

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY**

Greensboro, North Carolina
December 7, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Organizational meeting on December 7, 2020 at 10:00AM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Phillips, presiding; Vice Chairman Alan Perdue; Commissioners Alan Branson, Justin Conrad, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Hank Henning, Carolyn Q. Coleman and J. Carlvena Foster.

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing; County Attorney Mark Payne; Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; members of staff and media. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media.

I. INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Perdue offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Jeff Phillips led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

AMENDED

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order 10:08AM

Chairman Phillips took a moment of privilege to invite the family of Troy Lawson for recognition.

Chairman Phillips read a resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of the first African American chair of the Republican Party, Troy Lawson.

Mrs. Lawson thanked the board for their recognition.

Commissioners offered their condolences to the family.

IV. REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN

Chairman Phillips deferred his remarks to Vice Chairman Perdue.

V. REMARKS FROM VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Phillips thanked Vice Chairman Perdue for his work and support over the past six years on the Board.

Vice Chairman Perdue thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. He noted that it has been his honor to serve, particularly during the challenges created by the Pandemic. He noted that the County staff have truly been remarkable in leading this county through unparalleled times. Perdue thanked County Manager Lawing in particular for his leadership and advice.

Chairman Phillips recognized the Clerk's Office for their efforts over the years working with the Board.

Commissioner Henning shared his thanks to his fellow commissioners and staff and welcomed the newly elected commissioners as they take office.

Commissioner Alston thanked the outgoing board. He shared his thanks for the board's willingness to listen to the full board.

Commissioner Conrad thanked Chairman Phillips and Commissioner Henning for their service, and he looks forward to working with the newly elected commissioners.

Commissioner Foster thanked Chairman Phillips and Commissioner Henning for their service and that she has enjoyed working with them.

Commissioner Cashion shared she will miss Chairman Phillips and Commissioner Henning and thanked them for their service. She thanked Chairman Phillips for his collaborative work on numerous county projects. Cashion welcomed the newly elected commissioners.

Commissioner Branson shared it has been an honor and privilege to serve with Chairman Phillips and Henning.

Commissioner Coleman shared working with Chairman Phillips has been a real joy and it has been great working with him and Commissioner Henning. She is looking forward to working with the newly elected commissioners.

Chairman Phillips shared he appreciates his fellow commissioners and they will always be a part of his family.

**VI. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO REELECTED REGISTER OF DEEDS
JEFF THIGPEN**

The Honorable Marc Tyrey, Guilford County District Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Jeff Thigpen, who was re-elected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

Jeff Thigpen, thanked Judge Marc Tyrey for swearing him in. He shared that Commissioner Upchurch will now take his place as the youngest Commissioner elected to serve. He thanked county administration and his staff.

**VII. ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE FOR REELECTED AND NEWLY
ELECTED COMMISSIONERS**

Administer Oaths of Office to the following:

A. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER CARLY COOKE
(The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge)

The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Carly Cooke, who was elected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

B. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER JAMES UPCHURCH
(The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge)

The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to James Upchurch, who was elected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

C. REELECTED COMMISSIONER MELVIN "SKIP" ALSTON
(The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge)

The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Melvin "Skip" Alston, who was re-elected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

[Legislation Text](#)

VIII. CLERK TO THE BOARD, ROBIN KELLER, WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Clerk to Board, Robin Keller, opened the floor for nominations for Chairman for the upcoming calendar year.

A motion was made by James Upchurch and seconded by J. Carlvena Foster to nominate Melvin “Skip” Alston for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 1
AYES: Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Melvin “Skip” Alston, Carly Cooke, James Upchurch
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Alan Branson

IX. NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Chairman Alston opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman for the upcoming calendar year.

A motion was made by Kay Cashion and seconded by James Upchurch to nominate J. Carlvena Foster for Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 1
AYES: Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Melvin “Skip” Alston, Carly Cooke, James Upchurch
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Alan Branson

X. REMARKS FROM ELECTED COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cooke thanked the voters in District 5 for placing their trust in her to serve them in this role. She is grateful to those who lent their support during her campaign and she also thanked her family. She looks forward to getting to know her fellow board members and is incredibly hopeful for all that they can achieve together.

Commissioner Upchurch is humbled to serve in the district he grew up in and he thanked the voters. He looks forward to working with everybody and he’s excited to get to work.

XI. REMARKS FROM NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Alston thanked the Lord God and his family his ability to serve the citizens of Guilford County. He remarked that when he was first sworn in his son was only 11 months old, and today he is sworn in with his family and grandchildren. He thanked the citizens of District 8 for electing him to serve and thanked his fellow commissioners for electing him chairman.

Alston shared the challenges moving forward he noted that the County must still move forward to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

He shared that one of his other priorities is to continue to improve our schools. It is his hope to build a School Bond Referendum task force to prepare for a \$1.7 Billion bond referendum in 2022

He reiterated that we are One Guilford County and we must remember that. That we all work together. We must meet often with our local leaders and municipalities.

The tasks are going to be hard, but we can do it through working together.

Vice Chairman Foster welcomed Commissioners Upchurch and Cooke to the Board. She thanked her fellow Commissioners for electing her to Vice Chair. She echoed the support of the One Board and One Guilford County concept. She shared that she is passionate about High Point and that this is a great opportunity for a new year and a new board to make a positive difference across Guilford County and she looks forward to what we will do together.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

B. 2020-448 ADOPT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2021 REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR

Review and adopt the Board of Commissioners 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar.

Review and adopt the Board of Commissioners 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar with the addition of a special meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:30PM.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2021 BOC Regular Meeting Calendar_DRAFT.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Melvin “Skip” Alston and seconded by J. Carlvena Foster to adopt the 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar with the addition of a Special Meeting for Wednesday, December 9th, 2020.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Melvin “Skip” Alston, Carly Cooke, James Upchurch
NOES: None

A. 2020-446 RECEIVE AND APPROVE ANNUAL BOND REPORT AND PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS AND SHERIFF

Receive and approve the annual bond report and approve performance bonds for Register of Deeds Jeff Thigpen, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 161-4, and Danny H. Rogers, Sheriff, as required by N.C.G.S. 162-9.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Annual Bond Report Memo.pdf](#)

[Bond Report.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Kay Cashion and seconded by Alan Perdue to receive and approve annual bond report as pursuant to N.C.G.S. 161-4 and required by N.C.G.S. 162-9.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Melvin “Skip” Alston, Carly Cooke, James Upchurch
NOES: None

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 11:12AM.

Chairman

Clerk