

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
January 6, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on January 6, 2022 at 5:30PM held virtually via Zoom platform.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston; presiding; Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster (in at 5:45PM); Commissioners James Upchurch (in at 5:36PM), Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman (in at 5:56PM), Justin Conrad, and Alan Perdue (in at 5:44PM).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; Interim County Attorney Matthew Mason; Assistant County Manager Jason Jones; Assistant County Manager Erris Dunston; Assistant County Manager Victor Isler; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Deputy Clerk to Board Jessica Wolf; Worley Smith, Communications Manager; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; J. Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Sharon Barlow, Interim Social Services Division Director; Captain Doug Burroughs, Security Director; additional members of staff and members of the public and media.

I. INVOCATION

There was no invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was no pledge of allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Chairman Alston opened Speakers from the Floor.

1. Dr. Fred Daniel spoke to mask mandates. He is against the mandates and is concerned we are repeating the same behavior that doesn't work.
2. Bronni VanDerwerker spoke to the Board regarding mask mandates. She stated she is against any mask mandates and this is a pain and a security risk for businesses. She stated we need to stop going back and forth.
3. Dianne Doughty spoke against mask mandates. She stated they don't work and can increase risk from other illnesses.
4. Aryn Schloemer Spoke to the Board regarding mandates. She stated she is against all mandates and thinks they are unconstitutional.
5. James Morris spoke to the Board against mask mandates. He stated these mandates are having devastating affects on our children and don't work.
6. Cheri Pikett spoke to the Board against mask mandates. She stated face masks are more harmful than helpful and believes healthy people don't need to wear masks.
7. Chris Triolo, Gibsonville resident and small business owner, spoke to the Board against mandates. He stated masks are ineffective and are pollutants.

There being no further speakers, Chairman Alston closed this portion of the meeting.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. 2022-105 PROCLAIM JANUARY 9, 2022 AS NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Adopt Proclamation Declaring January 9, 2022 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Guilford County.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Alan Perdue introduced the item and read the proclamation into the minutes.

B. 2022-125 RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AN HONOR OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Adopt resolution in recognition and honor of the contributions and achievements by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Legislation Text](#)

Chairman Alston introduced the item and read the resolution into the minutes.

Chairman Alston asked for a moment of silence in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by J. Carlvena Foster and seconded by Kay Cashion to adopt the consent agenda.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES: Mary Beth Murphy, Alan Perdue, Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston
NOES: None
ABSENT: Carolyn Q. Coleman

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2022-109 RE-APPROPRIATE 2021 GC STOP GRANT FUNDS

Approve budget amendment to appropriate 2021 GC STOP grant funding in the amount of \$478,031; increase Federal/State Revenue by \$478,031 and increase the FY 2020-21 Law Enforcement budget by the same amount to fund the program including: existing grant positions, UNCG Administrative costs and purchase of 3,500 doses of Naloxone for program participants.

[Legislation Text](#)

2. 2022-106 DHHS - PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION - BUDGET AMENDMENT: FAMILY PLANNING ADDITIONAL \$15,000

Approve an increase of \$15,000 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY21-22 Department of Health and Human Services - Public Health division by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by North Carolina Family Planning Program.

[Legislation Text](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2022-110 APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF GREENSBORO, NC; HIGH POINT, NC AND THE COUNTY OF GUILFORD, NC- RECEIPT OF THE 2021 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Approve an interlocal agreement, in substantial form, with the City of Greensboro and the City of High Point towards joint application and award of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Approve an increase of \$73,714 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Law Enforcement budget by the same amount to reflect receipt of Guilford County's allocation of the 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), that will be used towards the replacement of two (2) fully marked patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2021 JAG Sub-recipient Agreement-GCSO 9.2021](#)

[FY 21 JAG MOU 10.28.21](#)

2. 2022-113 LIMITED USE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE FOR JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Approve, in substantial form, an intergovernmental agreement with the United States Marshal's Service (USMS) in the amount of \$36,600 to be effective October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 for a term of one (1) year and approve an increase of \$36,600 in User Charges and increase the FY 2021-22 Juvenile Detention budget by the same amount to reflect anticipated expenses and revenues related to the custody and care of federal juvenile detainees.

[Legislation Text](#)

[LUA- Guilford Co \(005\)](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2022-108 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FOR CITY OF HIGH POINT FOR 201 MONTLIEU AVENUE, LAND OWNED BY THE GUILFORD COUNTY

Approve granting a Temporary Construction Easement on Parcel # 189676 and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said easement.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Montlieu Ave. project parcel 4](#)

[4-Guilford county](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

2. 2022-111 DHHS-DSS MANDATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Receive monthly data regarding the thirteen mandated performance measures as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between Guilford DHHS-Social Services and NC DHHS.

[Legislation Text](#)

[GUILFORD COUNTY MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS MOU OCTOBER 2021 RESULTS](#)

[GUILFORD COUNTY MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS MOU NOVEMBER 2021 RESULTS](#)

3. 2022-107 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review and approve the following sets of draft meeting minutes:

12/02/2021 Regular Meeting

12/09/2021 Work Session

12/16/2021 Regular Meeting

[Legislation Text](#)

[dm120221.pdf](#)

[dmws12.09.21.pdf](#)

[dm121621](#)

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairman Alston noted the public hearings scheduled for tonight have been moved to the January 20, 2022 meeting.

A. 2022-104 PUBLIC HEARING - UDO TEXT AMENDMENT CASE #21-10-GCPL-09184 TO AMEND ARTICLE 9.3 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION TO AMEND

THE NO-FILL IN FLOODPLAIN PROVISION TO ALLOW FILL FOR
RESTORATION OF NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS AND RELATED
CLARIFICATIONS & FORMATTING REVISIONS

Hold a public hearing and adopt Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Text Amendment Case #21-10-GCPL-09184 (as presented/attached herein) that amends Article 9.3 Flood Damage Prevention which changes the no-fill provision to allow fill in the floodplain for restoration of natural floodplain functions and related clarifications and formatting revisions.

[Legislation Text](#)

[TA-21-10-GCPL-09184 STAFF REPORT - Floodplain No-fill Provision](#)

[TA-21-10-GCPL-09184 BCC LEGAL NOTICE - Floodplain No-fill Provision](#)

B. 2022-112 HOLD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECODIFICATION OF GUILFORD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Approve consolidation of the Guilford County Unified Development Ordinance back into Chapter 15, replacing existing language of Chapter 15 Article II section 15-56 of the County's General Code of Ordinances; and authorize staff to proceed with recodification of the section.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Proposed DRAFT Recodification](#)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

[IX. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE](#)

DHHS-Public Health Division Director Dr. Iulia Vann provided a brief update regarding Covid-19 metrics. She stated there has not been a tremendous positive change over the last few days and there has been delays in testing reporting. She stated the 14-day positivity rate average is 22.8% and the single day positivity rate at 30.8% on January 5th. These are the highest positivity rates recorded during the pandemic. Dr. Vann noted that information to the public is found on HealthyGuilford.com. She shared that we continue to support opportunities for testing throughout the community. We have 205 individuals who are currently hospitalized with Covid-19 related illnesses and 37 are currently in the ICU.

Dr. Vann noted that according to projections and modeling from Cone Health, they are seeing challenging numbers ahead of us anticipating anywhere from 355 people in the hospitals up to 600 new patients hospitalized due to the virus.

Dr. Vann reviewed the vaccination rates in our community and expressed that our goal is to reach a 70% vaccination rate. We are currently at 62% fully vaccinated for the population aged 5 and older. She discussed in detail current booster dose recommendations.

Dr. Vann announced a new mass testing site at the Greensboro Coliseum, with free testing available 7 days a week. She shared that this is a partnership with Cone Health, the City of Greensboro, North Carolina Emergency Management, and the testing vendor MAKO Medical.

Dr. Vann discussed actions taken on the Guilford County Mask Proclamation and spoke to the returning team members.

Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster thanked Dr. Vann for the hard work that she does. She questioned if StarMed was the only public testing site in High Point.

Dr. Vann stated that yes, they were the only public one available.

Vice Chairman Foster questioned the participation from Wake Forest/High Point Regional.

Dr. Vann stated they are sharing their data with us and sharing similar concerns that Cone Health is sharing with us.

Vice Chairman Foster noted we need to include them in our discussions moving forward.

Commissioner Kay Cashion questioned how to pre-register for testing.

Dr. Vann stated that individuals can go to HealthyGuilford.com and she mentioned the various other websites and social media sites that include testing opportunity information.

Commissioner James Upchurch questioned which county municipalities currently have a mask mandate.

Dr. Vann noted that there is no database or state resource that captures this information from counties and municipalities, and we must individually reach out to them regarding their most recent information. She reviewed the surrounding counties and towns that have confirmed that they still have a mask mandate in place.

Commissioner Upchurch asked Dr. Vann to explain how counties and towns with a mask mandate have significantly higher cases per capita.

Dr. Vann stated that Guilford County is trending lower than the other jurisdictions and municipalities. She discussed in detail theories why this could be the case.

Chairman Alston thanked Dr. Vann for her efforts to support the community. He noted that our mission is to take measures to do what is best to protect Guilford County.

Commissioner Justin Conrad questioned a study conducted in Bexar County, Texas. He shared that he would forward to the Board through the Clerk's Office and asked for staff's opinion.

Commissioner Cooke asked Dr. Vann to clarify if boosters were available to those ages 12 and up and if she can speak the county's vaccine outreach.

Dr. Vann stated that we continue to do vaccine outreach and discussed in detail our efforts.

Commissioner Perdue shared that he had several conversations with those in healthcare and the number of persons seeking services through the Emergency Department and utilization of 911. He noted that we need additional messaging on when to go to the ED and not to go, and when to utilize 911 and not to use 911. He noted that those with non-critical needs are placing large burdens on our over-stretched healthcare system.

Dr. Vann noted they have been coordinating with our partners to help get messaging out to divert some of the load on our Emergency Department.

Chairman Alston spoke to the urgency of our healthcare system and that we are making recommendations based upon the advice of our medical communities. He shared that we are elected to take care of our residents.

Sheriff Rogers expressed his thanks for the Board's recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. He noted that the Sheriff's Department serves as the front line. He shared that his teams are also experiencing short-staffing as result of Covid-19. He shared that he is grateful for his team and thanked the Board for recognizing the men and women working in Law Enforcement.

Sharon Barlow, Interim Social Services Division Director, noted that they will be offering a PPE giveaway for foster parents and group homes. She noted that they have been provided donations for these agencies. She provided an update on the Low-Income Energy Program that started in December. They have processed a little over 1600 applications. Barlow also provided an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. She noted that they have more than half of their teams out due to illness creating a backlog in moving those payments. She shared that they are working under the leadership of Assistant County Manager, Victor Isler, on processing the most urgent cases to help prevent evictions.

Chairman Alston questioned if we have been in communication with the City of Greensboro in regard to their rental assistance funding. He noted that we have had recent meetings with the CoC and asked if the City has completed their budget amendment in order to fund those assistance vouchers.

X. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2022-103 APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENT TO VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Consider and approve the following appointments and reappointment to the following boards & commissions:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appoint Rhonda Pass to 1st Term in the Non-Profit Position (Jan 06, 2022 - Feb 1, 2024)

Appoint Erris Dunston to 1st Term in the County Manager Designee Position (Jan 06, 2022 - Feb 1, 2024)

Ready For School Ready For Life - Commissioner Liaison Seat

Designate Commissioner Carly Cooke to remainder of term, replacing Commissioner Upchurch on the Ready for School Ready for Life Community Board

[Legislation Text](#)

[RPass_App_100721_Redacted.pdf](#)

Motion was made by Mary Beth Murphy and seconded by J. Carlvena Foster to approve the following appointments and reappointment to the following boards & commissions:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appoint Rhonda Pass to 1st Term in the Non-Profit Position (Jan 06, 2022 - Feb 1, 2024)

Appoint Erris Dunston to 1st Term in the County Manager Designee Position (Jan 06, 2022 - Feb 1, 2024)

Ready For School Ready For Life - Commissioner Liaison Seat

Designate Commissioner Carly Cooke to remainder of term, replacing Commissioner Upchurch on the Ready for School Ready for Life Community Board

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Mary Beth Murphy, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston

NOES: None

B. 2022-117 EXCEPTION REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Consider and approve the following exception reappointment to the following boards & commissions:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appoint Jenny Caviness to 3rd Term in the City of Greensboro Police Chief Designee Position (Feb 1, 2022 - Jan 31, 2024)

[Legislation Text](#)

[JCaviness_Reapp_110321_Redacted.pdf](#)

Motion was made by Kay Cashion and seconded by Alan Perdue to approve the following exception reappointment to the following boards & commissions:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appoint Jenny Caviness to 3rd Term in the City of Greensboro Police Chief Designee Position (Feb 1, 2022 - Jan 31, 2024)

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Mary Beth Murphy, Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston

NOES: None

XI. COMMISSIONER LIAISON UPDATES

There were no Commissioner Liaison updates.

XII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER / COUNTY ATTORNEY

There were no comments from the County Manager or County Attorney.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairman Foster noted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parade in High Point on Sunday January 16th.

Commissioner Murphy encouraged residents to get their Covid-19 vaccine and stated the one pathway forward is to increase immunity in our community.

Commissioner Cooke wished everyone a happy new year and thanked county staff for their hard work and efforts.

Commissioner Cashion recognized a local centenarian, Shirley Fields of Greensboro, on the celebration of her birthday.

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

By general consensus the Board agreed to hold closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 for the purpose of consulting with the county attorney.

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

The Board entered into closed session at 7:01PM.

The Board reconvened from closed session into open session at 7:26PM.

XV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:27PM.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board