

**JANUARY 18, 2017**

**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 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. and in Formal Session in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chair Ella B. Scarborough and Commissioners  
Dumont Clarke, Patricia “Pat” Cotham, George Dunlap,  
Trevor M. Fuller, Bill James, Vilma D. Leake,  
Jim Puckett, and Matthew Ridenhour  
County Manager Dena R. Diorio  
County Attorney Marvin A. Bethune  
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

**Absent:** None

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**-INFORMAL SESSION-**

***Commissioner Dunlap was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.***

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

**REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT**

The Board identified item(s) 17-3741 & 17-3743 to be removed from Consent and voted upon separately.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**17-3749      CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY  
17-3752      BUSINESS LOCATION AND EXPANSION**

Prior to going into Closed Session, County Attorney Bethune announced there was no Consult with Attorney matter to be discussed in Closed Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Puckett and carried 8-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to go into Closed Session for the following purpose: Business Location and Expansion.

***The Board went into Closed Session at 5:07 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 6:19 p.m.***

***Commissioner Dunlap was present when the Board came back into Open Session. He entered the meeting during Closed Session.***

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

**-FORMAL SESSION-**

*Chair Scarborough called this portion of the meeting to order and gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introductions; after which, the matters below were addressed.*

**AWARDS/RECOGNITION – NONE**

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**17-3747 PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

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

Richard Shaw spoke in opposition to current plans for a proposed neighborhood park, “Linda Lake Park.” He shared the results of a survey he conducted.

***A copy of a handout from Mr. Shaw is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

Mable Hemphill addressed an upcoming United State of Women’s Summit to be held at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in March, a specific date was not given. Ms. Hemphill said this was a collaborative effort between the faith and business communities and others, aimed at educating and helping women to get out of poverty. She asked Commissioners to contact her if they had topic suggestions that they thought would be good to cover during the summit.

***A copy of a handout from Ms. Hemphill is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

Lloyd Scher, a former County Commissioner and current Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board member, addressed and gave the Board a copy of the Civil Unrest Procedures recently approved by the ABC Board. He said this was done in response to the rioting that occurred in the community last September. The procedures address the closing and/or reduction in hours of operation of ABC Stores during times of civil unrest in the community.

***A copy of the Civil Unrest Procedures is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

**APPOINTMENTS**

**17-3750 NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

**CHARLOTTE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to nominate and appoint Dorian Carter to the Charlotte Water Advisory Committee as a real estate developer representative for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2020.

*Note: He replaces James Merrifield.*

**FIRE COMMISSION**

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Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Puckett and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Christopher Hardin and Daniel Ranson to the Fire Commission for three-year terms expiring January 30, 2020.

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Puckett and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Bobby Reynolds to the Fire Commission, who has served two conservative terms, but willing to continue to serve since there were no applicants on file, for a three-year term expiring January 30, 2020.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE**

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

**17-3711      HOUSING FIRST CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UPDATE**

The Board received a report from Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg on progress in housing chronically homeless persons in the community. The report was presented by Stacy Lowry, Mecklenburg County Director of Community Support Services, Michael Smith, President & CEO Charlotte Center City Partners, Liz Clasen Kelly, Executive Director of the Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, and Dale Mullennix, Executive Director of the Urban Ministry Center.

*Note: Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a partnership of public and private organizations, including Mecklenburg County government, that is mobilizing the community to place chronically homeless men and women in permanent housing. Its goal is to end chronic homelessness in the community by December 2017. Although chronically homeless persons are estimated to comprise only 10 percent of the homeless population, their need for and use of supportive services is high, due to their having a disability. Since 2010, it is estimated that the number of homeless persons in the community has decreased 43 percent, due to concerted efforts of the partners and strategic allocation of resources.*

***A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

**Comments**

Commissioner Puckett thanked the presenters for their work. He asked about the \$26,000 delta in medical cost and where that cost went once the individual was housed. *Mr. Mullennix said a lot of chronic homeless people go to the emergency room for minor things that someone who’s not homeless would probably have something at home to address the problem. He said once housed they could get the appropriate healthcare they needed rather than going to the emergency room.*

Commissioner Puckett asked about the Welcome Home kits and whether items could be donated for that purpose. He suggested if the items for the home didn’t have to be new, that they consider partnering with realtors because often persons selling their home leave items behind. *Ms. Kelly said persons receive a full kit and that donations should be made to Crisis Assistance Ministry, which was where individuals were referred to obtain their kit.*

Commissioner Ridenhour thanked the presenters for their work. He asked about an individual’s daily routine once they’re housed and whether those that were physically and mentally able to

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work, received any type of job and/or life skills training. *This was addressed by Mr. Mullennix and Ms. Kelly.*

Commissioner Ridenhour asked about gardening opportunities, perhaps at Moore Place. *Mr. Mullennix said Moore's Place had always had a garden, which was very therapeutic for residents. He said it was recently removed because of renovations but would be placed back. He said there's also one at the Urban Ministry Center.*

Commissioner Fuller thanked the presenters for their work. He asked about obstacles that prevented the original goal of ending chronic homelessness by the end of 2016 from being met. He asked what was the current number of chronically homeless. *Ms. Kelly addressed the question. It was noted that 454 had been housed with around 330 remaining. Further, that although the goal was not completed, they were half way there. Thus, progress was being made.*

Commissioner Fuller spoke highly of Moore Place and noted that more Moore Places were needed. He said more commitment was needed from a community perspective to address the issue of homelessness.

Commissioner Leake thanked the presenters for their work. She requested information on the number of persons that had come to Mecklenburg County to receive the services provided to the homeless.

Commissioner Leake asked which university was being referred to in the presentation. *The response was the University of N.C. at Charlotte.* She asked if Johnson C. Smith University was ever used or reached out to. *The response was yes. It was noted that Johnson C. Smith University was actively involved with UNC-Charlotte's Urban Institute for Social Capital, which played a role in this effort as well.*

Commissioner Leake asked going forward that Johnson C. Smith University be lifted up as well, because the perception was that only UNC-Charlotte was involved.

Commissioner Leake asked was there any type of avenue to provide low income housing. She said there were many in the community that could not afford to pay \$400-\$500.00 a month for rent. She said a response could be provided at a later date.

Commissioner Leake addressed the need to teach individuals how to value and maintain property.

Commissioner Leake noted work done by the Salvation Army and questioned why they were not present, which was addressed.

Commissioner Leake requested a list of all agencies that address the needs of the homeless in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Dunlap thanked the presenters for their work. He said although the original goal was not met, the results still exceeded his expectations. He noted also that the homeless population was very fluid.

Commissioner Puckett suggested thought be given to how could other counties within the region be engaged to assist in addressing this issue, so that Mecklenburg County wouldn't be viewed as the only county where assistance was provided.

Commissioner Cotham thanked the presenters for their work. She commented on the importance of continued collaboration amongst all those providing services to the homeless.

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Commissioner Cotham suggested when homeless persons were interviewed that they be asked about any nearby relatives that would receive them and if so, perhaps bus tickets could be provided to them to go there.

***Commissioner Dunlap left the meeting and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.***

Chair Scarborough thanked the presenters for their work. She encouraged all businesses in the community to become a part of this effort.

This concluded the presentation and the discussion. The above was not inclusive of every comment but was a summary.

**DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS**

**17-3740      DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Board received monthly department management reports for January, 2017.

*Note: The County Manager requested department directors develop department management monthly reports highlighting key activities and initiatives within the departments showing relevant performance indicators of departmental activity.*

***A copy of the reports is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

**STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS - NONE**

***Commissioner James left the meeting and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.***

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS & REQUESTS**

**17-3760      CHARLOTTE AREA FUND, INC. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**

Karen Brackett Browning, Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) Executive Director addressed the CAF 2017 -18 Community Services Block Grant Application. She was joined by CAF Board Chairman Reginald Johnson.

*Note: The Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) is a private, non-profit corporation and the designated community action agency serving Mecklenburg County. The agency has been providing services to the economic disadvantaged since 1963 through a variety of programs promoting self-improvement and self-sufficiency. CAF is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors representing public officials, the private sector and low-income citizens of the community. Current services funded by the Community Services Block Grant includes employment counseling, vocational skills training, computer training, GED preparation/basic skills upgrade, job development and placement, income management/budget counseling, nutrition assistance, and limited crisis intervention. CAF receives grant funding from a combination of Federal and State resources for agency activities. Each year, CAF provides the County an opportunity to comment on its proposed work program for the coming year, prior to submission of its grant application. The Board's representatives on the CAF are Commissioners Leake and Clarke, both of whom have selected citizens to serve on their behalf, which is permissible under the CAF By-laws. Abbie Butler and Reginald Godette are the Board's representatives.*

Comments

Commissioner Leake expressed thanks to the CAF for their continued good work.

Commissioner Cotham expressed thanks to the CAF and for the thoroughness of the information they provided.

Commissioner Fuller expressed thanks to the CAF for their continued good work and the thoroughness of the information they provided. He addressed and spoke favorably of the Self Sufficiency Project. He said the work of the CAF was vital to the community.

Chair Scarborough expressed appreciation to the CAF.

Ms. Browning thanked the Board for its continued support.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to acknowledge the receipt of Charlotte Area Fund, Inc.’s 2017-18 Community Services Block Grant Application.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to approve the following item(s):**

**17-3725        FLEET AUCTION REVENUE**

Recognize vehicle auction revenue of \$288,865.52 and appropriate \$282,165.52 to Fleet Reserve Fund and \$6,700 to the Department of Social Services transportation unit of the General Fund.

**17-3733        CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT – THOMAS M. WINGET PARK**

Award a construction contract to Sossaman Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$1,547,000 for the construction of Thomas M. Winget Park located at 12025 Winget Road.

**17-3738        AD VALOREM TAX ADVERTISEMENT**

Order the advertisement of delinquent 2016 real estate and personal property taxes.

**17-3742        MCALPINE CREEK GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

Authorize the County Manager to execute the McAlpine Creek Greenway Reimbursement Agreement and reimburse the City of Charlotte \$26,600 for construction completed by the City’s contractor for McAlpine Creek Greenway.

**17-3744        MYERS PARK TRINITY LITTLE LEAGUE LEASE EXTENSION**

Adopt a resolution of intent to approve a 20 year extension to the lease agreement with the Myers Park Trinity Little League at various Park and Recreation athletic fields.

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO APPROVE A 20 YEAR LEASE  
EXTENSION WITH  
MYERS PARK TRINITY LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, Mecklenburg County is the owner of park property located at Randolph Road and several other County parks in Charlotte, North Carolina which are designated for public recreation and used by Myers Park Trinity Little League; and

**WHEREAS**, the Myers Park Trinity Little League has spent over \$1,000,000 to improve various County park properties for youth baseball programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Myers Park Trinity Little League has a 10 year lease for use of various parks through December 31, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Myers Park Trinity Little League proposes to construct additional capital improvements on the Randolph Road fields with an estimated cost of \$1,150,000 for a baseball stadium, press box, restrooms, concession building, dug outs, and batting cages in exchange for a 20 year extension to the existing agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department has determined that the Randolph Road Park property is a suitable location for the construction of the stadium and related capital improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department has determined that the proposed capital improvements to Randolph Road Park will improve the athletic facilities for the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Myers Park Trinity Little League proposes also to provide routine athletic field maintenance and fund other capital improvements to the Randolph Road at no cost to Mecklenburg County for public use in accordance with the County's policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to G.S. 160A-272 and G.S. 160A-279, the Board of Commissioners proposes to accept the offer from Myers Park Trinity Little League as presented to the Board and follow the statutory procedure to advertise for upset bids; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare its intent to approve a 20 year lease extension to the agreement with the Myers Park Trinity Little League and directs that the Clerk of the Board publish a notice of the Board's intent to approve the 20 year term extension to the current agreement with the Myers Park Trinity Little League at the Board's February 7, 2017 meeting as required by law.

***Resolution recorded in full in Ordinance/Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Document # \_\_\_\_\_.***

**17-3745      FUNDING FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT PEARLE STREET PARK**

Adopt Pearle Street Park - 2017 Capital Project Ordinance.

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
PEARLE STREET PARK - 2017  
CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THIS THE 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 2017.

Section I. That for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for Pearle Street Park improvements made necessary due to adjacent development, including but not limited to new sidewalk, relocation of light fixtures and revision to a baseball field and related tasks and expenses, the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment and the acquisition of interests in real property required therefor, \$600,000 is hereby appropriated.

Section II. That it is estimated that the following revenues will be available during the construction period to meet the appropriations in Section I, as set forth in the following schedule:

Proceeds from sale of bonds, Pay-As-You-Go/Other County Funds \$600,000

Section III. That the Director of Finance is authorized from time to time to transfer as a loan from

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the General Fund or Pay-As-You-Go Fund, cash in an amount necessary to meet obligations until such time as permanent financing, if any, is arranged, at which time repayment, if required, will be made.

**Ordinance recorded in full in Ordinance/Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Document #\_\_\_\_\_.**

**17-3746        TAX REFUNDS**

1) Approve refunds in the amount of \$10,059.42 for registered motor vehicles as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Note: This Board action was necessary to approve registered motor vehicle tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, value changes and appeals processed in the new statewide vehicle tax system.*

2) Approve refunds in the amount of \$14,890.71 and interest as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Note: This Board action was necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, audits and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. Accrued interest is estimated to be \$9.90.*

**A list of the taxpayer recipients is on file with the Clerk to the Board.**

**17-3748        MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of Regular meeting held January 4, 2017.

**17-3753        GRANT APPLICATION – CONTINUATION OF GRANTS TO REPLACE AGING DIESEL ENGINES (GRADE)**

1) Approve submission of a grant application for up to \$600,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds to continue the local Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE) program.

2) Upon award of grant, recognize, receive and appropriate the grant funding; and

3) Authorize the carry forward of unspent grant funds to subsequent years until completion of the project.

**THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**17-3741        BUDGET AMENDMENT – DSS (REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Puckett and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to:

1) Recognize, receive and appropriate a net decrease in revenue in the amount of \$1,580,716.

*Note: During the fiscal year, Department of Social Services receives notification of modified funding from NC Department of Transportation and NC Department of Health and Human Services. The net decrease of federal and state allocations is \$1,580,716. This decrease will not*



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*affect the services provided by Child Care Resources, Inc. (CCRI) for child care subsidy but corrects the overstated administration amount.*

2) Recognize, receive and appropriate an increase in other revenue in the amount of \$51,280.

*Note: Carolinas Medical Center provides funding in order to house DSS eligibility positions in their facilities. To better serve the community, Carolinas Medical Center has agreed to provide additional funding to add Human Service Specialist I positions to two additional sites. The additional revenue will be used to increase the hours of two existing part time positions. In doing so, an increase in revenue is needed in the amount of \$51,280. This increase in revenue has no impact on County funding.*

3) Recognize, receive and appropriate an increase of state Adoption Promotion funding in the amount of \$138,000.

*Note: The North Carolina Division of Social Services has provided additional funding in the amount of \$138,000 for the Adoption Promotion Fund to Mecklenburg County Youth and Family Services Division of the Department of Social Services. No local match is required as a condition for receipt of these funds. The purpose of the fund is to enhance and expand adoption service, to secure permanent homes for hard to place children, and to promote public/private partnerships. Allowable uses for the funds include Adoption Services, Adoption Recruitment, Adoption Assistance Case Management, Child-specific Recruitment, Assessment and Training of Adoptive Parents and Post Adoption Case Management. The funds cannot be used to supplement the salaries of current County employees.*

Commissioner Leake removed this item from Consent for more public awareness.

**17-3743            GRANT APPLICATION – WALKING WITH EASE PROGRAM GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submission of a Walk With Ease grant application and recognize, receive and appropriate grant funds for the grant period (up to\$7,000) if awarded from Osteoarthritis Action Alliance.

*Note: Funds would be used to train Park & Recreation staff to implement Walk With Ease, a nationally recognized evidenced based health promotion program, at Recreation Centers and Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership seniors’ locations. In addition, grant funds would be utilized to purchase work books, pedometers and other incentives for each participant.*

Commissioners Cotham and Leake removed this item from Consent for more public awareness.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.