

**Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021**

Due to the State of North Carolina's Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the WebEx application.

BUDGET/PUBLIC POLICY MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met remotely for a Budget/Public Policy Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2:31 p.m. with Chair Dunlap presiding.

Present: Chair George Dunlap
Commissioner Patricia "Pat" Cotham
Commissioner Trevor M. Fuller
Commissioner Susan Harden
Commissioner Mark Jerrell
Commissioner Vilma D. Leake
Commissioner Elaine Powell
Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell
Commissioner Ella B. Scarborough

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Dunlap called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

21-6703: Update: Housing the North End Encampment

Anthony Trotman, Deputy County Manager and Karen Pelletier, Community Support Services, gave a presentation to update the Board on Housing the North End Encampment, giving background information on the abatement order; response from the County staff; and a timeline with milestones. A list of grassroot organizations and providers that were involved was reviewed, as well as a list of providers committed to assist. Next steps consisted of connecting households with coordinated entry; identifying & connecting resources to meet all special needs; conducting substance use & mental health assessments; reinforcing safety & accountability; and identifying long-term housing options.

Ms. Pelletier answered Commissioners' questions and responded to comments.

The presentation is on file with the Clerk's Office.

21-6680: Board Priority Definitions + Priority/Initiatives Performance Information

Monica Allen, Strategic Planning & Evaluation Director, and Adrian Cox, Budget Director, reviewed descriptions for FY2022 board priorities; highlighted current performance indicators for the FY2021 Board initiatives and FY2020/FY2022 Board priorities; as well as determined if there were other performance indicators the Board wished to see based on desire to track performance as aligned to initiatives and priorities.

Dr. Allen answered Commissioners' questions and responded to comments.

The presentation is on file with the Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell and Commissioner Meier to extend the Budget/Public Policy Meeting time to include Commissioner Reports.

A vote was made on the motion and recorded as followed:

Meeting Minutes February 23, 2021

YES: Commissioners Altman, Scarborough, Jerrell, Rodriguez-McDowell, Meier, and Dunlap

NO: Commissioners Cotham, Powell, and Leake

21-6695: COVID-19 Response Update

Gibbie Harris, Public Health Director, gave an update to the COVID-19 response, stating Mecklenburg County was about where it was in early November, as all of the metrics continued to decline slowly. She said that in terms of predictions, she chose to listen to the more positive ones at this point due to the decrease in numbers. She appreciated the community's effort and asked the community to continue to do the right thing for the numbers to go down.

Ms. Harris gave an update on the vaccination rollout stating that on February 16th the Health Department had given almost over 22,000 first doses with a total of 33,000 dose when you add second doses. She stated with the exception of long-term care facilities, Mecklenburg County had given 96,850 doses, which was about nine percent of the population. She stated there was a slight improvement in the equity issues with those who receive the vaccine and that about 19.5% of African Americans and 4.5% of Hispanics had received vaccination. She informed the Board of an event that was held at Lake Norman Community Center and United House of Prayer. She mentioned vaccine-delivery challenges due to weather and that they have requested additional vaccine from the State but not have heard back from the State.

Ms. Harris answered Commissioners' questions and responded to comments.

Commissioner Altman asked if a vaccinated person could transmit the virus. Ms. Harris responded that it was an ongoing study that was being done.

Commissioner Cotham asked if the Governor would loosen restrictions over the week.

Ms. Harris responded she expected to see some lessening of the restrictions.

Commissioner Powell stated she believed the message of the importance of the second dose of vaccine needed to be transmitted.

Chair Dunlap asked how many people over 65 had been vaccinated.

Ms. Harris responded she should have numbers for that in a couple of days.

The presentation is on file with the Clerk's Office.

21-6678: Department Management Monthly Reports

This item is included on the agenda for information only.

21-6696: Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Leake honored black seniors in reverence to Black History Month and thanked the President for acknowledging the amount of lives lost due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Jerrell acknowledged the effort provided by staff and grassroots organizations in regard to the north end encampment. He also acknowledged working families as many were struggling throughout the pandemic.

Commissioner Meier lifted up Senior Boxes, a program that feeds seniors. She also thanked staff and organizations who took time to help with the north end encampment.

**Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021**

Commissioner Altman acknowledged those struggling due to the pandemic. She made notice of Central Piedmont Community College's Accelerated Career Training Program, which was a free opportunity to receive fast training in the areas of early childhood education; truck driving; EMT; HVAC; IT Fundamentals; Nurse Aid; and Phlebotomy.

Commissioner Cotham suggested that next Black History Month the Board of Commissioners make plans to have presentations or learn things.

Chair Dunlap reminded the Board that young people were watching and that he had received questions from the Boy Scouts. Chair Dunlap acknowledged the passing of Reverend Darrell Gaston from District 3. He spoke about his time with Commissioner Powell looking into invasive species in the area and thanked County staff in Park and Recreation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



Kristine Smith, Interim Clerk



George Dunlap, Chair