

**DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 @ 1 PM  
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Durham City Council held an in-person and virtual Work Session on the above date and time in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 City Hall Plaza in Durham, North Carolina with the following members present: Mayor Elaine O’Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Mark-Anthony Middleton and Council Members Javiera Caballero, DeDreana Freeman, Monique Holsey-Hyman, Jillian Johnson and Leonardo Williams. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Wanda Page, City Attorney Kim Rehberg and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

**[CALL TO ORDER]**

Mayor O’Neal called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and welcomed all to the meeting. She noted that Council Member Williams was delayed but was expected at the meeting.

Council Member Williams entered the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

**[ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL]**

Mayor O’Neal called for announcements by Council.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton requested a presentation be made by the Durham Sports Commission at an upcoming Work Session.

It was the consensus of Council to approve of the presentation.

Council Member Caballero expressed concern about the gun shootings occurring at local schools and spoke to the four youth victims. She lifted up the impacted family members, friends and Durham Public School staff and made a statement in Spanish.

Council Member Freeman uplifted all families experiencing gun violence and spoke to the impact of violence on children. She addressed the Mayor’s Hackathon against gun violence, thanked DPS staff for their life-saving efforts and encouraged all to join the movement.

Council Member Johnson echoed her colleagues about the recent shootings and expressed concerns about the families affected by the tragedy.

Council Member Holsey-Hyman called to action her licensed clinical social workers and out-patient, non-profits to wrap services around schools and community in order to create solution focused ideas to counteract violence.

Council Member Williams reiterated his support for the taskforce focused on black boys and men and urged expanding the taskforce to include all youth in the city; and focused on the rebuilding of community in Durham.

Mayor O'Neal spoke to the difficulty of the day following the gun violence at the local schools; and reflected on her losses caused by violence as well as Durham County Commissioner Chair Howerton's losses of her family members to gun violence. She appealed to the Joint City-County-DPS Public Education Committee with its focus on expanding summer opportunities for youth and requested that neighborhood, non-profit organizations reach out to local government with opportunities for youth in a roll call format.

Mayor O'Neal announced a moment of silence to honor those persons affected by gun violence.

Mayor O'Neal addressed SCAD (Simplifying Code for Affordable Development) encouraged both sides of the issue to get together to discuss their points of disagreement; her office would reach out to both sides to consider talking with the other side and return to Council in May for civil discourse.

Mayor O'Neal read a letter from Governor Cooper regarding the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority has approved a matching grant of \$500,000 from the Accessibility for Parks Program for the CR Wood Park Project.

Mayor O'Neal read a March 23, 2023 statement written by City Attorney Rehberg regarding a report by a property developer to a city staff member that a sitting member of Council had suggested to the developer that support would be given for a developer's project in exchange for a donation to the Council Member's election campaign. The majority of the Council had elected to refer the matter to state law enforcement.

**[PRIORITY ITEMS OF THE CITY MANAGER, CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY CLERK]**

City Manager Page had one priority item:

Item 19) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project Entrepreneur Accelerator Plus Youth Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This is a supplemental item added to the agenda.

**MOTION** by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Freeman, approved the City Manager's priority item at 1:25 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor O'Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton and Council Members Caballero, Freeman, Holsey-Hyman, Johnson and Williams. Noes: None.

The City Attorney's Office had no priority items.

City Clerk Schreiber stated that Item 14) Built2Last, the Presentation would not be received at the meeting; the video had been sent to the Council and no vote was required.

**[ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS]**

Mayor O'Neal read the entire printed agenda and asked her colleagues if they desired to pull any items for additional discussion. No items were pulled.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton did not pull Item 6) City of Durham and Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc. Cultural Roadmap Development Grant Budget Ordinance; he inquired regarding his role as the honorary Chair of the Cultural Road Map and mentioned his position on the Board of Directors of DDI, asked the City Attorney if he would need to recuse himself on votes related to budget ordinances for Item 6.

City Attorney Rehberg responded that the contract themselves would represent times for recusal, not on votes for the overall budget ordinance.

No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

**[CITIZEN'S MATTERS TO BE HEARD AT 1 P.M.]**

Donna Stainback, Durham resident, encouraged Council to approve environmentally healthy growth and development.

Mary Molina, Durham resident, expressed concerns about residents being targeted by elected officials on social media related to the SCAD Amendment.

Jacqueline Wagstaff, Durham resident, expressed concerns about elected officials' remarks toward public speakers and stated the remarks constituted unbecoming behavior.

James Chavis, Durham resident, spoke to an email to Planning staff regarding the community meeting scheduled for the third Saturday in April with the purpose of explaining the SCAD amendment.

Pastor AR Wood, Sr., spoke to his actions following the shootings at Brogden Middle School; urged pastors to come together and supported resources to persons who were suffering and traumatized; and stated mental health counselors were needed in the neighborhoods.

**[PRESENTATIONS]**

There were no presentation items.

City Manager Wanda Page spoke to the Budget Guidelines in Council's packet.

Budget and Management Director John Allore explained the minor modification to the Budget Guidelines related to the Special Budget Work Session held the morning of 3/23/23, last page, third from last bullet. The language was modified from 'Funding for City Council Budget Requests will be considered' to 'Funding for City Council Budget Requests advanced during the Special Budget Work Session on March 23, 2023 will be considered'. The updated language would be provided to Council through the agenda process.

City Clerk Schreiber announced Council's nominations to boards, committees, commissions and taskforces:

Dan Harrop and Makayla C Jarvis were nominated to fill the two vacant seats on the Durham City-County Appearance Commission.

**[SETTLING THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 3, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING]**

City Manager Page stated the Consent Agenda consisted of Item 1 through 13 and Item 19; and the General Business Agenda- Public Hearings consisted of Items 15 through 18.

**MOTION** by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Freeman, to settle the April 3, 2023 regular Council Meeting Agenda at 1:47 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor O'Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton and Council Members Caballero, Freeman, Holsey-Hyman and Williams. Noes: None. Absent: None.

**SUBJECT: OTHER MATTERS**

Council Member Williams referred to public speakers for Preserve Rural Durham, noting their concerns were driving the standards related to environmental matters in Southeast Durham, he appreciated this; and would continue to be impressed upon by their concerns. He noted that Council was asking the NC General Assembly to legally invoke more standards. Related to his previous meeting statement, he appreciated the passion by speakers at the podium, would continue to protect the fidelity of the public domain and welcomed dialogue and engagement.

Council Member Freeman, Council liaison to the Carolina Pines Regional Council, brought forward a special request from Carolina Pines Regional Council (formerly Triangle J Council of Governments) to approve Charter Amendment changes and that she would bring this forward at a future Work Session.

Council Member Johnson introduced a resolution of censure of Council Member Monique Holsey-Hyman for behavior relating to engaging city staff in electoral or partisan work for her and her election campaign; her colleagues had received the resolution and opened the item for discussion.

Council Member Holsey-Hyman read her statement into the record as her response to the resolution of censure.

Discussion included removing the Mayor's name from the resolution, the crossing of certain lines or standards, the use of censure to address a specific act, misrepresentations, dismissing women on the dais, finding out if an act occurred- whether wittingly or not, and referring the issue to law enforcement.

Mayor O'Neal stated it was up to Durham to hold everyone accountable, whatever that looked like.

Being no additional business to transact, Mayor O'Neal adjourned the regular meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, MPA, CMC  
City Clerk