

MAY 28, 2009

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 28, 2009.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners
Karen Bentley, Dumont Clarke, Harold Cogdell, Jr.
Neil Cooksey, George Dunlap, Vilma Leake
and Daniel Murrey
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: Commissioner Bill James

-INFORMAL SESSION-

The Board's informal session consisted of dinner only.

Following dinner, the Board convened in the Meeting Chamber.

-FORMAL SESSION-

Commissioners Clarke, Cooksey, and Murrey were absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Cogdell, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Roberts said the purpose of the meeting was to receive citizen input on the County Manager's FY09-10 Recommended Budget. Chairman Roberts outlined the rules and procedures for conducting the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Leake and carried 5-0 with Commissioners Bentley, Cogdell, Dunlap, Leake, and Roberts voting yes, to open the public hearing to receive comments on the County Manager's FY 09-10 Recommended Budget.

FY09-10 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

1. Dr. Bill Anderson, Shannon Frink (student at West Meck), and Kim Hawkins (a parent) on behalf of Communities In Schools

Commissioner Cooksey entered the meeting.

2. Donna Murray Lacey, on behalf of Charlotte **Volunteers in Medicine**, spoke in support of funding for Project Healthshare.
3. Major Todd Hawks and Deronda Metz, on behalf of the **Salvation Army**, spoke in support of funding for Center of Hope.
4. Jeff Brown and Jennifer Blumer on behalf of **Child Care Resources Inc.**
5. Grace Hauth, on behalf of **Alexander Youth Network**, spoke in opposition to cuts in Mental Health services.
6. Lynn Crutchfield, on behalf of **Alexander Youth Network**, spoke in opposition to cuts in Mental Health services.
7. Margaret Peacock and Jane Yates, on behalf of the **National Alliance on Mental Health**, spoke in opposition to cuts in Mental Health services.
8. Walter Padgett, Jack Flynn and Tom Davis, on behalf of the **Mecklenburg County Veteran's Council**, spoke in support of Veteran Services.
9. Mary Lou Babb, on behalf of the **Arts & Science Council**, spoke in support of Spirit Square, Arts and Science Council Cultural Diversity and Education Grants.
10. Sue Goodman and Michelle Hopkins on behalf of **C.W. Williams Community Health Center**
11. Danny Trapp on behalf of **Center for Community Transitions**
12. Nyala Hunt and students from West Mecklenburg, West Charlotte, North Mecklenburg High Schools on behalf of **Charlotte Coalition for Social Justice**
13. Ginny Schlosser, Barry Webb, and Taquanda Davis on behalf of **Charlotte Emergency Housing**
14. Scott D'Amico, Ronald Clark, Rhonda Stinson, Gwen Hayes, and Suzanne Aldridge on behalf of the **New Beginnings – Displaced Homemaker Program**

Commissioner Murrey entered the meeting as Ms. Hayes was speaking on behalf of New Beginnings.

15. Dorothy Alexander and Ulinda Forehand on behalf of the **New Beginnings – Displaced Homemaker Program**
16. Valecia McDowell on behalf of **Community Building Initiative**
17. Larry Bumgarner spoke in regards to the overall **County Budget**. Mr. Bumgarner said the average taxpayer doesn't mind paying taxes as long as the money is being used well. He said it's up to the Board to show the taxpayers that it is being used well. Also, he understands the needs of outside agencies, but the County has other major operations that need to be taken care of. He said outside agencies should "share in the pain" that the County is having with its taxes. He suggested the Board ask outside agencies executives to take a pay cut to help with their funding needs.
18. Nancy Klein, who was accompanied by Julie Owens, Pamela Hemphill, and Marjorie

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Tate, on behalf of the **Women's Advisory Board**, spoke in support of programs for Women and Families.

19. Ted Rast on behalf of the **Council on Aging**
20. Michael Sowyak on behalf of **Shelter Health Services**, a free clinic within the Center for Hope, whose recipients are, Homeless Women and Children

Commissioner Clarke entered the meeting during Mr. Sowyak's remarks.

21. Liz Clasen Kelly, William Dukes, Charles (last name unknown), and Angie Ford on behalf of **Homeless Helping Homeless**
22. Dr. Robert Caruso and Olma Echiverri on behalf of the **Latin America Coalition**
23. Kenneth Schorr and Daenan Lumsden on behalf of **Legal Services of Southern Piedmont**
24. Bobby Cobb, David Reeves, and Veronica Davis (County employees) spoke on behalf of **County employees and support of the County Manager's recommended budget.**
25. Sheriff Chip Bailey spoke on behalf of **County employees** and particularly employees of the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Bailey said all agencies should be impacted proportionately when it comes to budget reductions. He spoke in support of the County Manager's recommended budget.
26. Kelly Fortinberry on behalf of **MedAssist of Mecklenburg**
27. Ellis Fields, on behalf of the **Mental Health Assoc. of Central Carolinas, Inc.**, spoke in support of Mental Health services.
28. Christy Wright, on behalf of **Neighbors for a Safer Charlotte**, spoke in support of funding for public safety and it remaining as a priority.
29. Mark Pierman, on behalf of **United Family Services**, spoke in support of Domestic Violence funding.
30. Carson Dean, on behalf of the **Uptown Shelter**, encouraged support of the County Manager's recommended budget.
31. Tamara Cornelison, Candice Toler, Antonio Mayes, on behalf of **Meck Promise** and **Open Door**, spoke in support of Mental Health funding.
32. Liz Downing on behalf of **WTVI and the Public Square Project**
33. Larry Brackett addressed the **County budget** as a whole and the **accountability** of government. He spoke in opposition to cuts in Mental Health, Domestic Violence Services, services to the Disabled, Child Protective Services, and CMS. He also addressed the salaries of DSS administrators and CMS administrators.
34. Bill Brawley on behalf of the **Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County**
35. Tony Montognese, on behalf of **Neighbors for a Safer Charlotte**, spoke in support of funding for public safety and it remaining as a priority.
36. Sherrie Garinger, on behalf of **Meck Promise** and **Open Door**, spoke in support of Mental Health funding.
37. Richard McElrath addressed the **accountability of CMS**. He expressed concern for

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Thomasboro Elementary and Lincoln Heights and the need for Board certified teachers at these schools and technology deficiencies.

38. Brett Loftis, on behalf of **Council for Children's Rights**, spoke in support of services for children.
39. Richard Werner on behalf of **St. Stevens United Methodist Church** provided the Board with 135 signatures of persons opposed to cuts in Social Services, Mental Health Services, and Domestic Violence Services. They asked that the Board do "all it can do to ensure the poor, the sick, the fragile seniors, the abused and disabled are protected" in the budget.
40. Aaron McKeithan, on behalf of **Friends of the Public Library**, spoke in support of Library funding.
41. Kenneth Greenberg spoke in support of **Mental Health Services**, specifically, Developmental Disabilities Services. Mr. Greenberg said he would like to meet with each Commissioner to get their views on services for the disabled.
42. Phillip Hunt spoke in support of **Mental Health funding**, specifically the Open Door program.
43. Melina Monita on behalf of **Latin America Coalition**

This concluded the public hearing.

Chairman Roberts thanked everyone for coming and providing input.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, Leake, Murrey and Roberts voting yes, to close the public hearing on the County Manager's FY 09-10 Recommended Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooksey, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, Leake, Murrey and Roberts voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman