

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 27, 2010.

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Commissioner George Dunlap

-INFORMAL SESSION-

The Board's informal session consisted of dinner only.

Following dinner, the Board convened in the Meeting Chamber.

-FORMAL SESSION-

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Cooksey, 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 FY10-11 Recommended Budget. Chairman Roberts outlined the rules and procedures for conducting the public hearing.

Prior to the start of the public hearing, Budget/Management Director Hyong Yi gave a budget overview regarding the impact of the recession on the County.

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

FY10-11 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, James, Leake, Murrey, and Roberts voting yes, to open the public hearing to receive comments on the County Manager's FY10-11 Recommended Budget.

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

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1. Dr. Bill Anderson, Raven Caldwell (a student), and John Caldwell (her father) on behalf of **Communities In Schools**
2. Mike Sullivan, Evelyn Newman, and Richard Jacobsen, on behalf of the **Council on Aging**
3. Charles Smith and Colonel Quincy Collins, on behalf of **Veteran Services**
4. Kater Cornwell, Sr. on behalf of **Veteran Services**
5. Twila Adams on behalf of **Veteran Services**
6. James Tuttle on behalf of **Veteran Services**
7. Frank Black on behalf of **Veteran Services**
8. Judith Mercer on behalf of **Veteran Services**
9. Ron Conroy on behalf of **Veteran Services**
10. Yvonne McJetters on behalf of **Veteran Services** (A video was shown.)
11. Tom Davis on behalf of **Veteran Services**
12. Dart “Derrick” Johnson (hearing impaired) with the assistance of an interpreter, spoke in support of **Residential Program Support Services**
13. Shannon Smith on behalf of **Mental Health Services**
14. Trina Palmer and Ginger Watkins on behalf of **Senior Centers**
15. Angelia Fryer and Marjorie Tate with the Women’s Advisory Board spoke in support of **domestic violence services, the Salvation Army Women’s Shelter, The Men’s Shelter, Charlotte Emergency Housing, United Family Services, the Battered Women’s Shelter, Pat’s Place, Senior Centers, A Way Home, Libraries, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Displaced Homemakers Program New Beginnings, and Child Care Resources**. It was noted also that even though it’s not a popular thing do, a tax increase may be necessary to continue the level of service that’s needed for the aforementioned agencies.
16. Liz Downing and Elsie Garner on behalf of **WTVI**
17. Larry Greene thanked the Board for assistance he received through the Department of Social Services as it related to his Medicaid benefits.
18. Regina Hanover and Elisa Fisher on behalf of the **Sugar Creek Library**
19. Matt Peterson, Devon Maurice, & Tracy Greene on behalf of Charlotte Emergency Housing spoke in support of **Homeless Services**, specifically, **the Plaza Place**
20. Rebecca Herbert (County employee) on behalf of **County employees** spoke in opposition to any cuts in employee pay
21. Michael Ingmire on behalf of the **Public Library**
22. Terri Shumaker on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
23. Mark Pierman and Deronda Metz on behalf of **United Family Services Shelter for**

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Battered Women, Salvation Army Center for Hope, the Men's Shelter of Charlotte, Pat's Place, Charlotte Emergency Housing, and A Way Home

24. James R. Jackson on behalf of **Parks, the Public Library, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the Sheriff's Office**
25. Jermayne Cook and Jim Talley on behalf of **St. Peter's Homes**
26. Halston Lim on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**, specifically students at East Mecklenburg High School
27. Amy Kozlowski on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
28. Robert May on behalf of the **Public Library**
29. Sandy Hammond (County employee) on behalf of **County employees** spoke in opposition to any cuts in pay and reductions in force
30. Angie Traylor Coleman (County employee) on behalf of **County employees** spoke in opposition to any reductions in force
31. Bobby Cobb (County employee) on behalf of **County employees** spoke in opposition to any cuts in pay, benefits and reductions in force
32. Glenda B. Buck with Friends of Education, John Patrick? (last name not clear), a student in CMS, Kevin Strom and Larry Bosc on behalf **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the Public Library, and Central Piedmont Community College** asked that the Board consider all revenue options including increasing the sales tax by a quarter of a cent, which could be placed before the voters in November.
33. Lewis Dean, a Resident (name was not given), Burnost Hollick, Clarence Johnson, Fahiem Shalam, and Franklin Perry on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
34. Renee Westmoreland on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
35. The Honorable Judge Theo Nixon on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
36. Amy Benehaley on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
37. Sheri Lynch, a Student from Smith Language Academy, and Paul Durfree on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
38. Joni Trobich on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
39. Bridget Strong, Doug Warren, Stephanie Frisbee, (Park and Recreation employees) and Brad Pearce on behalf of **Park and Recreation**
40. Michelle Anderson on behalf of the **Public Library**
41. Richard Bierregaard on behalf of **Park and Recreation**
42. Edward Samuels on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
43. Antonia Brown, Montek Williams, Max Anderson, and Tim Thompson on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**

Commissioner Cooksey left the meeting and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

44. Melissa Buchanan on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**

45. Stephanie Adelman (a public defender) on behalf of the Work Release Restitution Center
46. Devin Thompson on behalf of the Work Release Restitution Center
47. Sheree Pinteia on behalf of the Public Library
48. Bill Brawley on behalf of the Public Library
49. Helen Bronson on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
50. Larry Bumgarner addressed the overall budget and asked the Board to “stop spending money.” He suggested the Board donate their salaries to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in order to keep teachers. He asked the Board to also ask local banks to take its debt and give the County a “favorable” interest rate.
51. Anthony DePaolo spoke on behalf of the Elections Office
52. Daniel McClerin on behalf Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the Public Library, Park and Recreation and Mental Health Services
53. Mike Weaver, Phillip Hunt, Donna (last name not given), and Robert Livingston on behalf of Mental Health Services
54. Tim McLeod posed questions to the Board and suggested the Board cut the salaries of managers. He questioned why Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) was targeting two employees for dismissal that actually go out and bring in revenue. He questioned whether certain employees were targeted for the reduction in force because their supervisor doesn't like them; whether some managers reclassified or change some employees positions in order to keep them from being cut. He questioned the fairness of the Reduction in Force policy. He encouraged the Board to make the best decision for the citizens of Mecklenburg County.
55. Bruce Elliott on behalf of the Public Library. He spoke in opposition to the Business Investment Grant Program
56. Thomas Sadler and Carolyn Sadler on behalf of the Greenville Recreation Center
57. Johnny Williams on behalf of the Work Release Restitution Center
58. Larry Morrison on behalf of the Work Release Restitution Center
59. Larry Huelsman on behalf of Park and Recreation
60. Robert Binder on behalf of Mental Health Services
61. Antonio Mayes on behalf of Mental Health Services
62. Ellis C. Fields on behalf of Mental Health Services
63. Marinn Bengel on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
64. Sharada Gullapalli on behalf of the Public Library
65. Dorian Johnson on behalf of Work Release Restitution Center

66. Robert Singagliese (Asst. Public Defender) on behalf of the **Work Release Restitution Center**
67. Helen Collins on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
68. Demario Baker on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
69. Mary McCray on behalf of **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
70. Cristina La Paz, Gabriela Ramírez, Janet Álvarez (student), Amanda Chávez, and Bernicé Rodríguez (student) on behalf of **Mi Casa Su Casa**
71. Ken Greenberg on behalf of the **Council on Aging and Mental Health Services**

Commissioner James left the meeting and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

72. Margaret Davis on behalf of the **Public Library, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Park and Recreation, Veteran Services, and the Work Release Restitution Center**
Ms. Davis suggested the Board seek financial help from some of the major companies in the community such as Duke Power and Bank of America and to consider the quarter cent sales tax.
73. Cherene Caraco on behalf of **Mental Health Services**
74. Billy Rowe (Chairman Roberts read a statement that was received from Mr. Rowe, per his request, since he was unable to be present because he is disabled.) Mr. Rowe expressed opposition to cuts in social services and education. Mr. Rowe suggested a four cents tax increase.

This concluded the public hearing. Total number of speakers 108

Chairman Roberts thanked everyone for coming and providing input.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and carried 6-0 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Leake, Murrey and Roberts voting yes, to close the public hearing on the County Manager's FY10-11 Recommended Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Murrey carried 6-0 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cogdell, Leake, Murrey and Roberts voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman