

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NORTH CAROLINA
MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in an Informal Special Session in the Meeting Chamber Conference Room CH-14 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 5:00 p.m. and in Formal Special Session in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners
Karen Bentley, J. Daniel Bishop, Dumont Clarke
H. Parks Helms, Bill James
Norman A. Mitchell, Sr., Dan Ramirez,
and Valerie C. Woodard
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.
Deputy Clerk to the Board Tonette F. Spears

Absent: None

The Board's informal session consisted of dinner only.

Following dinner, the Board convened in the Meeting Chamber.

Commissioner Helms was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which, Chairman Roberts stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive citizen input on the County Manager's proposed FY08-09 budget. Chairman Roberts outlined the rules and procedures for conducting the public hearing.

The hearing was declared open.

FY08-09 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The following persons spoke and asked the Board to support funding for their respective organization and/or cause:

1. Bill Anderson and Jaquia Ranson on behalf of Communities In Schools.

Commissioner Helms entered the meeting at this time.

2. Myra Clarke and Tony Orsbon on behalf of the Center for Community Transition.
3. Jenny Schlosser and Mary Sigueron on behalf of Charlotte Emergency Housing.
4. Dr. Tony Zeiss, Eugene Kaplan and Ralph Pitts on behalf of Central Piedmont Community College.
5. Dearsley Vernon on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg school nurses.

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6. Clyde Nelson on behalf of Neighbors for a Safer Charlotte.
7. Chris Bakis, about allocating funds to fight crime in Charlotte.
8. Helen Stockstill and Miriah Curran representing the Jr. League on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg school nurses.
9. Jessica Sacks representing Mecklenburg Medical Society on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg school nurses.
10. County employees Bobby Cobb and Felicia McAdoo thanked the Board for their continued care and concern for County employees.
11. Ed Driggs, Elsie Garner and Chris Williams on behalf of WTVI.
12. Students Melissa Sigel, North Mecklenburg High School; Nicholas Sengsaveng, West Charlotte High School and Arcena Todd, Phillip O'Berry High School on behalf of The Charlotte Coalition for Social Justice.
13. Director Ted Rast, on behalf of The Council on Aging.
14. Director Deronda Metz on behalf of The Salvation Army Women's Shelter.
15. Jeff Davis, Mike Mihoch, Jocelyn Segura and Marcia on behalf of Mi Casa Su Casa. *(Marcia's comments were translated and are on file with the Clerk to the Board.)*
16. Students, Daniel Spisak, Brittany Haner, Amit Amin and Alexis Mutter; member of Arts and Science Council Mary Lou Babb; parents, Angelica Torres, Lisa Lewis, Aimee Burns, Mario Roberts, Donna Hanna, Lorenza Newcomb, Amy Daniels, Jaye Soss, Mar Dee Baker, Randall Eaton, and Jean Buffman; teachers Suzette Spencer and Cheryl Smith; CEO of Discovery Place, John Mackey; Robert Corbin; CEO of Jr. Achievement of Central Carolinas, Phil Valponi; member of ARTS TEACH Board, Mark Osborne; Mecklenburg PTA Council, Jonie Trobish; and League of Women Voters representative Louise Woods, on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.
17. Dr.'s Valencia Covington and Reginald Richardson on behalf of CW Williams Community Health Center.
18. Executive Director Nancy Hudson on behalf of Charlotte Community Health Clinic.
19. Colette Forrest, spoke on crime in the community. She requested that any funds the Board allocate to fight crime in the community be evenly distributed across the entire County and not directed to one particular part of the County.
20. Byron Grimmett on behalf of Physicians Reach Out.
21. Martin Davis spoke about government spending.
22. Ella Scarborough and Dr. R. Akhere representing The Black Women's Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg asked questions about the Park and Recreation Department budget.

This concluded the public hearing, which was declared closed by Chairman Roberts.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Ramirez, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts and Woodard voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Tonette F. Spears, Deputy Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman