

**DURHAM CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

The Durham City Council met for a Special Budget Work Session in the Council Chambers at 101 City Hall Plaza at the above time and date 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, Deputy City Manager Bertha Johnson, City Attorney Kim Rehberg and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

**[CALL TO ORDER]**

Mayor O'Neal welcomed her colleagues, staff and public to the meeting and deferred to Budget and Management Services Director John Allore for presentation.

Council Member Williams was delayed from the start of the meeting.

**SUBJECT: SOLID WASTE**

Assistant Director Jim Reingruber presented on behalf of Director Donald Long on Solid Waste Management and spoke to the following: staffing levels, 120 FTEs; residential waste stream diverted; curbside tonnage by type; garbage and recycling customers; 14,000 installs of Durham Rollout Mobile App; resource allocation. He also mentioned an additional scale and scale house at the Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, curbside collection of food scrap for composting, and route rebalancing.

Council Member Johnson expressed her excitement about the continuing improvements in the recycling market. She asked for more information about the timeline of the rollout of the curbside composting.

Assistant Director Reingruber stated Phase 1 had been extended and Phase 2 had 500 customers which was planned to roll out over the summer.

Council Member Johnson questioned if all the regulatory approvals that were needed to go city-wide had been received.

Assistant Director Wayne Fenton explained the needed approvals to compost food scraps were received and were looking forward to whether there was enough capacity to do launch the program.

Council Member Caballero expressed how the Durham Rollout App made her life easier and that she was a big fan of it. She also asked what products were compostable.

Assistant Director Reingruber replied they were experimenting with what materials worked well with the composting process.

Council Member Freeman asked if there was any conversation around the infrastructure bill in regard to the solar on the overhangs.

Assistant Director Reingruber replied that it was explored and General Services looked at the idea of putting solar panels on the closed landfill area. He noted Duke Power assessed the area and stated the landfill was still settling and was not currently suitable. He also mentioned they were looking at smaller-scale solar applications.

Council Member Williams asked if there was any type of incentivizing for participation from some of the programs for composting.

Assistant Director Reingruber stated it was on the table to look at and the Department was at a point of figuring out how much volume could be handled.

**SUBJECT: PARKS & RECREATION**

Director Wade Walcutt presented on the Parks and Recreation Department and spoke to the following: FY22: 130 FTEs and the recommendation of 3 new positions for FY23; surveys of the condition of parks, open space, trails, and greenways; overall quality of parks and recreation programs; variety of City recreation opportunities; budget highlights of the athletic fields, maintenance structural change, Latino Outreach position, Business Systems Analyst FT Conversion, and Planner position; significant initiatives that included Parks and Recreation System Plan, Splash and Play Project, and re-accreditation.

Council Member Freeman asked what year Forest Hills Park came under Parks and Recreation.

Director Walcutt mentioned the Forest Hills pool was built around the 1920's or 30's.

Council Member Freeman noted the significant history behind Long Meadow Park pool.

Director Walcutt stated Long Meadow Park pool was open every summer and staff planned to keep it open as long as possible.

Council Member Freeman asked what communities were being engaged.

Director Walcutt answered staff were invited and participated in PAC 1 Town Hall meetings and attended events where the community was present for feedback and input. He also mentioned the community-wide surveys.

Council Member Freeman asked how many Black and Asian outreach positions were in the Department.

Director Walcutt answered there were no specific African-American or Asian outreach positions.

Council Member Caballero expressed her appreciation for the timeline provided and excitement about the Merrick-Moore Park ribbon cutting.

Council Member Hyman thanked Director Walcutt for the background information. She expressed her concern on the closing of Wheels Fun Park and urged reevaluation before 2027.

Council Member Hyman asked the name of the Parks and Recreation reaccreditation body and requested staff to provide the standards for the accreditation process.

Director Walcutt responded that the organization was called CAPRA and the standards for the accreditation would be provided to Council.

Council Member Williams asked if there was a relationship between the City and the YMCA.

Director Walcutt replied not a formal relationship. He noted the City and the YMCA complemented but did not duplicate one another.

Council Member Williams asked if a final decision had been determined about the closure of Wheels Fun Park.

Director Walcutt replied no.

Council Member Williams stated effective communication and engagement from Council and staff to the community was important.

Mayor Pro Tempore Middleton congratulated staff and expressed how impressed he had been at watching community residents embrace the ribbon cuttings and openings of facilities that DPR had been involved in. He also noted that if it was Council's desire to open Wheels Fun Park, they could direct staff to provide a business plan and open the facility.

**SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES**

Director Jina Propst presented on the General Services Department and spoke to the following: staffing levels; 124 FTEs; value of the contribution of Keep Durham Beautiful volunteers; litter prevention, community greening, and waste reduction; 1,637 trees planted and 92% of them planted in priority neighborhoods; 84% of construction schedules maintained on time; 83% of design schedules maintained on time; project portfolio summaries; completed work orders; completed real estate transactions; budget highlights of staff certifications/ training, internships, capital projects community engagement efforts, sustainability, and landscape innovation; and FY23 new initiatives.

Council Member Caballero asked how many LED conversions were completed.

Director Propst replied 39 locations were completed with seven more to go and on average Duke reimbursed 60% of the cost.

Council Member Caballero asked what percentage of the 2030 goal would be reached with the final run agreements for the Green Source Advantage program.

Director Propst replied 48% of the way to the 80% renewable energy goal.

Council Member Johnson expressed her excitement and asked for clarity about receiving the Green Source Advantage.

Director Propst replied the allocation was secured and they were in the final stages of the agreements.

Council Member Hyman expressed her excitement about the internships and asked if the interns were in undergraduate or graduate programs.

Director Propst noted the current Environmental Defense Fund interns were in PhD programs.

Council Member Hyman asked what current schools were partnered with for the internship program.

Director Propst replied the team members were from the University of Rochester and Columbia University's Environmental Defense Fund Fellowship Program.

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS**

Director Marvin Williams presented on the Department of Public Works and spoke to the following: staffing levels; 228 FTEs; pot holes repaired and average cost per pot hole repair; average cost and linear feet of sidewalk repair; storm water drainage performance measures; development review group plans/items; and budget highlights

of new vehicle for Senior Engineering Specialist FTE and new Skid Steer and Motor Grader for Maintenance Division.

Council Member Williams expressed his gratitude for the staff responsiveness and asked what was the average timeline from start to finish for projects.

Director Williams replied every project was different. He stated some projects were a few months and some were underway well over a year depending on the size of the development, complexity of what was built, and the variety of issues within the process.

Council Member Williams asked if the Department needed more support.

Director Williams responded the Department had the amount of support needed, but if development continued with bigger companies, that would be a discussion with the City Manager's Office at the appropriate time.

Council Member Williams asked how much money was spent a year on pouring cement for sidewalks.

Director Williams replied he would provide that number once received from the Maintenance Division.

Council Member Williams asked if it was cheaper to manufacture the city's own cement.

Director Williams responded that it was researched and determined that it was not practical. He also noted a local vendor was used for cement projects.

Council Member Freeman asked for more information about the percentage increase in non-departmental appropriations.

Director Williams stated they were different transfers made from the Stormwater Fund to help support other funds such as Solid Waste and General Government.

Council Member Freeman asked how could Council see the individual transfers.

Director Williams replied they could work with the Budget Department to get those specifics.

Council Member Caballero asked if the patch repairs on Roxboro Street was done by the City or State contractors.

Director Williams responded both the City and State.

Mayor O'Neal gave Director Williams a moment to speak on the complexities of the interface between City and State roads.

**SUBJECT: CLOSING REMARKS**

Council Member Caballero expressed gratitude to staff for their presentations and remarked on the work done to complete the budget.

Mayor O'Neal thanked and expressed appreciation to staff on the budget process and information provided.

City Manager Page expressed her gratitude to City staff and mentioned it was often complex and difficult to provide excellent services to community residents on a day-to-day basis during an unpredictable pandemic and economy.

City Manager Page also remarked the City could not always say yes to residents to exactly what was wanted at certain moments, but that didn't mean it was not taken in. She shared her thoughts about making Durham a better place to live.

Director Allore stated the next step was budget adoption and thanked Council for their time, attention and questions.

**[ADJOURNMENT]**

Seeing no additional business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Diana Schreiber  
City Clerk