



# Wake County

301 South McDowell Street  
Raleigh, NC

## Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

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Monday, October 5, 2020

5:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

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### Regular Meeting - Meeting Held Remotely

#### Meeting Called to Order: Chairman Greg Ford

Chairman Ford called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

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

Staff Present: David Ellis, County Manager, Scott Warren, County Attorney, Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk, Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager, Chris Dillon, Assistant County Manager, Ashley Cagle, Assistant Executive Director of Wake County Economic Development and Michael Haley, Executive Director of Wake County Economic Development

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Invocation: Vice-Chair Vickie Adamson

Vice-Chair Adamson offered the invocation. She shared thoughts on the pandemic.

#### Items of Business

1. Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner Calabria, to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of August 17, 2020 and September 8, 2020

**Commissioner Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Evans, to**

**approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of August 17, 2020 and September 8, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Accept and Appropriate One-Time CARES Act Grant Funds from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Human Services GoWake Access

Attachments:    [BOC - NCDOT CARES Oct 2020 PM.docx](#)  
                          [NC DOT Care Funding 1.pdf](#)  
                          [Budget Memo - FY 2021 Human Services Transportation Fund.pdf](#)

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, that the Board of Commissioners accept and appropriate an additional \$283,306 of revenues and expenditures into the Human Services Transportation Fund from the NC Department of Transportation to continue operating services in rural communities. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Accept and Appropriate Grant Funding from the National League of Cities Local Democracy Initiative

Attachments:    [Item Summary](#)  
                          [Grant Agreement.pdf](#)  
                          [Budget Memo - FY 2021 Grants and Donations Fund.pdf](#)

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, that the Board of Commissioners accept and appropriate into the Grants and Donations Fund a \$10,000 one-time grant award from the National League of Cities Local Democracy Initiative. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Acceptance and Appropriation of Grant Funds to Support the November 2020 General Election

Attachments:    [Agenda Item - Elections Grant 10.05.2020.docx](#)  
                          [CTCL DRAFT Wake County NC Grant Agreement.pdf](#)  
                          [Budget Memo - FY 2021 Grants and Donations Fund.pdf](#)

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

- 1. Accept and appropriate an additional allocation of \$1,000,000 of**

revenues and expenditures into the Grants and Donation Fund from the Center for Tech and Civic Life to prepare for and respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for 2020 elections related matters; and

**2. Authorize the county manager to execute a grant agreement with the Center for Tech and Civic Life, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.** Agreement for Wake County's Operational Support of Receipt of the Strategic National Stockpile

**Attachments:**    [SNS Agenda Item.docx](#)  
                          [SNS contract.pdf](#)

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the county manager to sign the multi-year Contract between Wake County and North Carolina Public Health in support of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) operations. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.** Approval of 6th Amendment to the Tri-Party Agreement Regarding PNC Arena

**Attachments:**    [6th Amendment Centennial Authority Item Summary.docx](#)  
                          [Sixth Amendment for Approval.docx](#)  
                          [PNC 6th Amendment Work Session Presentation.pdf](#)  
                          [Centennial Authority-PNC Arena Financial Plan.pdf](#)

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, that the Board of Commissioners approve the 6th Amendment to the Tri-Party Agreement with Centennial Authority and the City of Raleigh regarding PNC Arena, subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the county attorney. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.** Proclamations for October 5, 2020

**Attachments:**    [Proclamations for October 5 2020.docx](#)  
                          [Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation 10-05-2020.docx](#)

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, that the Board of Commissioners adopt proclamations requested by Commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.** 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](#)  
                          [October 2020 Refunds Under 500.pdf](#)  
                          [October 2020 Refunds Over 500.pdf](#)  
                          [Daily Updates For Exemptions.pdf](#)  
                          [Daily Updates For Penalties.pdf](#)  
                          [Daily Updates For Tax Deferments.pdf](#)  
                          [Municipal Report August 2020.pdf](#)  
                          [Collection Report August 2020.pdf](#)  
                          [InRem Report.doc](#)  
                          [PFB Summary Report 1.pdf](#)  
                          [PFB Summary Report 2.pdf](#)  
                          [Register of Deeds Excise Tax Report.pdf](#)

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

## **Public Comments**

Ms. Gilyard shared that there were no public comments.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **Manager's Report**

#### **10.     Special Recognition for Emergency Operations Center Staff**

**Attachments:**    [Special Recognition EOC item summary.docx](#)

Manager David Ellis shared a special recognition for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff. His comments follow.

- It's my pleasure to be here tonight to update you on our ongoing response to COVID-19.
- We've reached a major milestone in our efforts to combat the pandemic, and I've come before you tonight to celebrate and honor all the amazing Wake County employees who helped us get to this point.

**An Historic Milestone**

- Last Wednesday marked Day 204 in the Emergency Operations Center.
- 204 days.
- That's 7 months of hard work and dedication to a single effort keeping our community safe from a virus that's already taken more than 250 lives in our county alone.
- It's also the longest emergency activation in Wake County history.
- Typically, our E-O-C stints number a week or two at most.
- Our COVID-19 response has been dramatically different in comparison.

**Transitioning to a Public Health Event**

- After 204 days, I can say with confidence that this operation runs like a well-oiled machine.
- We know how to investigate positive cases, conduct contact tracing and provide testing for those who think they may have been exposed to the virus.
- That's why - last week - we transitioned our response from an "emergency" operation, because unfortunately, we'll be dealing with COVID-19 for some time, and we must incorporate it as a function of "normal, continuing operations."
- Let me be clear - this in no way means we're giving less effort to the fight against COVID-19.
- It remains the county's top priority, and we are not taking our foot off the gas in our push to protect the community.
- COVID-19 is still a public health emergency, and we take management of that very seriously.
- But, now that we have the processes and procedures established and working well, we no longer need the oversight that the EOC structure provides.
- And, just like the other programs and services, we now turn the management of direct COVID-19 operations over to our Public

Health Division, since this is - at its core - a public health issue.

- I have complete confidence in our Public Health team to continue leading us in the right direction to combat COVID-19 while we wait for a vaccine.
- But they will not be alone.
- Many departments, along with the County Manager's Office, have signed a formal agreement to support the COVID-19 Operations Unit until its work is no longer needed... and we all hope that will be soon.
- Additionally, in our response to COVID-19, we created many programs over the past 204 days that have become part of our on-going services.
- They include: House Wake!, WakeHELPS, food security efforts, job training programs and more.
- Our departments have stood up these much-needed services and will continue to operate them in our community.

### **Recognizing the EOC Staff**

- I would be remiss if I didn't take a few minutes to talk about the incredible employees who helped us get to this important point.
- My original plan had been to have their names scroll - you know, like at the start of a Star Wars movie - while I talked about them.
- But, honestly, there are so many names to highlight that I would've had to talk for a LONG TIME to get through them all, and we figured you probably didn't want that!
- All joking aside, I do think that is telling.
- Hundreds of members of our workforce dedicated time to the E-O-C from March to September.
- Never before have we had to call on that many people to help out in an emergency.

- For the first few months of this operation, they worked 12-hour shifts.
- From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., they plugged away, developing workflows and establishing plans around a constantly evolving virus.
- That meant long hours away from their families - at a time when children were jumping headfirst into virtual school and other family members were adjusting to months of staying “safer at home.”
- I know this was hard on our staff, and there are no words for me to say how much I appreciate the sacrifices they made at home to serve their community during this challenging time.

### **Departmental Acknowledgments**

- I want the board to know that every department played a role in making the EOC successful.
- They all contributed staff to the effort.
- At one point, I'm sure we had most of the Human Services, EMS and Fire Services leadership teams manning critical positions within the EOC.
- Without their support, we could not have established the framework early on for the processes that are now running smoothly today.
- Community Services offered up more than 100 librarians without hesitation to serve as contact tracers.
- With their established customer service skills, they were the perfect fit to trace possible exposure from positive cases to potential contacts.
- G-S-A and Information Services worked around the clock to make sure we had the tools, space and access we needed to be productive during those long hours.
- Our Communications office sent more than 160 news releases, answered hundreds of media calls, and launched important campaigns to help those impacted financially by COVID-19, including programs that you all heartily endorsed, such as Wake Forward, House Wake! and WakeHELPS.
- As you can see, this has been a total team effort.

- And, every team needs leaders.
- I'd like to recognize several of them now, so I can specifically thank them for their dedication to this response effort.
- For the first 2 people on the list our Human Services Director Regina Petteway and our Fire Services Director Nick Campasano the event lasted so long they retired before Day 204!
- But, I still want to acknowledge them, because they were instrumental in providing leadership to our COVID-19 efforts until their respective retirements in June and August.
- To continue my list, I will start with our doctors who have led the way since Day 1:

Doctors...

- Kim McDonald
- Jose Cabanas
- And, Nicole Mushonga
- I'd also like to recognize our Emergency Management Leadership:
  - Josh Creighton
  - Darrell Alford
  - And, Darshan Patel
- And our Public Health Leadership:
  - Chris Kippes
  - Eugene Chalwe
  - Paige Bennett
  - And, Lechelle Wardell
- And, finally, I could not have done this without my team of Chiefs:
  - Bill Greeves
  - Derwick Paige
  - Emily Lucas
  - And, Johnna Rogers
- Each of them coordinated significant efforts throughout the 204 days, and their work hasn't slowed down, as many of these programs are now continuing as part of our new normal operations.
- I want to thank them for their leadership and hard work over late



nights, early mornings and weekends over the past 204 days.

### **Challenge Coins**

- It's important to me to show our staff - with more than words - that we appreciate them and are so grateful for their dedication to the COVID-19 EOC response effort.
- That's why we designed these.
- It's a challenge coin.
- On one side, it says "Wake County Government. Presented by Wake County Manager David Ellis."
- On the other side, it says: "For dedicated and extraordinary service to the people of Wake County," and it has a picture of the virus in the center with the words "COVID-19 Pandemic 2020."
- We'll give one of these specially-made coins to every person who supported the EOC in its COVID-19 response.
- While we wish we could hand them out in the board chambers and let each person come by and shake your hand, we know that's not safe right now.
- So, unfortunately, they'll be distributed remotely. However, each one will come with a video message of appreciation from me.
- As always, Wake County finds new ways to do what's good and what's right in these unprecedented times.

### **Conclusion**

- Our employees are what make Wake County Government great.
- I hope if there's one thing you take away from my comments today, it's this - our team is incredible, and we would not be as well-positioned as we are right now without their diligence, dedication and desire to serve our residents.
- Nothing about the past 7 months has been easy.

But, we've achieved success because of our employees.

He shared the Challenge coin that will be given to all of the volunteers that worked in the EOC.

Chairman Ford shared that Manager Ellis' leadership has been leadership in action. He shared that Manager Ellis had already put things in perspective and lead the model example of how organizations should function. He shared that he is proud of Mr. Ellis' leadership. He said that from the beginning of this crisis Manager Ellis had already put things in place to address all the needs. He said that he has not heard a single complaint from staff. He shared that this is trademark leadership and said that he will continue to support Mr. Ellis' leadership.

Commissioner Hutchinson shared that he is pleased that Mr. Ellis is the Manager and proud that he is a part of the team. He shared that he is proud of all of the staff and their time and efforts. He shared thoughts about the operations of the EOC and the staff that shared their time and families to make our citizens, happy, healthy and safe. He shared that today is a celebration of all of the employees for their dedication to Wake County.

Commissioner Evans thanked Manager Ellis and all of the staff that participated in the EOC. She shared how citizens would be impacted during the virus. She shared thoughts on housing and other programs that have taken place during the pandemic. She thanked Manager Ellis for his leadership.

Commissioner Holmes shared that Manager Ellis began the meeting singing and she is glad to have Mr. Ellis' voice. She shared that Manager Ellis leads with humbleness and integrity. She thanked the staff and the leadership team.

Commissioner West shared a quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes, "what lies behind us and what lies before us are time matters compared to what lies within us." He shared that a character of a person comes out strong during challenges and difficulties. He shared that he is thankful and full of pride and thanked the Manager and the staff for their hard work during the pandemic. He shared that he hopes that the entire team can continue to work from the heart.

Commissioner Calabria shared that we don't spend enough time thanking people that dedicate their lives and careers keeping us healthy and safe. He congratulated Manager Ellis and all of the people who stepped up and answered the call. He shared that Wake County has has an opportunity to affect individual lives and how lives have been changed. He shared that the numbers are substantially greater than other counties and he is proud of Wake County.

Vice-Chair Adamson shared her thoughts on the EOC. She shared that lives were saved, prevented people from being ill, and that people have been protected. She said most people have no idea how much work and effort it takes to operate at this level.

Manager Ellis thanked Scott Warren and the attorney's office for all of their behind the scenes. He also thanked Gary Sims, Election Director and the Sheriff's office for their work on the ground and support.

Chairman Ford shared that the least that the board could do is share their thanks and gratitude.

## Appointments

### 11. Fire Commission

**Attachments:**    [Fire Comm. Item Summary.doc](#)  
                          [Fire Comm. Member List.doc](#)  
                          [Fire Comm. Roster.csv](#)  
                          [Fire Comm. Applicant Packet.pdf](#)  
                          [Fire Comm. Board Choices.csv](#)  
                          [Fire Comm. 2020 Attendance Sheet.xls](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson shared the Fire Commission appointment and reappointments.

Appointment:

Mr. David Sasser - Alternate, West Region

Reappointments:

Mr. Robert Overton - Citizen/Consumer

Mr. Christopher Perry - Alternate, East Region

Mr. Robert Stagg - Citizen/Consumer

Mr. Alton Staples - Primary, East Region

Chief Keith McGee - Fire Services Planning and Service Regions, West Region

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to approve the appointments. The motion passed unanimously.**

**12. Wake Med Board of Directors**

**Attachments:**    [WakeMed Item Summary.doc](#)  
                              [Wake Med Member List.doc](#)  
                              [Wake Med Roster.csv](#)  
                              [Wake Med Applicant Packet.pdf](#)  
                              [Bratton Application-HS 2020.pdf](#)  
                              [Wake Med Board Choices.csv](#)  
                              [Wake Med Attendance June 2019 - September 2020.xlsx](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson shared the appointment for WakeMed Board of Directors

Appointment:

Ms. Margaret Bratton

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to approve the appointments. The motion passed unanimously.**

**13. Upcoming Vacancies for November**

**Attachments:**    [Upcoming Vacancies for November 2020.docx](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson read the November vacancies.

Human Services Board

**Enter Recommended Action Here**

**Other Business**

Commissioner West made comments about Durham County's Racial Equity Task Force. He asked Manager Ellis for additional information. He shared that Manager Ellis was a part of the Elected Black Officials meeting and made him very proud. He shared that he is very representative of the board.

**Closed Session**

Mr. Scott Warren shared that there was a need for a Closed Session. Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) and (4) and on Economic Development Item.

Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Evans to enter into closed session.

The meeting went into recess and the meeting reconvened.

No action was taken by the board.

**Vice-Chair Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Evans, to enter Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Aye:**           7 - Chairman Ford, Vice-Chair Adamson, Chair Calabria, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Holmes, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Commissioner West

### **Adjourn**

**Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Calabria, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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