

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
February 5, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on February 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., in the City of High Point Council Chambers, 3rd Floor Municipal Building, 211 South Hamilton Street, High Point, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston; Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, presiding; 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; Deputy County Manager Toy Beeninga; County Attorney Carolyn Thompson; 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; members of staff, media, and the public. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media partners.

Vice Chairwoman Foster introduced Derrick Powell, United States Army 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. Powell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairwoman Foster welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. She thanked Mayor Jefferson and the High Point Council and staff for their hospitality in hosting tonight’s meeting. She thanked colleagues for their willingness to bring our county work to the communities we represent.

Taking a moment of personal privilege, Vice Chairwoman Foster formally welcomed our new County Attorney, Ms. Carolyn Thompson, to her first Board of Commissioners meeting. She stated that Attorney Thompson joins us with a wealth of experience and legal expertise, and we are truly excited to have her as part of the Guilford County team. She noted that we look forward to working with Madame Attorney and to the leadership she will bring to this role. She opened the floor for remarks.

County Attorney Thompson expressed appreciation for an incredible team dedicated to public service.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

1. President Candice Dixon, Delta Sigma Theta High Point Alumnae Chapter, introduced the executive officers, 1st Vice President Marilyn Artis, and 2nd Vice President Atiya Williams. She spoke to their founders, sisterhood mission, and community programming engagement. She explained the sorority's commitment to social action and civil rights responsibilities, adoption of a local park, and other holistic connections. She highlighted the sorority celebrating 75 years and issued a call to action to work together to strengthen every sector of our community.

2. Margaret Roulett, Clean Power Now, highlighted the clean energy resolution, Board policy implications, and the impact of setting benchmarks. She noted that we must reach the 2050 goal now, and spoke to an upcoming March work session.

3. Vice President Leslie Que, Eta Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, noted the sorority's programmatic thrusts and initiatives. She highlighted the sorority celebrating 65 years of supporting health, education, economic development, food pantries, and youth.

4. Reverend Dr. Frank Thomas, Mt. Zion Baptist Church of High Point, gave welcome remarks, and thanked the audience for their presence. He extended an invitation to return. He announced that, as co-chair of the annual United Negro College Fund gala committee, they were honoring Vice Chairwoman Foster with the Vanguard Award.

5. Candice James, TCC Community Health Foundation Founder and Executive Director, noted how the organization advances health equity and preventative programming. She expressed appreciation for the Board's leadership and community funding. She provided outreach engagement statistics involving at-risk areas, seniors, and youth. She outlined the organization's three pillars and previous events to change health trajectories.

6. Tu Sen, 98 Asian Bistro owner, thanked Guilford County and High Point for welcoming the Walk for Peace monks. She shared that she carries Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy close to her heart.

7. Sarah Graham, Drawers of Hope Resource Center Founder and CEO, thanked the Board for its support of the food pantry and free tutoring for schoolchildren.

8. Dr. Angie Williams-McMicheal, Success Hope Center Executive Director and candidate for House District 60, expressed her campaign initiatives. She acknowledged the organization's board members, noted the financial support of community efforts, and highlighted a youth STEM camp.

9. Heidi Majors, YWCA of High Point Executive Director, extended an invitation to the Board to return to High Point. She spoke to eliminating barriers to entry for being civically engaged. She highlighted the Parents as Teachers affiliate organization that encourages school readiness.

Taking a point of personal privilege, Vice Chairwoman Foster requested that all organizations that receive county funding to stand to be recognized.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2026-146 RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND COMMEMORATING THE GREENSBORO AND HIGH POINT SIT-INS

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND COMMEMORATING THE GREENSBORO AND HIGH POINT SIT-INS

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement stands as one of the most transformative periods in American history, marked by the courageous efforts of ordinary citizens who demanded justice, equality, and full citizenship for African Americans through nonviolent action; and

WHEREAS, hidden figures throughout North Carolina played a pivotal role in advancing the Civil Rights Movement, particularly through the brave actions of students and community members who challenged racial segregation and discrimination in public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1960, four students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Ezell Blair Jr. (now Jibreel Khazan), Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, and David Richmond, launched the historic Greensboro sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter, igniting a youth-led movement that rapidly spread across the South and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Greensboro sit-ins demonstrated the power of disciplined, nonviolent protest and directly contributed to the desegregation of lunch counters, retail establishments, and public spaces, helping to accelerate national momentum toward civil rights legislation; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 1960, the City of High Point also emerged as a vital site of civil rights activism, where 26 William Penn High School students, who were inspired by the A&T Greensboro Four, staged a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter. Clergy and local residents organized and participated in sit-ins, marches, and boycotts to confront segregation and secure equal access to public accommodations and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the sit-ins and related actions in High Point reflected the same courage, resilience, and moral clarity that defined the broader Civil Rights Movement, reinforcing the interconnected struggle for justice across Guilford County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices and leadership of students, faith leaders, educators, and community advocates in Greensboro and High Point laid a foundation for lasting social change and continue to inspire ongoing efforts to advance equity, inclusion, and civil rights for all people; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and commemorate the enduring legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and to honor the local heroes whose actions reshaped communities and strengthened our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Board of Commissioners hereby celebrates the Civil Rights Movement and proudly honors the historic sit-ins that occurred in Greensboro and High Point, North Carolina, acknowledging their profound local and national impact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the courage and determination of those who participated in these nonviolent protests and recognize their role in advancing justice, dignity, and equal opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our commitment to preserving this history, educating future generations, and continuing the work of building communities rooted in fairness, respect, and opportunity for all.

PRESENTED this the 5th day of February, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the County of Guilford to be affixed, this the 5th day of February 2026.

Melvin "Skip" Alston, Chairman
Guilford County Board of Commissioners

Chairman Alston invited Bill “Pee Wee” Alston and other civil rights leaders to come forward. He read the resolution into the record.

Members of the original William Penn 26 addressed the audience on behalf of Mary Lou Blakeney, who founded the February 11th Association. It was announced that the surviving members will host an upcoming prayer vigil event.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairwoman Foster introduced the consent agendas. She opened the floor for any items to be pulled for separate consideration. Hearing none, she entertained a motion.

Motion was made by Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston, and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke, to adopt the consent agenda.

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

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

- 1. 2026-127 BUDGET AMENDMENT: FY 2026 ARAMARK REBATE INCENTIVE FUNDS**

B. CONTRACTS

- 1. 2026-116 HHS-SOCIAL SERVICES NEUROAGILE LEADERSHIP & WORKFORCE ALLIES 4 OUTCOMES TEMP STAFFING CONTRACT AMENDMENT APPROVAL**
- 2. 2026-131 CONTRACT AMENDMENT: CITY OF GREENSBORO’S HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT ISSUED THROUGH THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. **2026-130 ADOPT RESOLUTION ORDERING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF DELINQUENT 2025 TAX LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY**
2. **2026-133 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **2026-132 HIGH POINT PRESERVATION SOCIETY HEDGECOCK FARM LEASE**

Facilities Director Eric Hilton introduced the agenda item. He clarified that the county is not leasing a farm, but a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the High Point Preservation Society to help preserve the Old Hedgecock Farm Property. He noted that the insurance requirements modified the lease agreement.

County Manager Isler noted a point of clarification that the requested action is to authorize staff to enter into the requested lease.

Motion made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to authorize staff to enter into the requested lease, in substantial form, to the High Point Preservation Society to allow the maintenance and improvement of facilities located at located at 407 West Parris Avenue, High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina, and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said lease.

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

VIII. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

- A. **2026-125 DHHS - DSS & CHILD SUPPORT MANDATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Social Services Director Sharon Barlow provided an overview of the MOU performance metrics from October, November, and December. She shared that DSS met all benchmarks. She noted that for November and December, Adult Protective Services is one month behind based on the state and will report out when the data is received.

Child Support Director Rosanne Wiley provided updated data regarding the Child Support Department. She noted that it met and exceeded all benchmarks.

IX. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2026-135 APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, to consider and approve the following appointments and reappointments to various boards and commissions:

Guilford County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appoint Tia Warren to 1st term in Citizen position (February 5, 2026 - February 4, 2028)

Appoint Candice Scales to 1st term in Member of the Business Community position (February 5, 2026 - February 4, 2028)

Appoint Doug Logan to 1st term in County Manager Designee position (February 5, 2026 - February 4, 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

X. COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

There were no Commissioner Liaison Reports for this agenda.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER / COUNTY ATTORNEY

A. 2026-129 RECEIVE FY26 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 2025

County Manager Isler recognized Budget Analyst Leia Stiegmann, who introduced the agenda item.

Stiegmann presented the FY26 budget performance report, and shared key takeaways to include (1) Revenues and expenses are trending as expected based on current projections, (2) The vacancy rate is currently higher than previous years based on the staggered addition of new positions throughout the fiscal year, and (3) Staff anticipates the use of fund balance based on early indicators.

Stiegmann noted revenue updates from property tax and sales tax actuals and sales tax look-back, which indicated total sales and purchases in FY24 and FY25 mirrored each other, with minimal growth, and that FY26 is trending slightly higher, which would result in positive sales tax growth of 1.65%.

Stiegmann concluded the presentation by sharing that expenses by category to include positive changes in vacancy rates and correlation with overtime. She explained that Fire District revenues are on track with projections and that they continue to host monthly conversations with the Fire Chiefs.

There were no comments from the County Attorney.

XII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gray-Hill thanked staff for an informative retreat session, to the High Point community, and welcomed the new County Attorney.

Commissioner Murphy thanked staff for quick service delivery during the winter storms.

Commissioner Cooke welcomed Attorney Thompson and noted the City of High Point's attendance. She extended kudos to staff for their work during the retreat and creativity with the exercises. She announced an upcoming Public Education Committee childhood education event and telehealth clinic. She invited the public to attend.

Commissioner Cashion announced the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Committee upcoming resolution and urged the public to contact their House of Representatives regarding a housing bill. She noted the impressive list of community outreach activities of the sororities and the value-added benefits.

Commissioner Perdue stated that preparation is key for all the work we do. He highlighted the FirstNet Network authorization and congressional work that serves the public safety community.

Commissioner Tillman thanked everyone in attendance and the staff. He noted his participation in a February 16th Stokesdale fire district leadership training and applauded the county's winter storm response. He announced a future Revaluation Town Hall. He noted a successful budget retreat with relevant and timely data.

Commissioner Jones voiced appreciation for the High Point hospitality. He extended kudos to both the Greensboro and High Point MLK parades. He welcomed the County Attorney.

Chairman Alston expressed appreciation to the High Point Mayor and staff for their hospitality. He shared his consideration of returning to the High Point Chambers. He announced future tax and budget town hall sessions for community feedback before budget adoption. He welcomed the County Attorney.

Vice Chairwoman Foster noted the recent Carl Chavis YMCA tax revaluation session. She shared her attendance at a Visit High Point meeting and a High Point economic development meeting. She stated that High Point is more than the Furniture Capital and highlighted the city's growth. She thanked staff for tonight's meeting preparations, highlighted CBO-funded organizations in the audience, and noted how High Point is making a difference.

XIII. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

There was no closed session held for this agenda.

XIV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk