

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
June 25, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed special meeting on June 25, 2026 at 4:00 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 Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy (via virtual communication), Carly Cooke (via virtual communication), Kay Cashion, 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 (via virtual communication); Attorney Matthew Mason; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Deputy Clerk to Board T'ebony Rosa; members of staff, media, and the public. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media partners.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and called the special meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

Chairman Alston stated that before we consider the primary Budget Ordinance Adoption vote, I want to share that North Carolina General Statute, Section 14-234.3 prohibits public officials who also serve as directors, officers, or governing board members for non-profits from participating in making or administering any contracts with those non-profits.

Chairman Alston stated that when a Governing Board considers a contract with a non-profit, including any award of money, commissioners involved with that non-profit must recuse themselves from any deliberation and record their recusal with the clerk.

Chairman Alston stated that the recusal vote will excuse each recusing Commissioner from deliberation and voting on appropriations and expenditures for non-profits with which the public official is a director, officer, or governing board member, as outlined in Exhibit C of the budget Ordinance.

Chairman Alston stated that for contracts that fall within the proposed Budget Ordinance Adoption vote, I would like to call for a recusal vote for myself and for Vice Chairwoman Foster:

- For Myself: for any funding consideration for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, and funding considerations for the Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce.
- For Vice Chairwoman Foster: for any funding consideration for Forward High Point and the High Point Market Authority.

Chairman Alston opened the floor to entertain a motion, noting that all members may vote on this motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to adopt the recusal votes for Chairman Alston and Vice Chairwoman Foster pursuant to NCGS 14-234.3 as identified in Exhibit C.

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026-307 ADOPTION OF FY 2026-27 BUDGET AND BUDGET ORDINANCE

Adopt FY 2026-27 budget and budget ordinance.

[Legislation Text](#)

Chairman Alston stated that I would like to entertain a motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance, excluding Exhibit C items to be considered under separate votes.

Vice Chairwoman Foster read the following motion into the record:

Since the presentation of the recommended budget on May 7 and the public hearing on June 4, **Senate Bill 889 was enacted into law**, placing a moratorium on Guilford County's state-mandated reappraisal. Accordingly, revisions to the budget were made to comply with the requirements of the new law while maintaining compliance with North Carolina General Statute 159.

*I move to **Adopt** the Fiscal Year 2027 Guilford County Budget, along with related Budget and Capital Project Ordinances, as amended to incorporate final Board changes and related items, including:*

- *All related provisions as included in the County Manager's recommended budget and revisions to the recommended budget to comply with SB 889 outlined in **Exhibit A**.*
- *The following Board of Commissioners adjustments and revenue changes as outlined below and in **Exhibit B**.*

- *Approve the allocation of \$1,780,000 for Community Based Organizations for consideration and selection in a future 2026 Board of Commissioner's meeting.*
- *Consider funding awards in the General Fund for Community Based Organizations included in the County's base operating budget under **Exhibit C** under a separate vote to allow recusals pursuant to North Carolina General Statute, Section 14-234.3 and other applicable laws or policies.*
- *The Fiscal Year 2027 Guilford County Budget Ordinance (**Exhibit D**).*
- *The following Project Ordinances:*
 - *FY2027 ERP Optimization*
 - *FY2027 Emergency Services Vehicle Replacement*
 - *FY2027 Fleet Vehicle Replacement*
 - *FY2027 Law Enforcement Vehicle Replacement*
 - *FY2027 Workstation, Network Switches and Server Replacements*
 - *LE Body-worn Camera Lease Purchase*
 - *Law Enforcement Facilities and Renovations*
 - *Park Facilities and Renovations*
 - *County Elevator Replacement*
 - *Greensboro Courthouse Renovations*
 - *County Facilities and Renovations*
 - *Women and Children's Residential Recovery Center*
 - *GTCC Aviation Building II*
 - *GTCC High Point Health Sciences Building*
 - *GTCC High Point Skills Trade Center*
 - *GTCC Center for Advanced Manufacturing Renovation*
 - *GTCC BioProcess Manufacturing Renovation*
 - *FY27 GTCC Capital Outlay*
- *The following Grant Ordinances:*
 - *FY26-28 GCC FJC Enhanced Coordination Grant (Amend)*
 - *FY27 DWI Taskforce Grant*
 - *FY27 GCC VAWA/FJC Grant*
 - *FY27-28 FJC GSO Navigator Grant*
- *Set the general Guilford County tax rate for FY2027 at 78.95 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation*
- *Set the FY2027 Fire Special District, Fire Protection District, and Fire Service District Overlay tax rates at the rates included in the attached Guilford County Budget Ordinances.*
- *Adopt a resolution to direct the expenditure of opioid settlement funds, authorizing \$164,406 in expenditures for Opioid Community Engagement & Taskforce Coordinator, \$100,000 in expenditures for Naloxone Distribution, \$615,000 for Medication Assisted Treatment at the Rev. Prince Edward Graves Residential Recovery Center, \$557,470 for Long-term group living recovery beds at Gibson Park, \$636,000 for GCSTOP Post Overdose and Response Team and OUD Clinic, \$306,411 for EMS MAT Induction Program, \$301,547 for Community Outreach and Education, \$91,000 for Syringe Service Program, \$100,000 for NC Survivor's Union Harm Reduction Clinic, and \$25,000 for GCSTOP Post overdose response team transportation. (**Exhibit E**)*

- *Approve the cancelation of the ARPA contract for the Summerfield Water Infrastructure project and allocate the unspent funding to the County Operating Expenses project, as a substitute project, as defined by the previous reporting to the US Treasury.*
- *Approve Fiscal Year 2026 year-end budget transfers and amendments included in **Exhibit F**.*
- *Adopt a resolution designating certain general funds available in FY2026 as committed fund balance for School Capital Funding and Future Debt Service totaling \$47,273,000 (**Exhibit G**).*
- *Adopt a resolution to formalize a name change to the Health and Human Services Agency and authorize staff to take all necessary action to update the name where it appears (**Exhibit H**).*

(SEE ATTACHED EXHIBITS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE MINUTES)

Commissioner Gray-Hill recognized the county staff for their work this season. He recognized his fellow Board of Commissioners for their efforts throughout the year. He noted that this year's process is unprecedented based on unfunded mandates from the federal government and lack of adequate funding from the NC General Assembly.

Commissioner Cashion noted that while this budget is not what she would have liked to have seen, this is the hand that has been dealt to the County. She thanked staff for all their hard work and rapid pivot to adjust to the General Assembly.

Commissioner Perdue recognized county staff for their work in developing multiple budgets and multiple options. He noted that based on the tax increase, he will not be supporting the budget. He recognized that there are vital items included in this budget that he does support, such as public safety, our behavioral health programs, and school safety funding. He spoke to the pressures he heard from his community. He noted that Senate Bill 889 did not preclude the county from raising taxes, but noted the increases during revaluations.

Commissioner Murphy echoed her thanks to the County Manager and his team. She noted that budgets are tricky as they never make everyone happy. She shared her pride in the budget because it is based on compromise. She noted that in these unprecedented times, we are striking a balance between fiscal responsibility, while investing in our schools and community. She stated that the Board of Commissioners are not the villain. She expressed concern regarding the power of the NC General Assembly to strip power from local governments. She highlighted significant fiscal hardships experienced by GCS, while the corporate tax rate fell to 0%.

Commissioner Cooke noted that no budget process is easy - this year was made especially difficult. She noted that we are required to pass a balanced budget and recognized the compromises that were made. She thanked the County Manager and Superintendent Dr. Whitney Oakley for their work to establish a multi-year budget.

Commissioner Tillman shared that a budget tells us what we cannot afford, but it does not keep us from buying it anyway through planning and prioritization. He echoed frustrations in planning for this year's budget because of the rapid changes. He noted that he would not be supporting this budget but recognized that it does contain many items that he does support. He noted that he believes that what came down from the General Assembly was to improve transparency but expressed frustration as to the timing that it took for the General Assembly to do so.

Commissioner Jones shared his appreciation of the words given by his colleagues. He noted that this year particularly stings as we saw what the work of collaboration could have been at a 61-cent rate. He noted that the rug was pulled up under the County at the last minute. He emphasized that we were left with several frustrations resulting from cuts from the federal government and unfunded mandates, and others wanted additional support.

Commissioner Jones highlighted that the Board considered what they absolutely must accomplish and how to do it. He stated that it is misleading when our median tax value is \$171K, but we are compared to counties that have median tax values twice as high as ours, which also have higher sales tax rates and food tax rates that this county has rejected many times.

Commissioner Jones stated that this Commission was caught between a rock and a hard place. He shared that since fiscal year 2021, the funding for education has increased by nearly \$80M. He noted that we have shown consistent support for our education and the ongoing failure of alternative revenue streams. He emphasized that we have balanced where we say our priorities are and reduced reliance on fund balance. He stated that if Raleigh wants to have a serious conversation as to how to help a fluctuating cap for circuit breaker and tax relief.

Vice Chairwoman Foster noted that the property revaluation would have been able to better support our community but recognized that we do not have those options this year.

Chairman Alston shared that he was proud of the remarks of his colleagues and hoped that the community heard those words and took to heart the concerns. He recognized the County Manager and the County staff who did all this hard work.

Motion was made by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, to adopt the FY 2026-27 budget and budget ordinance excluding Item C.

VOTE:	Motion carried 7 - 2
AYES:	Melvin "Skip" Alston, Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, J. Carlvena Foster, Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
NOES:	Pat Tillman, Alan Perdue

Chairman Alston relinquished the presiding officer position to Vice Chairwoman Foster to continue the Special Meeting.

Vice Chairwoman Foster thanked the Chairman and stated that, with the recusals on record, a separate consideration vote from the adoption of the budget ordinance is needed to appropriate

and administer a contract through our Coordinated Services Department for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in the amount of \$200,000 in accordance with the existing contract agreement. (This vote would exclude Chairman Alston.)

County Manager Victor Isler issued a friendly amendment to replace “Coordinated Services Department” with “Budget Department”.

Commissioner Jones accepted the friendly amendment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to appropriate and administer a contract through our Budget Department for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in the amount of \$200,000 in accordance with the existing contract agreement.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 - 2
AYES: Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, J. Carlvena Foster, Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
NOES: Pat Tillman, Alan Perdue
RECUSE: Melvin “Skip” Alston

Vice Chairwoman Foster opened the floor to entertain a separate consideration vote from the adoption of the budget ordinance to an appropriate \$200,000 to the Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce for business and economic Development support. (This vote would exclude Chairman Alston.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Gray-Hill, to appropriate \$200,000 to the Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce for business and economic Development support.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 - 2
AYES: Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, J. Carlvena Foster, Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
NOES: Pat Tillman, Alan Perdue
RECUSE: Melvin “Skip” Alston

Vice Chairwoman returned the presiding chair position to Chairman Alston.

Chairman Alston stated that, completing the separate consideration votes under Exhibit C, I will entertain a separate consideration vote from the adoption of the budget ordinance to appropriate \$65,000 to Forward High Point for business and economic Development support. (This vote would exclude Vice Chairwoman Foster.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Gray-Hill to appropriate \$65,000 to Forward High Point for business and economic Development support.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 - 2
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
NOES: Pat Tillman, Alan Perdue
RECUSE: J. Carlvena Foster

Chairman Alston stated that I will entertain a separate consideration vote from the adoption of the budget ordinance to appropriate \$125,000 to the High Point Market Authority for business and economic development support. (This vote will exclude Vice Chairwoman Foster.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., to appropriate \$125,000 to the High Point Market Authority for business and economic development support.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 - 2
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
NOES: Pat Tillman, Alan Perdue
RECUSE: J. Carlvena Foster

III. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER / COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

IV. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

There were no additional comments from the County Commissioners.

V. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (1, 3 & 6)

Motion was made by Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., to hold a closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (1, 3 & 6).

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

The Board recessed the special meeting and entered into closed session at 4:55 p.m.

The Board reconvened from closed into open session at 7:22 p.m.

VI. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., to adjourn the special 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

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk