



Wake County

301 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, June 1, 2020

5:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Regular Meeting - Budget Public Hearing - Meeting Held Remotely

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Greg Ford

Present: 7 - Chairman Greg Ford, Vice-Chair Vickie Adamson, Commissioner Matt Calabria, Commissioner Susan Evans, Commissioner Jessica Holmes, Commissioner Sig Hutchinson, and Commissioner James West

Others Present: David Ellis, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager

Chairman Ford opened the meeting with the following statement: "Good evening, and welcome to the Wake County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting for Monday, June 1st, 2020. Today marks the beginning of the 4th month of the Coronavirus pandemic, and as we have for the past few months, we are joining you remotely from our homes and offices to maintain social distancing guidelines. Today I am joining you from the Wake County Justice Center in downtown Raleigh, one of four Wake County buildings that were damaged over the past two days when peaceful protests turned into violent and destructive behavior by a small group of individuals.

As a result, the Wake County Courthouse, Wake County Justice Center, Wake County Office Building and the Wake County Public Safety Center each sustained enough damage to create safety and security concerns. As a result the county manager closed these buildings to protect the lives of staff and the properties themselves in this period of civil unrest following, most recently, the horrific murder of George Floyd by a law enforcement officer, one of a long line of many such heinous acts.

More protests are planned for this evening here in Raleigh, and so in

solidarity with the Wake County staff members who must be here to facilitate and stream this meeting, County Manager Ellis and I will remain in the Justice Center until the business of this meeting is concluded and we can ensure the safe passage home of all of our employees.

Now, I won't begin to try to explain the systemic causes of these recent events, their roots and implications. I know my perspective and life experiences don't qualify me to be entirely objective about a reality that I've never had to know. But, I do know that the heavy burden of work that we all inherited from previous generations must continue. We are here to do our part, hopefully significant part, to right the wrongs of our society and our history.

And so I'll say again what I've said before: While the Wake County Board of Commissioners will always advocate for peaceful demonstration to ensure that all voices are heard, violence and destruction is never acceptable, and they only diminish the power of a positive message in a quest for change."

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ford lead the pledge.

Invocation: Vice Chair Vickie Adamson / Commissioner James West

Vice Chair Adamson asked for a moment of silence for George Floyd. She said his name four times for the record. She opened her comments with the following statement: She asked the board to join her in a moment of silence and private reflection.

"I wanted the first words of this meeting to be the name George Floyd. We should never forget his name. It is now in our permanent record 4 times.

I have been reflecting on this scripture:

1 King 19:11-13

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12** After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. **13** When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

God is not in the fire, nor the earthquake, but in the still small voice. These events of the last few days rattle us and we search for meaning but God remains in our conscience and holy conversations leading us to meaningful

change. The movement has deep meaning and the violence cannot distract us from the message.

Gerald Givens, Jr., President of the NAACP Raleigh-Apex Branch, wrote this weekend:

"...we must keep our focus on the injustices that people of color live with every day: lack of access to quality health care and education, a justice system stacked against us, and a lack of economic opportunities. . . . We must create systems that no longer place one class or race above another."

I have the honor of serving with Dr. James West and calling him mentor. Dr. West marched with Dr. King. He has been in the movement for over 50 years. He and I work together on the Wake County Human Services board to bring about the changes President Givens refers to in his letter. Only when we work together can we begin to eliminate systemic racism and build bridges toward equity. Dr. West and I grew up in very different worlds, literally on separate sides of the track, but only we with join together for the common good can we create lasting change."

It is appropriate for Dr. West to open this meeting with the invocation.

Commissioner West shared the invocation. He said that this is a time of reflection. He said that he attended the early part of the protest. He said that this is the time to pray to the higher being.

Chairman Ford thanked both of the commissioners for their comments and the invocation.

Commissioner Holmes said that we should be careful in what we condemn. She said that violence has been part of our history in taking of land from Native Americans, slavery, the civil war and sometimes it takes violence to make change. She asked the protesters to have an agenda and to know what they are fighting for. She encouraged the protesters to vote. She said if you are more outraged about property than lives, this is a problem.

Items of Business

1. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, to approve the agenda, The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2020, the Public Hearing of May 19, 2020, and the Work Session of April 30, 2020

Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Evans, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2020, the Public Hearing of May 19, 2020, and the Work Session of April 30, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Adamson, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and Wake County for Participation in the Volunteer Workforce Solutions Technical Assistance Program

Attachments: [2020 VWS Agenda Item.docx](#)
[MOU Wake County 2020.docx](#)
[Volunteer Workforce Solutions Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Adamson, that the Board of Commissioners:

1. Accept the 2020 Volunteer Workforce Solutions Technical Assistance grant; and

2. Authorize the Chair and Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and Wake County for participation in the Volunteer Workforce Solutions Technical Assistance program subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of a Multi-Year Agreement with Advanced Imaging Systems, Inc. for Imaging, Document Management, and Storage of Carry and Concealed Weapon Permit Files in the Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO)

Attachments: [WCSO - AIS BOC Agenda Item Summary.docx](#)
[AISct.pdf](#)
[AISatta.pdf](#)
[AISattb.pdf](#)
[AISattc.pdf](#)

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Adamson, that

the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to execute a multi-year agreement with Advanced Imaging Systems, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Waiver of Building Permit Fees for Operation Coming Home Project Sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Raleigh-Wake County

Attachments: [Item Summary.docx](#)

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Adamson, that the Board of Commissioners authorize waiving the building permit fees totaling an estimated \$711 for the Operation Coming Home project sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Raleigh-Wake County. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Tax Committee Recommendations for Value Adjustments, Penalty Waivers, Tax Relief Applications, Refund Requests and Various Reports

Attachments: [Tax Collections Item Summary.docx](#)
[Tax Committee Agenda Process.docx](#)
[Executive Summary 1.doc](#)
[Executive Summary 2.doc](#)
[June 2020 Refunds Under 500.pdf](#)
[Daily Updates For Exemptions.pdf](#)
[Daily Updates For Penalties.pdf](#)
[Daily Updates For Tax Relief.pdf](#)
[Daily Updates For Tax Deferments.pdf](#)
[Municipal Collection Report](#)
[Wake County Collection Report](#)
[Monthly In-Rem Foreclosure Report](#)
[PFB Summary Report.pdf](#)

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Adamson, that the Board of Commissioners approve the attached recommendations by the Tax Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

7. General Public Comments

Attachments: [06012020GeneralComments.pdf](#)

Ms. Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board, summarized the general public comments from citizens. She said the full version of comments will be included in the minutes and provided to the Board of Commissioners.

She said that there were 13 general comments. She shared the list as

follows:

- Request for support of the NC Pre-K Program
- Request for denial of the mining permit for the quarry
- Preserve the history of the Odd Fellows tract
- Balance the county budget by eliminating non-essential spending
- Request to fund the Rapid Responder Program
- Request for the resignation of elected officials
- Use alternate funding for Marbles Kids Museum, East Wake Education Foundation, Communities and Schools, the NC Symphony, and United Arts Council
- Call in - opposes changes in EMS Services
- Call in - Supports the County Manager's budget - schools need to hold the line
- E-mail - Opposes the Cary EMS merger
- E-mail - Opposes the Cary EMS merger

The full versions of the comments are attached to this item

That the Board of Commissioners receives public comments from the general public. Comments will be summarized during the meeting by the Clerk and provided in full as part of the meeting minutes.

Regular Agenda

8. Public Hearing on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Attachments: [Budget Public Hearing Item Summary 6-1-20.docx](#)
[6-1-20 Budget Hearing Public Comments.pdf](#)

Ms. Hogan summarized the budget comments. She reported there were a total of 967 comments to date.

- Opposition to the merger of Wake County EMS/Cary EMS/Eastern Wake EMS
- Requests to support increased funding for the WCPSS budget
- Requests for funding for the Wake County Libraries
- Requests for the Wake County tax rate to be set to maintain levels of service in all areas of the county
- Requests to support the merger of contract agencies. It is currently a duplication of services, cost to the county, and provides no benefit to the county
- Opposition the funding of sports stadiums
- Requests to support the funding of sports and entertainment

organizations

- Requests to support funding for Interact
- Requests for the board to consider raising pet license fees and reduce the number of voting sites
- Requests to reopen Marbles
- Requests to support non-profit funding
- Requests not to fund Marbles
- Requests to support a community EMS
- Suggestion to allow telecommuting in the county
- Requests to support Pre-K funding
- Requests to support Alliance Medical Ministry
- Requests for funding for funding of the NC Symphony
- Requests to support the funding of United Arts in Wake County
- Requests to support funding for Marbles Kids Museum

The full version of comments are attached to this item

Ms. Hogan shared the following questions from citizens:

How are there open positions on the Wake County Website if there is a hiring freeze?

Will there be furloughs and pay cuts for employees?

How will Bike Medic be affected by the merger?

Chairman Ford shared the next steps: budget process for the public. He asked County Manager Ellis to provide a response to the citizen questions.

Vice-Chair Adamson said that today is a national day of mourning for COVID-19.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Evans, that the Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments

9. Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

Attachments: [Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Item Summary.docx](#)
[Domestic Violence Fatality Mbr List.doc](#)
[Domestic Violence Fatality Applicants 2020.pdf](#)
[DV Applicant Roster.csv](#)
[DV Board Choices.csv](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Mr. Barry Bryant, Ms. Beth Johnson, Ms. Darlene Johnson, and Ms. Mary Morris for reappointment.

10. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control

Attachments: [Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Item Summary.doc](#)
[Industrial Facilities Mbr List.doc](#)
[Industrial Facilities Applicants.pdf](#)
[Industrial Facilities and Pollution Applicants Roster.csv](#)
[Industrial Facilities Bd Choices.csv](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Mr. David Schafer for reappointment. She said the other vacancy will be filled at a future meeting.

11. Library Commission

Attachments: [Library Commission Item Summary.docx](#)
[Library Commission Mbr List.doc](#)
[Library Commission Applicants.pdf](#)
[Library Commisiion App Roster.csv](#)
[Library Commission Bd Choices.csv](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Ms. Lynn Edmonds (At-Large), Mr. Abraham Jones (At-Large), Ms. Alexandra Lindahl (District 2), and Ms. Teresa Marcellin -Little (District 1) for reappointment.

12. Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

Attachments: [Open Space Item Summary.docx](#)
[OSAPAC Member List.doc](#)
[OSAPAC Applicants.pdf](#)
[OSAPAC Applicant Roster.csv](#)
[OSAPAC Bd Choices.csv](#)
[OSAPAC Attendance.xlsx](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Ms. Mallory Martin (District 7), Mr. Mark Schwegel (District 3), H. C. Woody Woodward (District 6), and Ms. Robin Hammond (Soil and Water representative).

13. Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees

Attachments: [Wake Tech Item Summary.docx](#)
[Wake Tech Member List.doc](#)
[Wake Tech Applicants.pdf](#)
[Wake Tech App Roster.csv](#)
[Wake Tech Bd Choices.csv](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Mr. Walter Davenport and Mr. Juan Luis Torres for appointment.

Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to accept the appointments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Upcoming Vacancies for July

Attachments: [Upcoming Vacancies for July 2020 List.docx](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson shared the upcoming vacancies for July 2020.

Other Business

County Manager Ellis shared the challenge that he has with the County Manager of Mecklenburg County, Dena R. Diorio, to top them with number of citizens who complete the Census survey. A signed Hurricanes jersey is on the line.

Chairman Ford thanked the manager for the information and thanked Mecklenburg County for the challenge.

Commissioner Calabria comended staff for being selected for the Technical Assistance Program on the consent agenda (#3) just passed by the board. He said that there are 4 percent of women firefighters and not just in Wake County.

Commissioner West spoke about the small business grant program. He said that he has followed up with Mr. Chris Dillon, Assistant County Manager, and said that citizens are not aware of the grant. He said that he has met with many pastors and that they are interested in the transition of healing in the community. He said that he saw a sea of young people interested in making the city better. He spoke about the collaboration with the City of Raleigh and shared the collaborative partners. He spoke about a program that Shaw University is doing and that a partnership with Shaw would be a great relationship.

Commissioner Holmes acknowledged that after the first protest, she adhered to the call to help volunteer with clean up downtown streets. She said that it was a great collaborative. She said that her message was:

"Love is greater than hate!"

Chairman Ford said that several of the commissioners shared in the cleanup. He thanked Vice-Chair Adamson and Commissioner Hutchinson for their support on the cleanup.

Managers' Report:

Manager Ellis shared that "I am George Floyd."

Closed Session

County Attorney Scott Warren said there was no need for a closed session.

Commissioner West said that the movie "I Spartacus" sends a great message of standing together as it relates to race relations. He said that the manager's statement was powerful and he appreciated County Manager Ellis for his comments.

Chairman Ford announced that the board will be reconvening the meeting tomorrow on June 2, 2020 in order to allow for public comment to be considered.

Recess – Pursuant to Section G.S. §166A-19.24, this meeting will reconvene at 5:00p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, to complete the public hearing process for Item 7, the Public Hearing on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Gilyard, NCCCC
Deputy Clerk to the Board
Wake County Board of Commissioners