

INFORMAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - 5 PM - CH-14

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Informal Session on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 5:11 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber Conference Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center with Chair Dunlap presiding.

Present: Chair George Dunlap
Commissioner Patricia "Pat" Cotham
Commissioner Trevor M. Fuller
Commissioner Susan Harden
Commissioner Mark Jerrell
Commissioner Vilma D. Leake
Commissioner Elaine Powell
Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell
Commissioner Ella B. Scarborough

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT

The following agenda item(s) were identified by Commissioners to be removed from the Consent agenda for clarity, comment, public awareness and/or to be voted upon separately:

- 19-5884 by Commissioner Leake
- 19-5903 by Commissioner Leake
- 19-5914 by Commissioner Leake
- 20-5917 by Commissioner Leake
- 20-5918 by Commissioners Leake and Rodriguez-McDowell

It was the consensus of the Board to move Item 20-5918 – Joint Proclamation – Human Trafficking Awareness Month, from the Consent section of the agenda to the Awards/Recognition section of the agenda.

STAFF BRIEFINGS - None

CLOSED SESSION

19-5887: Closed Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller, and carried unanimously to Go into Closed Session to Consult with Attorney and Discuss Business Location and Expansion.

RECESS

The Board went into Closed Session at 5:12 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 5:41 p.m.

Commissioner Harden left the Informal Session during the closed session at 5:25 p.m. to attend a Metropolitan Transportation Commission meeting.

RECONVENE

Dena Diorio, County Manager announced that the binder for the Annual Retreat would be available at each Commissioner's seat at the dais.

Commissioner Leake requested that each Board committee provide a report to the entire Board.

Chair Dunlap said that if the Committee has a report, the Chair should be notified so it can be placed on the agenda.

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Commissioner Leake said that there are many meetings, with various groups or municipalities, that the Chair and Vice-Chair attend and the rest of the Board should be informed of the meetings and any decisions that come out of those meetings.

Commissioner Powell said she was concerned that Cardinal was not providing the same level of service in their Mobile Crisis service.

Manager Diorio said that Cardinal has stated that no reductions in service have occurred. She said that Chair Dunlap, that sits on the Cardinal board, should raise the issue with the Cardinal board.

Commissioners Leake stated she wanted to be part of planning what items appear on the agenda when the Board meets with the CMS Board of Education.

Manager Diorio stated that the two boards want to meet every two months; any agenda items should be forwarded to her. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Board of Education Chair, Superintendent and herself can review the items when they meet.

Commissioner Jerrell said the Board needed to find a way to make accommodations, for instance, an all-day workshop, that would allow for more in-depth and robust discussion with the school board.

County Manager Diorio stated for that meeting to be successful, it would need to be scheduled on a Saturday.

Commissioner Jerrell said that some people may have misinterpreted the meeting with CMS; the Boards weren't able to drill down into the issues that occur in the community and walk away with some action items.

Commissioner Fuller said that the Boards had a similar meeting like that in the past.

Chair Dunlap stated that there was a structure in place; that was the purpose of establishing the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee; to bring issues that are cross-governmental and legislative for discussion and review.

Commissioner Jerrell, Chair of the IGR Committee, stated the first meeting the Board's IGR Committee held with the City of Charlotte's IGR Committee members was very successful and they came out of the meeting with action items. He said that if the Commissioners wanted to bring issues to the IGR Committee it would not be a problem.

Chair Dunlap asked if CMS had an IGR Committee.

Commissioner Jerrell said yes.

RECESS

The Informal Session recessed at 5:57 p.m. The Board then proceeded to the Meeting Chamber for the Formal Session.

FORMAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - 6 PM - MEETING CHAMBER

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina met in Formal Session on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:07 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center with Chair Dunlap presiding.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

20-5920: Zebulon B. Vance High School Football Champions

Commissioner Leake recognized Curtis A. Carroll, Principal, and read the proclamation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and carried unanimously to recognize Zebulon B. Vance High School Cougars football team and staff and adopt a proclamation declaring January 27-31 as Zebulon B. Vance High School week.

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

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20-5918: Joint Proclamation – Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell read the proclamation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and carried unanimously to adopt a joint proclamation declaring January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Mecklenburg County and City of Charlotte.

Mike Sexton, All Things Possible Ministries, was presented with the proclamation. He made comments and introduced representatives of organizations that provide programs and services that assist survivors and combat human trafficking. He said in Charlotte, in 2017, 51 illegal massage parlors were identified. He stated CMPD did not have resources to address the problem. He requested the Board place this issue on their agenda to address.

A copy of the list of the remaining 31 illegal massage parlors is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

19-5911: Public Appearance

The following speaker(s) appeared to speak during the Public Appearance portion of the agenda on the following topics:

- Karl Froelich – Fire Commission (handout on file with the Clerk to the Board)
- Jeffrey Pinnow - Preserve Park behind Olde Providence Elementary
- Richard Boner - Preserve Park behind Olde Providence Elementary

APPOINTMENTS

19-5901: Nominations/ Appointments

City of Charlotte Zoning Board of Adjustment

One appointment for a three-year term expiring January 31, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, and carried unanimously to reappoint Lissette Torres.

Lissette Torres was reappointed.

Citizens' Transit Advisory Group

One appointment for an unexpired term expiring April 30, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and carried unanimously to appoint Jeffrey Parker.

Jeffrey Parker was appointed.

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

One appointment for a three-year term expiring January 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Leake, and carried unanimously to reappoint Debbie Bradley.

Debbie Bradley was reappointed.

Women's Advisory Board

Two appointments for unexpired terms expiring April 30, 2021 and November 30, 2021.

This item was pulled by the Clerk to the Board and will be brought back to a future meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 6:30 PM - None

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

MANAGER'S REPORT - None

DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS

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

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS - None

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS & REQUESTS - None

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller, and carried unanimously to approve the following Consent items:

19-5902: Ad Valorem Tax Advertisement

Order the advertisement of delinquent 2019 real estate and personal property taxes.

Note: The advertisement is a notification to taxpayers of outstanding tax balances due. As of December 20, 2019, \$458,955,857.40 of the \$1,090,620,870.24 net levy remained unpaid. In accordance with NCGS 105-369(a), the governing board must order the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens. The Tax Collector is ordered not to advertise tax bills included in approved payment arrangements as governed by Senate Bill 159 ratified by the General Assembly and Governor of North Carolina. The Tax Collector will contract with the Charlotte Observer to publish the advertisement on April 5, 2020.

19-5904: Land Acquisition – Irvin's Creek Greenway Tax Foreclosure

Authorize the County Manager to execute all documents necessary for acquisition of Tax Parcels 135-365-01 (±7.19 acres) and 135-365-22 (±9.11 acres) on Irvins Creek for future greenway construction.

Note: Tax Parcels 135-365-01 and 135-365-22 (±16.3 acres) are located in Mint Hill between Beaver Dam Lane and Lawyers Road and owned by Bob McLemore & Co, Inc. The current property owner has not paid taxes on the properties since 1997 and the properties have gone into tax foreclosure.

On September 17, 2019, the Board authorized staff to bid up to \$85,000 for both properties. The properties were auctioned for back taxes on November 19, 2019. The County submitted a total initial bid of \$43,000 which was upset by a bid of \$45,150 filed on November 27, 2019 during the 10-day upset bid period. On December 9, 2019 staff submitted a final upset bid of \$47,407.50. The total purchase price of \$47,407.50 will cover back taxes, legal fees and court costs associated with the closing. The purchase amount will come from the approved Land Account.

19-5905: Budget Amendment – Storm Water Management Fund Balance Appropriation

(A) Amend the 2019-2020 Annual Budget Ordinance and approve the FY2020 appropriation of \$19,687,081 of fund balance from the Storm Water Management Fund (7005) for the transfer to the Storm Water Capital Reserve Fund (8910) to finance future Storm Water Capital Projects; and, (B) Appropriate fund balance in the amount of \$33,106 from Storm Water Multi-Year Fund (MY07) for the transfer to the Storm Water Capital Reserve Fund (8910) to finance future Storm Water Capital Projects.

Note: The Storm Water Capital Reserve Fund (8910) was established to provide monies to fund the Storm Water Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Annually, approximately \$6.4M in Storm Water revenue is transferred to the Storm Water Capital Reserve Fund since Storm Water CIP is 100% PayGo funded. In addition, over the past several years Storm Water revenues exceeded expenses and that has created a Fund Balance of \$19,687,081. Lastly, a Multi-Year Fund (MY07) was established in the past and the projects within that Fund have been closed out. There is a need to transfer both the funds in Fund Balance (\$19,687,081) and the Multi-Year Fund (\$33,106) to Storm Water Capital Reserve Fund (8910) to allow flexibility in the Storm Water CIP.

19-5906: Tax Refunds

Approve tax refunds in the amount of \$5,935.96, as statutorily required to be paid, as requested by the County Assessor.

Note: This Board action is necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors,

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audits and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. There is an estimated accrued interest of \$29.77 included in the \$5,935.96 refunds.

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

19-5907: Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting held January 7, 2020.

THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT

19-5884: Budget Amendment – DSS (Revenue Increase)

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to amend the 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance to recognize, receive, and appropriate an increase in revenue of \$71,000 from the USDA to the General Fund (0001) within the Department of Social Services.

Note: Annual collections of revenues from the USDA support the increase in revenue and expenses for the senior nutrition program. The current congregate meals budget in DSS Services for Adults - Senior Nutrition Division supports an average of 515 meals per day and current meal orders are running at 562 per day with a projected increase to 575 meals per day. The budget increase will purchase an additional 13,000 meals.

The congregate program authorized under Title III C-1 of the Older Americans Act, provides meals and related nutrition services in a group setting to people 60 years and older, their spouses regardless of age, and to people under age 60 with disabilities who reside with and accompany eligible people to meal sites. The purpose of the program is to keep older Americans healthy, reduce hunger and food insecurity, delay the onset of medical conditions and prevent the need for costly medical interventions. In addition to serving healthy meals, the program presents opportunities for social engagement, information on healthy aging, physical activity and meaningful volunteer roles, all of which contribute to an older individual's overall health and well-being.

19-5903: Revenue Increase – Charlotte Air Awareness Grant

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to recognize, receive and appropriate a \$15,000 increase in funding in the General Grant Fund G001 from the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Air Quality, for administration of the “Charlotte Air Awareness Program”.

Note: The action would increase grant money from the State of North Carolina by \$15,000 to pay the cost of the “Charlotte Air Awareness Program”. The grant was extended by six months from March 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020 and the budget increase would be necessary to pay 100% of the costs associated with performing the work outlined in the scope of work during the additional six-month period.

The Charlotte Air Awareness Program partners with the community to improve local air quality by providing outreach and education to residents, businesses and schools on topics including health impacts of air pollution and voluntary pollution-reduction strategies. Mecklenburg County's Air Quality division administers this multi-county program in the Charlotte region on behalf of the NCDEQ Division of Air Quality.

19-5914: Grant Application - WBTV Grant for Urban Outdoor Connections Camp - Park and Recreation

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to (A) approve submission of a grant application to WBTV for a Summer Camp Grant of up to \$20,000 for Urban Outdoor Connections Camp scholarships; and, (B) if awarded, amend the budget ordinance to recognize and receive the award amount to the General Fund (0001) within the Park and Recreation Department.

Note: The WBTV Summer Camp Fund awards grants to summer camps to provide scholarships to low-income children grades K-12. Grants must be used to expand the opportunities available to low-income campers. This grant will allow Park and Recreation staff to provide up to 29 100% scholarships to low-income children for four weeks of nature-based summer camp.

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20-5917: Grant Application - Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) - Sheriff's Office Greenway

Commissioner Leake asked when people turn guns into the Sheriff's Office, what happens to them?

Dena Diorio, County Manager, said the law does not allow them to destroy the guns, but they can resell them. She said her understanding was that CMPD has not resold any guns and have amassed a large stockpile of weapons because the law does not allow them to destroy the weapons that they take into their custody. CMPD does not want to sell the weapons because they do not want to put the weapons back on the street.

Chair Dunlap said he was glad Commissioner Leake raised the question and said the issue should be placed on the Board's legislative agenda.

Manager Diorio said staff would do so.

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and carried unanimously to (A) approve submission of a grant application to the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission for Patrol Rifles up to \$24,500 for replacement of law enforcement equipment; and, (B) if awarded, recognize, receive and appropriate the awarded funds to the General Grants (G001)

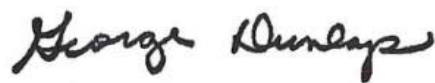
Note: This grant application meets one of the NC Department of Public Safety Governor's Crime Commission's funding priorities: Fiscal Year 2020 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The maximum grant award is \$24,500 (minimum \$10,000) for a one-year period and is intended for law enforcement equipment only. There is no requirement for matching funds. The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) will submit this grant to procure approximately 35 Smith & Wesson M&P 15 Sport II Patrol Rifles plus additional fittings with a preliminary estimate of \$700 each for a total of \$24,500. The rifles will be a new addition to patrol field operations as part of the plan to move from the use of shotguns, which have limited accuracy and to provide a more rapid response during an incident. The grant application is due January 31, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Dunlap declared the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Emily A. Kunze, Clerk



George Dunlap, Chair