanked the team for their work. She asked whether the Arts and Science Council approached them with the ideas and the places to put the art, or whether the team did their own research. *Mr. Stewart said the locations for the public artworks came through the capital improvement program for Mecklenburg County and were determined as part of a larger project. He said if a park was being renovated and was eligible for public art allocation, the director of capital planning alerted them to that, and they helped them to determine the scope of the artwork.*

Commissioner Meier asked whether the artist and ideas were brought to them for an interview, and whether they chose them as a group. *Mr. Stewart said the artwork's scope was defined in collaboration with his team, the planners, and the project managers. He said once they*

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*determined how the artwork could best support the project's overall programmatic and functional goals, his team, in partnership with the Public Arts Commission, convened volunteer artist selection panels from community members and art and science professionals. He said requests for qualifications or calls to artists were issued to individuals to apply for the opportunity to win the commission. He said they were reviewed and interviewed, and a recommendation was given to the Public Art Commission for a formal vote on who would be awarded the commission. He said ASC facilitated the process.*

Commissioner Powell thanked the staff for their presentation. She said she wondered why the Torrance Creek tunnel lights did not seem to move as she thought they would and asked whether anti-graffiti sealant was expensive. She also asked for more information about Latta Place and the history of the 65 enslaved people. *Mr. Stewart said it was originally the artist's design that the lights through the tunnel would move, but it was conveyed through design development that, due to the length of the tunnel and the brightness of the lights, to be ADA acceptable and prevent disorienting pedestrians and bicyclists, they preferred a still image, so the artists changed their design. He said, in terms of the anti-graffiti sealant, there were specific products for that, which were slightly more expensive than a gallon of house paint but less expensive than hiring an artist to touch up the original artwork.*

*Mr. Stewart explained the Maxwell MKS design at Latta Place called the Last Passage and the artist's vision and experiences.*

## MANAGER'S REPORT

### **26-0080      Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board Update**

The Board received Information regarding the FY2027 budget priorities from the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board.

*Background: Each year as a part of the County's budget process, advisory boards are provided the opportunity to present their budget priorities to the Board of County Commissioners. A representative of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board will summarize the advisory board's FY27 budget priorities.*

Mr. Kevin Nickson, Chair of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, gave the presentation.



5 Key Priorities – Identified from Community Feedback

1. Strengthen Awareness of Small Business Services and Programs
2. Expand Pathways and Communication Channels for Informal Contracting Opportunities in the Construction and Services Sectors
3. Strengthen Local Business Ecosystem Connections
4. Secure Dedicated Funding for Outreach and Workshops to Elevate Key Economic Development Initiatives
5. Monitor and Advise on Small Business Trends and Needs



Strengthen Awareness of Small Business Services & Programs

Recommendations

|           |                                                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increase  | Digital Marketing                                            |
| Support   | Outreach Initiatives                                         |
| Highlight | Success Stories                                              |
| Establish | Successful community partnerships such as CLIMB and Prospera |

To reinforce the board's ongoing initiatives around economic development and community engagement, we propose elevating the communication strategy for our small business services and programs.



Strengthen Awareness of Small Business Services & Programs

Recommendations

- **Workshops tailored to municipal needs:**
  - Funding to support Mecklenburg County OED-led workshops designed around each municipality's priorities, including remote "drop-in" sites that make it easier for small business owners to access guidance and resources.
- **Spread Awareness of Office of Economic Development (OED) and Charlotte Business INClusion (CBI) resource programs:**
  - Plan initiatives for Small Business Month & Economic Development Week.
- **Countywide staff support for direct engagement:**
  - Resources to enable staff to travel across the county, strengthen township connections, and expand boots-on-the-ground outreach—such as door-to-door check-ins with Main Street businesses to increase awareness of available small business services.



Expand pathways & communication channels for informal contracting opportunities in the construction and services sectors

Recommendations

- **Standardize the Invitation Process:**
  - Reduces reliance on individual lists and ensure consistent access for all eligible vendors.
- **Develop Mentorship or Team Programs:**
  - Pair Primes with emerging small firms for guidance on project expectations, quality standards, and business development.
  - Provide information on sub-contracting opportunities with Primes and encourage relationships.



Strengthen Local Business Ecosystem Connections

Recommendations

- **Encourage Collaboration and Partnerships with local organizations**
  - Connect new businesses with organizations like SCORE & Women's Business Center.
  - Establish cross-sector partnerships with higher education institutions to connect students with Entrepreneurships & Business programs.
  - Network through Chambers to have access to closed pre-bid meetings on micro-purchases & contracts not unavailable to the public.
  - Have Businesses Register as a vendor with local agencies and MeckProcure.
- **Support local programs that elevate Small Businesses**
  - "Shop Small" - Economic Development Week/Small Business Month.
  - Promote Local Events
    - Street festivals & public art installations can motivate costumers to shop locally with small businesses.



Secure Dedicated Funding for Outreach & Workshops to Elevate Key Initiatives

Recommendations

- **Facilitator fees for high-demand business topics:**
  - Funding to secure expert facilitators for workshops on critical subjects like AI readiness, e-commerce, QuickBooks, and cybersecurity ensuring small businesses receive timely and relevant training.



Monitor and Advise on Small Business Trends and Needs

Recommendations

Proactive Small Business Protection Framework

- **Proactive Risk Identification**
  - Flag regulatory and zoning shifts that threaten displacement (e.g., NoDa street vending changes).
- **Economic Impact Conversations**
  - Quantify corridor-level disruption through structured engagement with vendors and brick-and-mortar businesses.
- **Formal Advisory Leadership**
  - Deliver policy recommendations to County leadership to prevent unintended displacement.



Monitor and Advise on Small Business Trends and Needs

Recommendations

Stabilization & Anti-Displacement Strategy



- **Advance Project BOAST**
  - Ensure infrastructure and policy decisions strengthen — not destabilize — business ecosystems.
- **Deploy Stabilization Pathways**
  - Connect impacted entrepreneurs to permitting guidance, capital access, and ecosystem partnerships.
- **Strengthen Early Intervention Systems**
  - Monitor emerging risks before corridor-level disruption escalates.



Small Business Needs: Project BOAST

How do we get there?



- 1. Business Preservation and Anti-Gentrification
- 2. Access to Contracting Opportunities
- 3. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
- 4. Customer Connections
- 5. Workforce and Talent Development



## Small Business Needs: Project BOAST

### Business Opportunity And Supportive Transit

The **Project BOAST** framework reflects the County's commitment to supporting new and existing small businesses, as well as anti-displacement efforts.

The vision is clear. Transportation investments should strengthen business communities, not displace them.

- Positions small businesses to benefit from transportation improvements.
- Connects local small businesses to economic opportunities.
- Protects existing small businesses from displacement by providing needed resources to assist them during the construction phases.



### Comments

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram thanked Mr. Nickson for his work. She said she appreciated that at the last Advisory Board community meeting, they were divided into nodes to better understand the business needs in specific areas. She asked whether businesses were divided into county districts or other geographies. *Mr. Nickson said at this time they were not, but they were trying to get the municipalities to work collaboratively with the Office of Economic Development.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked whether there was a way to understand how businesses best received information so they could implement some of those recommendations. *Mr. Nickson said they utilized a tracking system, but the information currently comes from community feedback.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked whether businesses signed up to receive information or whether information was pushed to them. *Mr. Nickson said they pushed information to the businesses.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram said that, as this was pre-budget season, she asked whether there was an understanding of some of the needs in the current recommendations so they could accomplish some of them. *Mr. Nickson said no, but that was a gap they had identified and were working to address.*

Commissioner Dunlap thanked Mr. Nickson for his report and thanked County Manager Bryant for the Boast program. He said there was currently a problem with street vendors. He said street vendors were small-business people, and he hoped Mr. Nickson's team could partner with the City of Charlotte to incorporate them as small businesses.

Commissioner Griffin thanked Mr. Nickson for his presentation. He said they wanted small businesses to be successful. He asked whether they envisioned a dashboard in the future to show the services they provided, whether anything resulted in the creation of businesses, and whether a roadmap was provided to prevent displacement or loss of business. He asked whether they envisioned a way to track businesses they helped to survive. *Mr. Nickson said that was their vision, and that they had a tracking system to keep up with the information currently needed. He said they were just getting rolling and would continue to evolve the process.*

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Commissioner Griffin said research showed that small businesses were challenged without an Advisory Board. He said it had value, but he wanted to see the end value down the road.

Commissioner Leake thanked Mr. Nickson for his presentation. She said that, if she could, she would like to share her past experiences and some of the issues and successes she had with the small business consortium process, as well as the contacts she made. Mr. Nickson said he welcomed that.

Commissioner Powell thanked Mr. Nickson for his presentation and dedication, and she liked that the information presented was based on community feedback. She said she was glad to see a focus on strengthening connections with towns and that they included the Chambers.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell thanked Mr. Nickson for his leadership. She said she would remind everyone of the small towns with active chambers, and they could be part of this as well.

Chair Jerrell thanked Mr. Nickson for his leadership. He said the Advisory Board was needed and important to the Board. Chair Jerrell said it was important to recognize the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs. He said it was important for the advisory board to let the Board know what they were hearing and what the blind spots were so that it could help support them. He said the small business consortium by Commissioner Leake generated tremendous interest and was an opportunity to collect data from the businesses that attended.

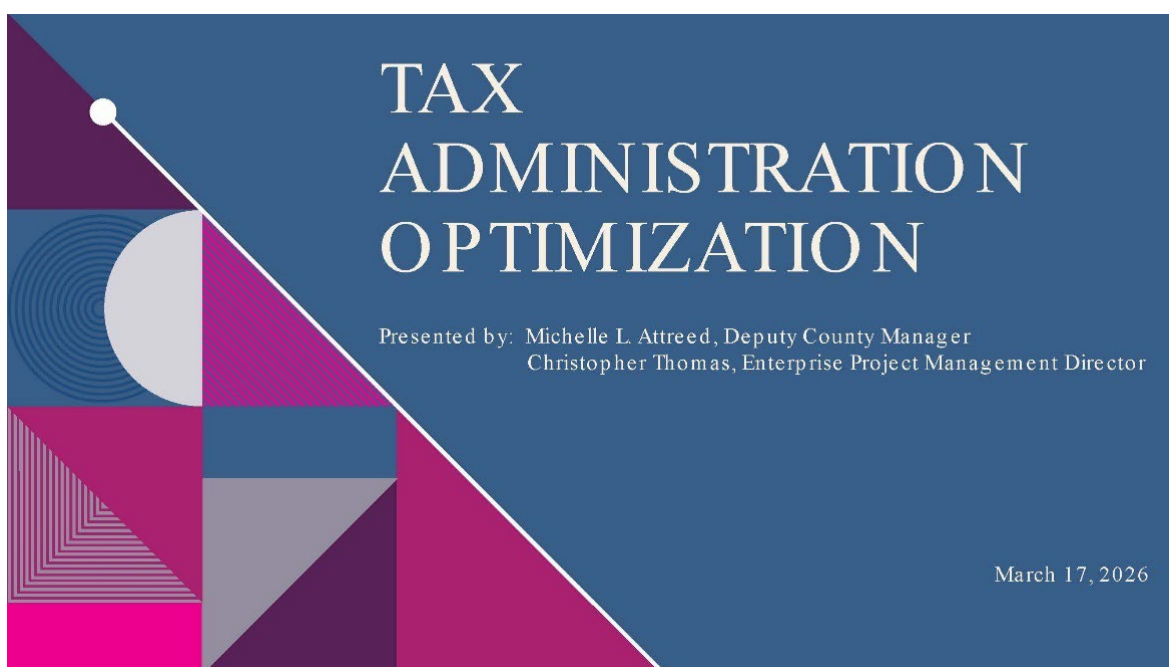
Chair Jerrell said the Alliance was referenced, and there was much focus on ensuring there was an arm for small businesses and that they would have an opportunity to participate in the Alliance. He said an update was forthcoming.

Manager Bryant said they met with the Regional Alliance to discuss small businesses and were working on an initiative in conjunction with the City. He said it, too, was just getting started but that the City has expanded its focus beyond just the larger businesses and focuses on small businesses also.

### **26-0107 Tax Administration Optimization Project Update**

The Board received a status update on the Tax Administration Optimization Project.

Michelle L. Attreed, Deputy County Manager, gave the presentation.



# EXECUTIVE WORKPLAN CHARGE

To explore the feasibility of improving the delivery of tax services in Mecklenburg County by consolidating the Office of Tax Collector (OTC) and County Assessor's Office (CAO) by integrating and coordinating services for County residents & businesses, the City of Charlotte, and the towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, Pineville and the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.

## WHY NOW?

- Mecklenburg's Office of the Tax Collector (OTC) and County Assessor's Office (CAO) were once combined
- Retirement of long-time OTC Director, Neal Dixon, in July 2024 led to an opportune time to explore the feasibility of a consolidation of the two functions
- Public perception / ease of access
- Drive efficiencies

## TAX SERVICES EXPLORATORY INTEGRATION STUDY – KEY ELEMENTS

### Business Architecture Scorecard

### Cultural Assessment

Surveyed 9 attributes for their Dept. & Div/Team

- Communication Style
- Decision Making
- Employee Engagement
- Innovation & Creativity
- Leadership Style
- Team Dynamics (Morale)
- Work Environment
- Work Ethic & Productivity
- Work-Life Balance

### Benchmarking Other Counties

Collected org structures for comparison/inspiration

Methods

- Email
- Phone Call
- Online Resources

### Option Analysis

Assessed change options across 5 factors

Inputs

- Business Architecture
- Change Mgmt. Concepts
- County Practices

Oct 2024 - Nov 2024

Nov 2024 - Mar 2025

Mar 2025

• Discovery (As Is State)

• Organizational Alignment (People, Processes, Systems)

• Future State Findings & Recommendations

- Office of Tax Collector (OTC) Interim Director
- County Assessor's Office (CAO) Director
- Enterprise Process Management Office (EPMO)
- Business Process Management (BPM)
- Office of Management & Budget (OMB)
- Office of Strategy & Innovation (OSI)
- Human Resources (HR)

TAX SERVICES EXPLORATORY  
INTEGRATION STUDY RESULTS

| Options                | Cost | Implementation / Disruption | Operational Factors | Strategic Factors | Culture / Morale | Total Scores |
|------------------------|------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Option 1a: No Change   | 0    | 0                           | 0                   | -1                | +1               | 0            |
| Option 1b: Rebrand     | -1   | 0                           | 0                   | 0                 | +1               | 0            |
| Option 2a: Roll Up     | -5   | -1                          | 0                   | +3                | -1               | -4           |
| Option 2b: Combine     | +3   | -1                          | 0                   | +2                | -1               | +3           |
| Option 2c: Realign     | +2   | -4                          | +2                  | +5                | -4               | +1           |
| Option 2d: Restructure | +2   | -5                          | +4                  | +5                | -5               | +1           |

The study largely found there were no overlaps in services/functions.

REMAINING  
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- ✓ Feb 2026 – Convert one (1) vacant administrative position to a new Tax Administration Director position
- Mar 2026 – Provide update to BOCC
- Mar 2026 – Notify City, Towns and public of the impending merger
- April/May 2026 – Fill new Tax Administration Director position (effective 7/1/26) – Board of County Commissioners appointment
- May/June 2026 – Fill two new Deputy Director positions (effective 7/1/26)
- July 2026 – Tax Administration Optimization (OTC/CAO Merger) effective

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**Comments**

Commissioner Griffin said he understood that the end result was to be more efficient and asked if Deputy County Manager Attreed could provide clarity on the efficiencies mentioned, where they are, and where they hoped to be at the end of the process. *Deputy Attreed said the study showed that both departments ran well and there was not much duplication in services. She said there was a separation they wanted to keep between the assessment and the collection piece, but there were places where they integrated with each other, and they believed there was room for efficiency. She said the groups had already begun working together, had identified some areas, and were learning about how their work impacted the other office. She said over time, they believed they would find even greater efficiencies to streamline services.*

Commissioner Griffin said he would like their final presentation to show where they were and where they would like to be.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if it was ‘not broke,’ why were they fixing it. She said as she understood, separating the creation and collection of bills was good audit control, and if there was not much duplication, she didn’t understand why they needed to fix it. *Deputy Attreed said that, with the tax collection and assessment office under one department, there were stronger points of collaboration. She said some separation of duties would remain in place, but with working together and having direct dialogue under one leadership, they could point to where the work intersected and perhaps find more efficient ways to do things.*

County Manager Bryant said from the residents’ perspective, they often got confused between the two operations. He said centralizing them would simplify and streamline the process, enhancing efficiency.

Commissioner Powell said she thought of a cultural assessment. She said the two operations were separated, so she wanted to understand the rationale of a previous County Manager to do so. She asked about the cultural assessment regarding employee input and whether employees were interviewed about their thoughts. She said she saw that positions would be added and asked whether any would be eliminated. She said it seemed they were doing well, so she asked whether it would be efficient. She asked if it strayed away from good audit controls. She said she wanted to be sure the employees’ voices were heard.

County Manager Bryant said, for clarity, that the decision of the County Manager predated him and the former Manager. He said County Manager Fox created it, but it was initiated during the tenure of the former County Manager.

*Mr. Charles Rutherford, Business Process Management Director, said they spoke with several employees, and the consensus was that, though there were two cultures, they were not that different. He said once they spoke to them, the employees supported merging the two departments.*

Commissioner Meier asked how many positions would be lost when it was combined and whether there would be any budget changes. *Deputy Attreed said the employee count would remain the same. She said initially it would not change the budget, but once the merger took place, they would begin looking for overlaps and identifying those efficiencies going forward.*

Commissioner Meier asked whether the tax collector and tax assessor were now two separate positions. *Deputy Attreed said they were.* Commissioner Meier asked about how they were being combined. *Deputy Attreed said they were using a vacant position to create a new tax director position.*

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Commissioner Townsend-Ingram said it seemed there would be a conflict of interest in the interest of expediency. She said there were things that could not just be efficient, but there had to be a separation. She asked what role the audit review committee played if they had no input, and whether this was the best practice used by any other county government. She said that even if no rules were violated, it did not mean it was well thought out and efficient. *Deputy Attreed said the external organizations they looked at included Buncombe, Union, Gilford, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Durham, Wake, and Forsyth, as well as counties outside North Carolina. She said they looked at Fairfax County, Prince William County, Orange County, Florida, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Fulton County, GA, Gwinnett County, GA, and Greenville, SC.*

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked whether that meant the results of those systems were that they worked better when combined. *Mr. Rutherford said all the counties in North Carolina except for Buncombe had already been combined. He said at the time of the assessment, they were in the process of a feasibility study to join the two, as with Mecklenburg County. He said 98 of the 100 counties had already joined.*

Commissioner Dunlap said he felt the system was working well, but there were things he was not aware of. He said they all wanted to know what made them want to do it. He said this study had commenced for more than a year, so he trusted they had listened to the community and looked for efficiencies, then recommended consolidating. He said he would trust the Manager and hoped he was creating efficiencies for a better government.

Manager Bryant said this project was primarily initiated by the announcement of the retirement of former tax collector Neal Dixon. He said they saw that as an opportunity, rather than filling the position immediately, to assess the feasibility of providing that service here in Mecklenburg County and to look at other jurisdictions. Manager Bryant said Mr. Ken Joyner was nationally known for his work, routinely training assessors and collectors across the country regarding best practices and operations, and was sought out by his peers for consultation and advice on providing tax administration services.

*Mr. Joyner said that as to when the two offices split, he believed it was around 2003 or 2004. He said after the split, Mr. Dixon became the tax collector, but he was not sure of the reason for the split. He said that, regarding Buncombe County, at about the time of Mr. Dixon's retirement, they had a vacancy in their assessor's office, as in Mecklenburg County, and they had a similar study. Mr. Joyner said in the past he had served as the tax administrator in three North Carolina counties, serving as both the assessor and the collector. He said in Chatham County, he was the first administrator as they were combining the assessment and collection functions, and a great deal of care was taken to ensure the functions remained separate from the assessment and collection sides of the process. He said having one director was easier because there could be foreclosures if mistakes were made at the front end. He said having one person led to a streamlined approach across all functions and worked significantly better. He said he believed efficiencies and ways to improve the process would be found.*

Commissioner Leake thanked the team for their recommendation. She said she would remind the Board that their role as County Commissioners was different from that of the Manager. She said they had an expert in tax laws before them, and they should listen to his recommendations.

Vice-Chair Altman said they were receiving information, not a recommendation at this time, but she supported the manager's recommendation. She said she was glad to see they were not downsizing at this time and hoped that as the County grew, they would not have to grow as fast, which would amount to savings for taxpayers, and she hoped that as they convened with the national search, they would continue to work with the current team.

Chair Jerrell thanked the team and expressed his appreciation for their work. He said that, as an organization, they should always be improving, and that if this improved service, he would

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support it. He said that because it was done in a particular way in the past did not mean it should be done that way in the future if it were demonstrated to make the organization better. He asked how they dealt with the idea of a conflict. *Deputy Attreed said there would continue to be strong internal controls, so the person doing the assessment would not be the same person collecting. She said one person would not be handling a process from beginning to end.*

*Julissa Fernandez of the Tax Operations office said that within the tax collector's office, separation of duties was already in place. Some were collecting, while others handed over the revenue to finance. She said they had also invited the audit department to join the project team. She said there was a cultural assessment, and on both sides, employees were concerned about change, while others embraced it because they looked for opportunities for synergy. She said both offices work well together and would continue to do so for the benefit of the residents of Mecklenburg County.*

Chair Jerrell asked whether they could measure the level of improvement. *Ms. Fernandez said she believed they could. She said they were currently keeping a list of efficiencies and had started a project on certain bills that were challenging to collect. She said both offices had gotten together to brainstorm ways to solve many of the concerns and deliver efficiencies.*

Chair Jerrell asked who would lead the change in the management process. *Deputy Attreed said HR would be involved in the process. She said they had held a number of town halls with employees to assure them they were not losing their jobs, but that they would be looking at processes. She said she would remain available to address their concerns and put them at ease.*

Manager Bryant said there had been many touchpoints with employees from the initiation of this project. He said there was HR engagement, and he had met with employees of both offices to hear their concerns and ensure they were informed of each step throughout this project. He said Deputy Manager Attreed did likewise. He said they wanted to ensure there were no surprises and their concerns were addressed.

### **26-0117      Above & Beyond @ Work Award Winner**

The Board recognized the latest Above & Beyond @ Work winner.

*Background: The Above & Beyond @ Work Award is presented to an exceptional employee who exemplifies all the values and principles of Mecklenburg County.*

County Manager Mike Bryant gave the presentation and presented the award to Mike Hedspeth, IT Support Technician III.

The Commission gave remarks in appreciation of Mr. Hedspeth.

### **DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS – NONE**

### **STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE**

### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE**

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

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Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried, to approve the following item(s):

### **25-0676      Land Acquisition - Tax Foreclosures for Future Greenway**

Authorize County Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary for acquisition of the following properties in the City of Charlotte from the County's Office of the Tax Collector for future greenway purposes:

1. Tax Parcel 181-042-05 ( $\pm$  0.091 acres) for a purchase price of \$5,900, and
2. Tax Parcel 171-091-59 ( $\pm$  0.243 acres) for a purchase price of \$25,800

*Background: The County recently (through the Office of the Tax Collector) auctioned several properties for back taxes in which the County was the default highest bidder due to receiving no other bids at the auctions. Two of those properties are along greenway corridors and Park and Recreation is requesting permission to acquire those properties by satisfying payment of those back taxes and associated legal fees. Doing so will result in the County obtaining clear title to the properties and will allow for incorporation of the properties into various greenway projects. Properties to be acquired include:*

#### *Briar Creek Greenway Expansion*

- Tax Parcel 181-042-05 ( $\pm$  0.091 acres) for a purchase price of \$5,900

#### *Little Hope Creek Greenway Expansion*

- Tax Parcel 135-102-68 ( $\pm$  0.243 acres) for a purchase price of \$25,800

*The total purchase price is \$31,700 and will cover back taxes, court costs, and legal fees. This acquisition is consistent with Meck Playbook, the Greenway Master Plan, and the County's Environmental Leadership Policy*

### **26-0078      Storm Water Program - FY26 Hazard Mitigation Floodplain Acquisition**

- 1) Accept the Offer of Sale of Real Estate from Tung Thanh Pham and Kim Huong Thi Nguyen, owners of property located at 6433 Mounting Rock Rd, Charlotte, NC (tax parcel 167-221-8), for \$296,000 and authorize the County Manager to execute all paperwork necessary to complete the transaction, and,
- 2) Authorize local emergency response agencies to use the structures for training exercises.

*Background: Since late 1999, Mecklenburg County has used storm water fee revenue to mitigate flood prone property. Buyouts reduce the risk to life and property during floods, while also enhancing the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain. Mecklenburg County uses the land as open space, to expand greenways, to construct wetlands, etc.*

*Over the past 10 years, Storm Water Services (STW) has acquired and demolished 11 flood-prone single-family residences along Sugar Creek in the McDowell Farms neighborhood. STW desires to continue these risk reduction efforts while coordinating future open space plans with Park & Recreation and others for the area.*

*The buyout is voluntary. The property at 6433 Mounting Rock Rd is a single-family home located within the FEMA Floodway. The owner has agreed to sell the property for \$296,000. The purchase price is based upon a current fair market value appraisal.*

*This action is consistent with goals in the Environmental Leadership Action Plan which supports*

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*the Environmental Leadership Policy adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). These acquisitions are part of Storm Water's 15-year CIP flood risk reduction goals and consistent with recommendations in the Flood Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Plan (RARR), adopted by the BOCC on May 1, 2012.*

*STW staff allows training opportunities for local police and fire personnel prior to demolition of flood prone buildings. In addition, STW staff has established a process with Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte to maximize the responsible reuse of materials prior to structure demolition while protecting the health of the community.*

### **26-0088 Grant Application - US EPA Clean Air Act Section 105 Grant - LUESA Air Quality**

- 1) Affirm submission of the FY27-28 Clean Air Act Section 105 Federal grant application for up to \$1,200,000.00 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 2) If awarded, amend the General Grants Fund (G001) within LUESA to recognize, receive, and appropriate the award amount.
- 3) Adopt the required grant project ordinance for the FY27-28 Clean Air Act Section 105 Federal grant in the General Grant Fund (G001).

*Background: Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) is a certified local air quality program with the mission to lead and assist the County towards meeting and maintaining compliance with the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards.*

*MCAQ receives federal funds from the Clean Air Act (CAA), Section 105 grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Grant funds are used to fund and support, in part, commitments to the US EPA to implement programs to improve ambient air quality. These activities include permitting stationary sources of hazardous air pollutants, conducting ambient air monitoring, conducting emission inventories, and enforcing environmental laws and regulations.*

*MCAQ requests approval to pursue this necessary program funding.*

**GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS,** Mecklenburg County is applying and/or has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The grant has been made available to Mecklenburg County under Section 105 of the federal Clean Air Act up to the amount of \$1,200,000.00; and

**WHEREAS,** the grant funds must be used to support, in part, commitments to the US EPA to implement programs to improve ambient air quality and maintain compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

**WHEREAS,** the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners deems this activity to be a worthy and desirable undertaking;

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. 159-13.2, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that:**

Section 1. The project described in the US EPA Clean Air Act Section 105 grant application is hereby authorized to be undertaken for the duration of the grant.

Section 2. The County Manager is authorized to execute the grant agreement and other documents that are required or appropriated for the County to receive the Clean Air Act Section 105 grant and to undertake the project. The County Manager is directed to take steps necessary to ensure compliance with all spending and reporting requirements of the US EPA.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated for Mecklenburg County from the Clean Air Act Section 105 grant to complete this project:

**US EPA Clean Air Act Section 105 Grant**  
**\$1,200,000.00 (application/award amount)**

Section 4. The following amount is appropriated in the General Grants Fund (G001) within the Land Use and Environmental Services Agency to complete this project:

**\$1,200,000.00 (application/award amount)**

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2026

  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



Ordinance recorded in full in *Ordinance Book 55, Document #24*

**26-0089 Tax Refunds**

(A) Approve taxpayer refunds in the amount of \$4,799.26 for registered motor vehicles as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor; and

(B) Approve taxpayer refunds in the amount of \$58,652.13 as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Background: (A) This Board action is necessary to approve registered motor vehicle tax refunds in the amount of \$4,799.26 resulting from clerical errors, value changes and appeals processed in the statewide vehicle tax system.*

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*(B) This Board action is necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, audits and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. There is accrued interest of \$1,003.77 to be added to refunds of \$23,617.77. There is no accrued interest to be added to the refunds of \$34,030.59. The total refunds with interest added is \$58,652.13.*

**26-0093 Grant Application - Smart Start of Mecklenburg County**

Affirm the submission of a renewal grant application to Mecklenburg Partnership for Children of Mecklenburg County for funding up to \$556,870 to support programs promoting child health and safety for the grant period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. The grant deadline is February 27, 2026.

*Background: The Communicable Disease team, including Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC), will ensure childcare facilities have a plan for potential future infectious disease outbreaks, focus on providing consultation for healthy weight initiatives, provide information and resources for early intervention and special education health services, and will consult with childcare facility staff related to health and safety.*

*Child Care Resources Inc.'s Mecklenburg County Child Care Fact Sheet data as of 2/14/25 indicates there are 86,187 children aged 0-5 in Mecklenburg County. There are 56,478 children under the age of 6 whose parents both work; thus, the need for quality childcare facilities and the Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) program to support childcare providers to maintain licensure and 4 and 5-star ratings. However, the number of childcare facilities has continued to decline every year since COVID-19 began. Each year, more facilities are forced to close their doors due to the increasing difficulty of navigating ever-changing regulations, rising operational costs, and the struggle to provide competitive wages that reflect inflation. Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) are needed to support facilities to assist with navigating health and safety regulations, providing training on best practices, and offering ongoing support to ensure compliance with state standards. Consultants play a pivotal role in alleviating the burden on childcare providers by offering tailored guidance on how to manage health concerns and licensure regulations. The percentage in Mecklenburg County is slightly lower at 27.3% (NC Early Childhood Action Plan, Mecklenburg County Data Report 2017). The Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) program provides an opportunity to utilize experienced professional staff to support childcare centers in enhancing health and safety environments for the children they serve.*

**26-0098 Minutes**

Approve the following Meeting Minutes:

October 27-28, 2025 BOCC Fall Retreat  
December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2026 Budget Public Policy Workshop

**26-0106 Emergency Youth Placement Facility / Star Mountain West, LLC Lease - First Amendment**

Authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a first amendment to the Lease between the County and Star Mountain West, LLC.

*Background: On the effective date of June 21, 2024, the County entered a lease with Star Mountain West, LLC for the renovation and lease of a facility at 4024 Triangle Drive (near the intersection of Freedom Drive and I-85). The lease terms require the Landlord to renovate the*

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*building to house an Emergency Youth Placement Facility for the County, and the County to reimburse the Landlord for the total cost of construction. The Landlord is currently required to provide a \$300,000 Improvement Contribution toward the total cost of construction.*

*Renovation of the building is about 80% complete, but an unforeseen construction condition has occurred. Construction of a new required exit stairwell from the basement of the facility requires the general contractor to perform substantial excavation adjacent to a two-story residential accessory structure with finished habitable space and storage ("garage"), which is also owned by the Landlord on a separate parcel. Due to the close proximity, this required excavation would undermine the garage foundation. The general contractor has determined that demolition of the garage is the only way to safely perform the excavation and complete the renovation project.*

*The Landlord is willing to have the garage demolished, but wants to be compensated \$150,000 for loss of the garage and leasable space. The County's Asset and Facility Management Department and Child, Family and Adult Services Department both find the value to be reasonable for the Landlord's loss of the garage. The Landlord is willing to accept a \$150,000 reduction in the Landlord's Improvement Contribution amount as compensation for the garage and leasable space.*

*Accordingly, the major business term of the first amendment to the lease agreement is as follows:*

**Improvement Contribution:** *Landlord accepts, as full satisfaction and compensation of its interest in the garage the sum of \$150,000 from Tenant. The form of this compensation shall be a reduction in the Improvement Contribution from the Landlord, thereby reducing the Improvement Contribution from \$300,000 to \$150,000. The remaining terms regarding the Improvement Contribution and all other terms of the Lease shall remain unchanged as set forth in the Lease.*

### **26-0111      Health Department Private Swimming Pool Rules**

Adopt a Resolution repealing the current Mecklenburg County Health Department residential swimming pool rules.

*Background: The Board of Health rule adopted in 1999 and most recently amended on March 7, 2023, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 130A-39, regulating private residential swimming pools in Mecklenburg County, is to be repealed. Pursuant to Session Law 2025-94 (HB926 §16), which amended N.C.G.S. 130A-39, the General Assembly revised the statutes and removed the authority of local governments to adopt rules related to residential swimming pools. On January 13, 2026, the Board received a presentation from the Board of Health Director requesting the Board to repeal the rule at an upcoming meeting and to publish notice of the repeal. Notice of publication is attached.*

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Mecklenburg County, NC  
Ordinance Book 55  
Document 25

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION REPEALING THE BOARD OF HEALTH RULE GOVERNING  
PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, as a Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA), exercising the powers and duties of a local board of health, adopted a Board of Health Rule in 1999 pursuant to G.S 130A-39 regulating the use of residential swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, the rule was most recently amended in 2023, the purpose of which was to establish safety standards for residential swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, the NC General Assembly amended G.S. 130A-39 pursuant to SL 2025-94 (H926) and removed the authority of local governments to adopt rules regulating private residential swimming pools; and

WHEREAS, at a public policy board meeting on January 13, 2026, the Mecklenburg County Health Director recommended the Board of Commissioners repeal the rule regulating private residential pools at an upcoming meeting; and

WHEREAS, based upon the recommendation of the Health Director, the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County finds it no longer necessary to retain this rule.  
Now, therefore,

Be it RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County that the Board of Health Rule regulating private residential pools be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



  
Mark D. Jerrell, Chairman

**Resolution recorded in full in Document Book 55, Document # 25.**

**26-0112      Board of Health Rules Governing Ground Water Wells and Private Drinking Water Supply Wells**

Adopt a Resolution amending Board of Health rules governing ground water wells and private drinking water supply wells.

*Background: The Board of Health Rules Governing Ground water wells rules were adopted in 2004 and were most recently amended in 2011. On January 13, 2026, the Board received a presentation from the Board of Health Director requesting the Board to amend certain rules, at an upcoming meeting, governing groundwater wells and private drinking water supply wells and to publish notice of the proposed amendments. The purpose of amending the rule is to require registration, permitting and monitoring of certain wells in Mecklenburg County, to add an appeals procedure to each Rule consistent with state statute, to clarify that these are Board of Health Rules, not local ordinances or regulations and adopt the state's well construction standards for Private Drinking Water Supply Wells.*

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*Proposed amendments:*

- A. *Divide into 2 separate rules:*
1. *Private Drinking Water Supply Wells*
  2. *Wells Other Than Drinking Water Supply Wells Irrigation, TNC (Transient Non-Community)/NTNC (Non-Transient Non-Community) and monitoring wells*

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**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CURRENT BOARD OF HEALTH RULE GOVERNING  
GROUNDWATER WELLS AND PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WELLS IN MECKLENBURG  
COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, as a Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA), exercising the powers and duties of a local Board of Health adopted Board of Health Rules regulating groundwater wells and private drinking water supply wells in 2004, which were most recently amended in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the rule was to require registration, permitting and monitoring of certain wells in Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to revise the 2011 amended rules: and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2026, the Mecklenburg County Health Director proposed the following amendments to the groundwater and private drinking water supply wells to better align with practice and regulations and requested the Board of Commissioners amend the rules at an upcoming meeting; and

Proposed the following amendments:

For Groundwater Wells -

- Divide the rules into 2 separate rules:
  - Private Drinking Water Supply Wells
  - Wells Other Than Drinking Water Supply Wells
    - Irrigation, Transient Non-Community (TNC) /Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) wells
- Update statutory references
- Add appeals procedures to each Rule consistent with state statute
- Clarify that these are Board of Health Rules, not local ordinances or regulations

For Private Drinking Water Supply Wells -

- Adopt State's well construction standards
- Area of Regulated Groundwater Usage (ARGU) reviews that require restrictions i.e. (requiring full grout or sampling requirements) will be required to be recorded with the Register of Deeds prior to issuing a well permit

For Other than Drinking Water Supply Wells

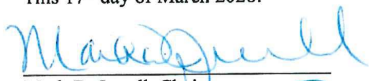
- Adopt State's well construction standards
- Eliminate exemption for sites designated at high-risk from monitoring well payments
  - Sites deemed "orphan" sites can still be exempted if monitoring wells are installed to determine responsible party for contamination

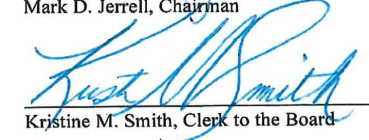
WHEREAS, notice of the proposed amendments has been published at least ten days prior to this meeting,

Now, therefore,

Be it RESOLVED by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners that the proposed and recommended amendments to the rules governing Groundwater Wells and Private Drinking Water Supply Wells in Mecklenburg County are hereby amended as recommended by the Health Director, which amendments shall be effective as of March 18, 2026.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

  
Mark D. Jerrell, Chairman

  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



**Resolution recorded in full in Document Book 55, Document #26.**

**Ordinance - Board of Health Rule regarding Wells Other Than Drinking Water Supply Wells Doc recorded in full Document Book 55, Document #28.**

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***Ordinance - Board of Health Rule regarding Drinking Water Wells recorded in full Document Book 55, Document #29.***

**26-0113      Board of Health Rules Governing Child Day Care Homes**

Adopt a Resolution to amend the Board of Health Rules Governing Child Care Home by adopting the following proposed amendments:

- Change name from “Child Day Care Homes” to “Family Child Care Homes” to align with NC Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) terminology
- Update definition of “childcare” to align with DCDEE definition
- Remove enforcement of building code and zoning requirements (outside scope of EHS authority)
- Remove requirements related to swimming pools on property (no longer have authority to regulate private pools)
- Update sanitation requirements to better align with requirements of licensed childcare centers
- Add personnel health, safety and hygiene requirements to align with requirements of licensed childcare centers
- Add authority for the Health Director to suspend or revoke permit for failure to comply with Rules

*Background: The Board of Health Rules were adopted in 1999 pertaining to Child Care Homes; they were amended most recently in 2023. The purpose of the Rule was to establish minimum health and safety standards for family child care homes not covered by NC DHHS sanitation regulations. On January 13, 2026, the Board received a presentation from the Board of Health Director requesting the Board to **amend certain rules, at an** upcoming meeting, governing child day care homes and to publish notice of the proposed amendments. The purpose of amending the rule is to protect the health and safety of children receiving child care away from their own homes in Mecklenburg County. This is accomplished by establishing minimum health and safety standards to be met by individuals providing care for children in Family Child Care Homes that are not inspected under 15 NCAC 18A.2800.*

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CURRENT BOARD OF HEALTH RULE GOVERNING CHILD  
DAY CARE HOMES IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, as a Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA), exercising the powers and duties of a local Board of Health, adopted a Board of Health Rule regulating child day care homes in 1999, which was most recently amended in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the rule was to establish minimum health and safety standards for family childcare homes not covered by NC DHHS sanitation regulations, and require annual operating permit; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to revise the 2023 amended rules; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2026, the Mecklenburg County Health Director proposed the following amendments to the child day care rules to better align with state regulations and requested the Board of Commissioners amend the rules at an upcoming meeting;

- Change name from “Child Day Care Homes” to “Family Child Care Homes” to align with NC Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) terminology
- Update definition of “childcare” to align with DCDEE definition
- Remove enforcement of building code and zoning requirements (outside scope of EHS authority)
- Remove requirements related to residential swimming pools on property (no longer have authority to regulate private pools)
- Update sanitation requirements to better align with requirements of licensed childcare centers
- Add personnel health, safety and hygiene requirements to align with requirements of licensed childcare centers
- Add authority for the Health Director to suspend or revoke permit for failure to comply with Rules; and

WHEREAS, notice of the proposed amendments has been published at least ten days prior to this meeting,

Now, therefore,

Be it RESOLVED by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners that the proposed and recommended amendments to the Child Day Care Homes rules be and the same are hereby amended as recommended by the Health Director, which amendments shall be effective as of March 18, 2026.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

  
Mark D. Jerrell, Chairman

  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



**Resolution recorded in full in Document Book 55, Document #27.**

**Ordinance Amending BOH Rules Governing Child Day Care Homes recorded in full in Document Book 55, Document #30.**

THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT

26-0096 PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioners may remove agenda items from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote, to bring public awareness or to make comments. The following items were pulled and voted upon

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separately:

**26-0076          Budget Amendment - Land Development Funds Transfer**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and unanimously carried to amend the 2025-2026 General Fund (0001) Budget Ordinance to appropriate \$198,112.85 of Land Development Fund balance for transfer to the Code Enforcement Special Revenue Fund (8510).

*Background: The FY26 Annual Budget Ordinance moved the Land Development service from the General Fund to the Code Enforcement Special Revenue Fund effective July 1, 2025. Funds held in the General Fund were not moved at that time to allow for completion of the FY25 audit and a reconciliation to finalize the Land Development amount for transfer. This action will transfer the balance of Land Development funds held in the General Fund to the Code Enforcement Special Revenue Fund.*

**This item was pulled by Commissioner Leake for clarity and/or public awareness.**

**26-0086          Interlocal Agreement with the City of Charlotte**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution authorizing Interlocal Agreement for funding of Mallard Creek Stream and Sewer Project
- 2) Authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a funding agreement with the City of Charlotte
- 3) Appropriate \$6,259,481 from the Storm Water Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund to the City of Charlotte for the County's share of the Mallard Creek Stream and Sewer Project

*Background: This is a funding agreement between the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for the funding of Storm Water Services' portion of the joint project on Mallard Creek between Mallard Creek Church Road and I-485. The County will fund the construction of approximately 5,800 linear feet of stream improvements. The City will fund the construction of approximately 18,036 linear feet of sanitary sewer. The City will oversee and manage the construction of the joint project while coordinating closely with Storm Water Services as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement for funding of the Mallard Creek Stream and Sewer Project.*

*Charlotte Water will fund \$19,694,384.00 for sewer work. Mecklenburg County Storm Water CIP funds will pay up to \$6,259,481.00 for restoration of the stream. At the conclusion of the joint project, any of the County's funding not completely utilized on Storm Water Services' stream restoration will be promptly returned to the*

**This item was pulled by Commissioner Leake for clarity and/or public awareness.**

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**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN MECKLENBURG COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE  
TO FUND THE MALLARD CREEK STREAM AND SEWER PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, on June 14, 1993, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") adopted the "Mecklenburg County Storm Water Management Plan" (the "Plan"), which sets forth guiding principles and a financial plan for the operation of a comprehensive storm water management program in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (the "County"); and

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §160A-461 ("Interlocal Cooperation Authorized") authorizes units of local governments to enter into agreements with each other in order to execute certain undertakings, such as the operation of a storm water management program by one unit of local government on behalf of another unit of local government; and

**WHEREAS**, County and the City of Charlotte (the "City") have negotiated and finalized an Interlocal Agreement (the "ILA") for Funding of the Mallard Creek Stream and Sewer Project; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §160A-461 further requires that such agreements "...be ratified by resolution of the governing board of each unit and spread upon its minutes"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County that the County Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Interlocal Agreement for Funding of the Mallard Creek Stream and Sewer Project between the County of Mecklenburg and the City of Charlotte in substantially the form attached to this resolution and that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes.

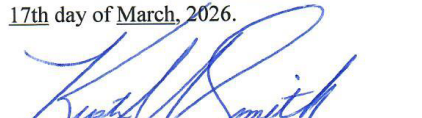
Approved as to form:

  
Tyrone Wade, County Attorney

CERTIFICATION

I, Kristine M. Smith, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners, in regular session convened on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

WITNESS my hand and the common seal of the County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina, this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



**Resolution recorded in full Document Book 55, Document #23.**

**Interlocal Agreement w/City of Charlotte Mallard Creek Stream Sewer Pgm recorded in full in Document Book 55, Document #22.**

**26-0091 Capital Reserve Expenditure - Golf Course Repairs (Park and Recreation)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Altman, and unanimously carried to: Approve appropriation of \$1,575,000 in available funds from the Public Golf Courses Consolidated Capital Reserve Fund (9002) to complete capital improvements and repairs at

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Charles T. Myers Golf Course, Sunset Hills Golf Course, Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course, Harry L. Jones, Sr. Golf Course, and The Tradition Golf Course.

*Background: Funding is needed for renovations and other repairs to the five golf course properties. Work will include renovations to the irrigation systems including two new pump stations, cart path repair, tree maintenance, tee box renovations, driving range renovations, storm water mitigation, and front entrance enhancements at the five properties. A 10% Contingency Budget is included in this request in case of emergency. Unused funds from the Contingency Budget will roll over into the next calendar year.*

**This item was pulled by Commissioner Leake for clarity and/or public awareness.**

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners shared information of their choosing within the guidelines as established by the Board, which included, but not limited to, past and/or upcoming events.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried, that there being no further business to come before the Board, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jerrell, Chair