

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' ANNUAL RETREAT**

Greensboro, North Carolina
February 2-3, 2023
Day One – February 2, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on February 2, 2023 at 8:30 AM for the Board's Annual Retreat held at the Bur-Mil Clubhouse, 5834 Bur-Mil Club Road, Greensboro, NC.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston, presiding; Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster; Commissioners Kay Cashion; Frankie T. Jones, Jr.; Mary Beth Murphy; Carly Cooke and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: Commissioners Pat Tillman and James Upchurch.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Halford, County Manager; Andrea Leslie-Fite County Attorney; Jason Jones, Assistant County Manager; Erris Dunston, Assistant County Manager; Victor Isler, Assistant County Manager; Robin Keller, Clerk to Board; Janet Carlson, Retreat Facilitator; members of the community, staff and media.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 8:49 AM. He reminded the Board that during a prior retreat, three (3) years ago, they paused for a moment of silence in remembrance of George Floyd, who passed away while in police custody. Alston expressed regret that he must request those present to pause for another moment of silence in memory of Tyre Nichols, who recently passed under similar circumstances. The Board and those present observed a moment of silence.

II. ONE GUILFORD: SHARED DIRECTION, ALIGNMENT AND COMMITMENT

County Manager Michael Halford welcomed everyone to the meeting and engaged the Commissioners in a creative activity related to the level and amounts of County services offered by staff.

Commissioner Kay Cashion question the total number of County positions.

Halford stated they have approximately 2,900 authorized positions and about 2,550 are filled.

Halford introduced the retreat facilitator, Janet Carlson. Ms. Carlson thanked the Board for conducting one-on-one conversations with her regarding strategic planning for the retreat. She opened the floor for Board discussion on leadership goals and introduced the agenda for days one and two of the retreat. Carlson shared the norms that would be utilized during the training and strategic discussion, and thanked staff and leadership for all the work they have done for the County.

Ms. Carlson introduced the SOGI model that would be utilized to assist them in identifying effective leadership.

At 9:08AM, Chairman Alston announced the virtual communication option would be suspended until 3:30PM while the Board and County leadership underwent proprietary diversity, equity, inclusion and communication training. The Board and staff conducted small group work and exercises.

III. GUILFORD 2033: WHAT WILL WE BE?

Halford questioned how the Board will define the vision for the County and its future direction, and spoke to the number of services offered by the County. He noted department directors completed an exercise related to the County's vision and summarized the results.

The Board divided itself into small groups to work with department directors to develop community and organizational level goals.

Each small group discussed the future goals they developed.

The Board recessed the meeting at 2:40PM for a break.

IV. GUILFORD 2023: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Board reconvened the meeting at 3:00PM and returned to small group work with staff to discuss current operations of departments in order to provide context for priority setting for FY 2023-24 and beyond.

The Board completed small group work with staff at 5:12PM and Chairman Alston announced the Board would enter into closed session.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed the meeting and entered into closed session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), to discuss a personnel matter at 5:12PM.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 6:10PM.

VI. RECESS

There being no further business, Day 1 of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners' Annual Retreat was recessed at 6:10PM, by unanimous consent, until Friday, February 3, 2023 at 8:30AM.

Melvin "Skip Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board