

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
December 4, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on December 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston, presiding; Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster; Commissioners Kay Cashion, Brandon Gray-Hill, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Pat Tillman, and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Victor Isler; Interim County Attorney Matt Mason; Clerk to the Board Robin Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board Ariane Webb; Deputy Clerk to the Board T'ebony Rosa; Assistant County Manager Erris Dunston; Assistant County Manager Natalie Craver; Facilities Director Eric Hilton; Budget and Management Director Toy Beeninga; High Point Economic Development Corporation Brantley Craft; members of staff, media, and the public. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media partners.

Chairman Alston introduced Charles "Twig" Rollins, United States Army and Navy Veteran, who would lead the Pledge of Allegiance following the invocation.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplain Ben Chavis offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Rollins led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

1. Rikkia Ramsal-Williams spoke in support of Clean Power Now's request for a resolution to move Guilford County to energy-saving solutions.

2. Valarie Jones Robinson spoke to the Operation Excel's community outreach and to an upcoming event.
3. Stephen McCollum spoke to sustainability and public safety. He shared updates regarding the Transco SSP Pipeline project and highlighted environmental justice. He voiced support for clean energy by 2025 along with an example of Duke Energy's net-zero emissions standards.
4. Marcia Foutch voiced support for cross-sector collaborations regarding disaster preparedness.
5. Gail Dunham noted her public records requests regarding well schemes in Summerfield.
6. Deirdre Kevorkian spoke in support of clean energy plans and goals to move to clean, renewable energy by 2050.
7. Don Chiariello, High Point resident, spoke in support of Guilford County transitioning to 100 percent clean energy.

V. PRESENTATIONS

2025-514 RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLENA CANNON

Adopt resolution honoring the life and legacy of Willena Cannon.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Gray-Hill highlighted Ms. Cannon's dedication to advancing civil rights, fighting for equality, and lifting up unsung voices. He welcomed the family and supporters to come forward.

Commissioner Gray-Hill read the resolution.

Ms. Cannon's sons thanked the Board for recognizing their mother. They shared that she always worked in silence to promote equality.

Register of Deeds Jeff Thigpen spoke about the joyful relationship with Ms. Cannon and her family, as well as the spirit she imparts to those who know her, which helps build a strong community.

Chairman Alston thanked everyone for coming out to celebrate Ms. Cannon and all she had done for our community.

RECOGNITION OF THE RHOER CLUB

Vice Chairwoman Foster welcomed the Rhoer Club members in the audience, a youth affiliate of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She stated that since 1939, the Rhoer Club has provided mentorship, leadership development, academic encouragement, and community service opportunities for girls aged 12 to 18, helping them build confidence, character, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. She shared that this opportunity is to expose them to local politics and county governance.

Vice Chairwoman Foster shared that these talented young women are emerging leaders in our community. Through their service projects, educational enrichment activities, and commitment to excellence, they exemplify the values of scholarship, service, and sisterhood.

Rhoer Advisor Aisha Forman, Delta Sigma Sigma Alumnae Chapter, thanked the Board for the recognition and for offering the opportunity for the youth to observe local governance.

V. CLERK TO BOARD ROBIN KELLER WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

Clerk to Board Robin Keller opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

Commissioner Kay Cashion presented Melvin “Skip” Alston for nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Clerk to Board Keller entertained a motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to elect Melvin “Skip” Alston for Chairman of the Board.

VOTE:	Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES:	Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES:	None

VI. NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

Chairman Alston opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board for the ensuing year.

Commissioner Jones presented J. Carlvena Foster for nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Chairman Alston entertained a motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke, to elect J. Carlvena Foster for the Vice Chair position.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

Chairman Alston thanked his colleagues for supporting him for another year. He noted that we are a great team.

Vice-Chairwoman Foster echoed similar sentiments.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Alston introduced the consent agenda and noted the addendum agenda. He opened the floor for any items to be pulled for separate consideration. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, and seconded by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, to adopt the consent and addendum agendas.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

Note: Approval of the Addendum Agenda adjusted the agenda as follows:

- *Add PRESENTATION: Item 2025-514 RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLENA CANNON*
- *Amend PUBLIC HEARING: Item 2025-499 to add name of manufacturing company – PARAGON ID HIGH POINT US, INC.*
- *Amend NEW BUSINESS: Item 2025-496 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY: ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENTS OF THE STRAUSS HOUSE CONNECTED TO THE OTTO ZENKE PROPERTY to edit Background and add attachments*

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2025-486 BUDGET AMENDMENT: DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS REVENUES

Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$2,400 to Cooperative Extension Service and \$2,400 to Other Revenues.

[Legislation Text](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2025-491 CONTRACT TO OPERATE AN EVICTION MEDIATION AND LANDLORD OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH UNC-G

Authorize the County Manager, or designee, to enter into contract, and take any and all necessary steps to execute agreement, with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G) for operation of the Tenant Eviction and Mediation (TEAM) program in the amount of \$417,912 and for a term of 6 months running from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

[Legislation Text](#)

2. 2025-497 AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT FAMILY JUSTICE FURNITURE FOR GREENE ST. FIRE RESTORATION

Approve purchase of replacement chairs and lounge furniture , as authorized by the state contract exemption of G.S. 143-129(e)(9), for a total cost of \$163,287.59 from Institutional Interiors through NC state contract 5610-A.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Institutional Interiors Bid Waiver Request # 05845447](#)

[Guilford CO Justice Dept FProposal 25-2867](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2025-488 REVIEW AND APPROVE CALENDAR YEAR 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Adopt the calendar year 2026 Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2026 Annual Calendar - DRAFT v1](#)

2. 2025-498 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approve the following sets of minutes:
Work Session Minutes November 20, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes November 20, 2025

[Legislation Text](#)

[dmwsx112025](#)

[dmx112025](#)

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2025-499 PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT FOR UNNAMED INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1, hold a public hearing and consider approval of an economic development incentive grant to Paragon ID High Point US, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and a finding that the project will stimulate the local economy, promote business, and result in the creation of a substantial number of jobs in the County that pay at or above the County's median average wage; and upon approval, authorize staff to execute grant agreements, in accordance with terms and conditions of the proposal, consistent with the County's economic development incentive policy.

Legislation Text

Brantley Craft, High Point Economic Development, thanked the Board for their continued support of the Guilford County Economic Development Alliance. He noted that all economic development incentives are performance-based, and to be eligible, they must meet the terms of their contracts.

Vice Chairwoman Foster clarified that this was presented Monday night and was approved by the High Point City Council.

Craft confirmed.

Chairman Alston opened the floor for the public hearing, calling forth proponents. There being none, he opened the floor for opponents. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue, to adopt pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1, hold a public hearing and consider approval of an economic development incentive grant to Paragon ID High Point US, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and a finding that the project will stimulate the local economy, promote business, and result in the creation of a substantial number of jobs in the County that pay at or above the County's median average wage; and upon approval, authorize staff to execute grant agreements, in accordance with terms and conditions of the proposal, consistent with the County's economic development incentive policy.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill

NOES: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025-496 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY: ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENTS OF THE STRAUSS HOUSE CONNECTED TO THE OTTO ZENKE PROPERTY

Adopt proposed Resolution, in substantial form, authorizing the conveyance of County-owned property (located at 400 W. Washington Street, Greensboro, NC) detailed in Exhibit A to the Resolution, to Preservation Greensboro, on terms consistent with the Resolution, and direct the publication of notice of the adoption of this Resolution in accordance with N.C.G.S. 160A-267.

[Legislation Text](#)

[GSO Sheriff - Edited](#)

[Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Zenke-Strauss Property Elements_final ver3 12.2.25](#)

Facilities Director Eric Hilton presented the agenda item.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke to adopt the proposed Resolution, in substantial form, authorizing the conveyance of County-owned property (located at 400 W. Washington Street, Greensboro, NC) detailed in Exhibit A to the Resolution, to Preservation Greensboro, on terms consistent with the Resolution, and direct the publication of notice of the adoption of this Resolution in accordance with N.C.G.S. 160A-267.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill

NOES: None

X. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2025-505 EXCEPTION REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Consider and approve the following exception reappointments to various boards & commissions:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee
Reappoint Patricia Hall Stephens to 8th term (July 19, 2023 - July 18, 2026)

Commission on Aging
Reappoint Carolyn J. Biggerstaff to 6th term (November 21, 2025 - November 20, 2028)

[Legislation Text](#)

[03.13.24 Reapp PStephens](#)

[03.13.24 Term Exempt PStephens](#)

[10.17.25 App CBiggerstaff](#)

[10.17.25 Letter CBiggerstaff](#)

[11.17.25 Term Exempt CBiggerstaff](#)

Motion was made by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to adopt the following exception reappointments to various boards & commissions:

**Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee
Reappoint Patricia Hall Stephens to 8th term (July 19, 2023 - July 18, 2026)**

**Commission on Aging
Reappoint Carolyn J. Biggerstaff to 6th term (November 21, 2025 - November 20, 2028)**

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

B. 2025-494 APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Consider and approve the following appointments and reappointments to various boards & commissions

Commission on Aging
Appoint Alicia Kaplan to 1st term (December 4, 2025 - December 3, 2028)

Fire District Commission - Stokesdale
Reappoint Bernie Stewart to 3rd term (November 18, 2025 - November 17, 2027)

[Legislation Text](#)

[11.10.25 App AKaplan](#)

[11.10.25 Resume AKaplan](#)

[08.27.25 App BStewart](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, to adopt the following appointments and reappointments to various boards & commissions.

Commission on Aging

Appoint Alicia Kaplan to 1st term (December 4, 2025 - December 3, 2028)

Fire District Commission - Stokesdale

Reappoint Bernie Stewart to 3rd term (November 18, 2025 - November 17, 2027)

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill

NOES: None

XI. COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

There were no Commissioner Liaison Reports for this agenda.

XII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER / INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY

A. 2025-230 RECEIVE FY26 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT THROUGH OCTOBER 2025

Receive FY2025-26 Budget Performance Report through October.

[Legislation Text](#)

[FY26 October BPR Presentation](#)

[FY2026 Budget Performance Report - October](#)

Kellen LaBonte, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, provided an update on expenses. He noted that revenues are performing as expected with sales tax actuals beginning to accrue after Q1, as these revenues are 3 months in arrears. He shared that the department continues to monitor federal and state revenues to determine impacts from the federal shutdown and any legislative changes.

LaBonte noted that expenses indicate that the vacancy rate is higher than in the previous year due to the staggered implementation of new positions. He provided updates of the Fire Districts, the opioid settlement fund, the general fund, department budgets, ARPA-enabled funds, and other annual funds for Board consideration.

County Manager Isler asked the Board to receive the budget performance report for reference only.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gray-Hill spoke to the groundbreaking ceremonies at Sternberger and Allen Jay Prep. He shared that he hoped to see everyone this Saturday at the Greensboro Parade.

Commissioner Murphy noted the Grimsley Football game semi-finals tonight.

Commissioner Cooke echoed Commissioner Gray-Hill in congratulating Guilford County Schools on the groundbreakings. She noted NCACC training on school funding in a five-part series that will begin at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Commissioner Cashion noted that on Tuesday, she attended the Carolina Theater's thank-you event for supporters.

Commissioner Tillman shared that it was an honor to speak at the Sternberger groundbreaking.

Commissioner Jones recognized the upcoming Rev. Cardes Brown's 50th Pastoral Anniversary Gala event. He noted the meeting with Commissioner Perdue regarding water quality testing around the Pleasant Garden Fire Department.

Vice Chairwoman Foster shared her attendance at the High Point Holiday Parade last weekend and her recent attendance at the Trillium Board meeting. She echoed the sentiments for the Guilford County Schools groundbreaking, noting the Allen Jay Elementary groundbreaking as the first school in High Point impacted by the 2020 bond.

Commissioner Perdue thanked Tommy Sluder and Jim Albright for their participation in the Pleasant Garden collaboration regarding water resources for the western North Carolina region.

Chairman Alston thanked the staff and the Commissioners for their representation of the Board for the Pleasant Garden water needs. He shared his support of the GCS groundbreakings. He recognized that Commissioner Jones was recently elected as the new President of the Greensboro Men's Club.

Vice Chairwoman Foster reiterated her appreciation for the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s Rhoer Club attendance. She shared the importance of exposing our youth to the political arena.

XIV. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) 1 and 3 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL MATTERS UNDER N.C.G.S. 153A-98

Motion was made by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, and seconded by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, to hold a closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) 1 and 3 for the purpose of consulting with the County Attorney and to discuss confidential personnel matters under N.C.G.S. 153A-98.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

The Board recessed the regular meeting at 6:42 p.m.

The Board reconvened from closed into open session at 7:32 p.m.

XV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, to adjourn the regular meeting.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, Pat Tillman, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Mary Beth Murphy, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk