

**DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

The Durham City Council held a regular Work Session on the above date and time virtually via Zoom with the following members present: Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson and Council Members Javiera Caballero, Pierce Freelon, DeDreana Freeman, Mark-Anthony Middleton and Charlie Reece. Absent: None.

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

**[CALL TO ORDER]**

Mayor Schewel called the virtual meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**[ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL]**

Mayor Schewel acknowledged the passing of Deputy City Manager Keith Chadwell's wife, Joclyn and expressed his condolences.

Council Member Freeman wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

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

City Manager Page requested the following priority items:

Item 18. First Amendment to Contract with Mid-Atlantic Associates, Inc. for Professional Services Related to Implementation of the 2018 United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant. Attachment 5 added.

Item 20. Contract ST-314 Pavement Condition Survey 2021. Attachments 5 through 7 added.

Item 26. 2020-21 Downtown Durham Municipal Service District Annual Report. Presentation Item.

Item 31. FY2022 Stormwater Rates. Presentation Item.

Item 32. Vaccination Equity Proposal. Supplemental Item added to the agenda.

**MOTION** by Council Member Freelon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, to approve the City Manager's priority items was approved at 1:05 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson and

Council Members Caballero, Freelon, Freeman, Middleton and Reece. Noes: None. Absent: None.

City Attorney Rehberg and Clerk Schreiber had no priority items.

**[ITEMS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA]**

Mayor Schewel read the items on the printed agenda; the following items were pulled for remarks and/or additional discussion:

- Item 7. Temporary Outdoor Seating Ordinance Extension. Pulled item.
- Item 14. Design-Build Services Contract with Dewberry Design – Builders, Inc. for the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. Pulled item.
- Item 15. Remarks only. Land Donation Agreement for Replacement of Fire Station #19. Remarks only. Requested additional information on map of projected service area of areas covered and those not covered.
- Item 18. First Amendment to Contract with Mid-Atlantic Associates, Inc. for Professional Services Related to Implementation of the 2018 United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant. Attachment 5 was added.
- Item 23. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget and Fiscal Year 2022-27 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Pulled item.
- Item 24. Durham Transit Plan Update. Presentation item.
- Item 25. Update on Disposition and Re-Development of the Property Located at 505 West Chapel Hill Street. Presentation item.
- Item 26. 2020-21 Downtown Durham Municipal Service District Annual Report. Brief report expected. Presentation item.
- Item 27. 2021 First Quarter Crime Report. Presentation item.
- Item 31. FY2022 Stormwater Rates. Presentation item.
- Item 32. Vaccination Equity Proposal. Supplemental item.

Mayor Schewel summarized the pulled items as Items 7 and 14. Presentation items were Items 26, 23, 24, 25, 27, 31 and 32.

**SUBJECT: SHERRILL DANCE-SABA (PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKER)**

Ms. Dance-Saba expressed concerns about homeless in the lot adjacent to her property and requested assistance from the City Council.

After the resident expressed her concerns, Mayor Schewel requested the City Manager to have staff follow-up with the resident.

**[ITEMS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA]**

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING ORDINANCE EXTENSION  
(ITEM 7/ PR 14640)**

Bo Dobrzanski, Planning, provided the staff report and updated Council on the item.

Mayor Schewel requested a combined DDI and staff report by October that detailed what worked, what did not work and what should be made permanent about outdoor dining.

Council was supportive of moving forward with a permanent plan with accommodations for established green space; and asked about panhandling interactions such as how were the interactions being handled by restaurants.

**SUBJECT: DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DEWBERRY  
DESIGN – BUILDERS, INC. FOR THE DURHAM BULLS  
ATHLETIC PARK (ITEM 14/ PR 14637)**

Lisa Smith, General Services Department, responded to Council Member Freeman's question about workforce statistics and the lack of persons of color documented in the statistics.

Mayor Schewel summarized the demographics and requested additional information be sent to Council from Dewberry Design regarding hiring practices and recruitment strategies/sources prior to the upcoming Council Meeting.

City Manager Page noted that staff was working on providing this information for every agenda item to Council.

**[PRESENTATIONS]**

**SUBJECT: 2020-21 DOWNTOWN DURHAM MUNICIPAL SERVICE  
DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT (ITEM 26/ PR 14615)**

Nicole Thompson, Executive Director of Downtown Durham Incorporated, made remarks on the Annual Report and appreciated Council's support strategies related to outdoor dining, affordable housing, employment and business.

Council inquired about panhandling strategies that avoided the use of law enforcement.

Director Thompson responded that the homeless population had not been excluded from the Streeery footprint and that assistance was being provided to the homeless population; noted DDI had loaned outdoor furniture to many

Downtown businesses for outdoor dining with requests that the furniture be stored indoors during off-hours; and mentioned that some restaurant establishments had been lost during the COVID period, noting that Durham had fared better than its peer cities and spoke to DDI's efforts to advocate for all businesses, with extra energy provided toward women and minority businesses.

Council Member Middleton encouraged DDI to reach out to the City for support.

Council Member Freeman inquired about the loss of local retailers belonging to persons of color.

Mayor Schewel inquired about a DDI Report featuring minority/African-American owned business in Downtown.

Director Thompson noted that listing was provided in the Quarterly Report; and appreciated the City and County's small business loan programs.

Mayor and Council appreciated the efforts of DDI during this difficult business period brought about by the pandemic.

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR 2022-27 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) (ITEM 23/ PR 14626)**

Mayor Schewel noted the item would be presented by staff at the upcoming Council Meeting; and announced there was a public speaker to the item, Stella Adams. Ms. Adams was not on the virtual meeting. Later in the meeting, Ms. Adams appeared and spoke to Item 24.

**SUBJECT: DURHAM TRANSIT PLAN UPDATE (ITEM 24/ PR 14630)**

Ellen Beckmann- Durham County Transportation Manager, Aaron Cain- Durham-Chapel Hill- Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's Planning Manager and Sean Egan- City of Durham Transportation Director presented the staff report.

Manager Beckmann made a PowerPoint Presentation titled, *Durham Transit Plan Durham City Council*.

The presentation included the following topics:

Background of the 20-year plan, initiated in 2011; amendments permissible

- Durham Orange Light Rail Transit Plan discontinued in 2019

Durham Transit Plan – Project Timeline from Summer 2020 through 2021

Durham Transit Plan, Phase 1 Outreach- in person and virtually

Online Survey Summary responses and demographics

Stakeholder Meetings

Outreach

Engagement Ambassador Program – direct engagement with under-represented communities; helped to reach low-income and African American and Hispanic populations.

Phase 1 Outreach Key Highlights

- More 15-minute service
- Improved bus stops
- Increased sidewalk access
- Crosstown service
- More transit access to jobs
- Commuter Rail

Engagement Ambassador Session responses

- Invest in paratransit improvements
- Street maintenance/road quality
- Wheelchair/stroller access to buses
- Extended hours of service

Committed Projects – Bus Service

- Various routes to various destinations, service funded hours

Committed Projects – Capital & Administrative

- Projects and categories

Scenario Input

- Scenarios A – focused on local/regional bus operations
- Scenario B - focus on local/regional bus infrastructure
- Scenario C – include commuter rail

Next Steps

- Phase 2 Outreach until mid-late June
- Construction of Preferred Scenario – July
- Update Elected Boards- August
- Begin Phase 3 Outreach – late August or early September

Mayor Schewel announced there were two speakers to the item:

Stella Adams, resident of Durham, inquired about the funding of commuter rail and timing of paratransit and sidewalk improvements; and encouraged Council to consider the concerns of the Braggtown community (sidewalks and bus shelters).

Vanessa Evans, resident of Durham, encouraged Braggtown be included in the budget in order to have their infrastructure needs met and funding allocated. She favored bus infrastructure being prioritized over commuter rail.

Council Member Reece read remarks by John Tallmadge of Bike Durham about bike access to transit.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson acknowledged many projects of the workplan had either been completed or were underway; favored transit access to new and

existing communities where none was available since this was important from an environmental perspective; and suggested park-n-rides or bike-n-rides to access bus service.

Manager Beckmann responded that there was pilot on-demand service proposed to address the lack of fixed routes in East Durham.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson inquired about using short buses rather than full-size to address long term growth around the edges of the community; and asked about transit access to the area in Durham County between Routes 70 and 98.

Manager Cain acknowledged the area was 3B and was set for increased frequency along Holloway Street and would be included in the zone for micro-transit.

Council Member Freeman spoke to equitable engagement by the speakers and urged a higher amount of engagement. She also noted that the two lane roads serving developments in areas of forests to high density townhomes were insufficient and that the funding was not there to pave or expand the roadways. She mentioned Merritt-Moore and Braggtown neighborhood members who felt under-served and encouraged a process to address their equity needs.

Council Member Middleton spoke to the transit plan that was designed to reconnect Hayti to economic vibrancy in one of the most disadvantaged areas of Durham; supported Scenario A; thanked his colleague for gifting Council Members the book titled, *Better Buses, Better Cities* and acknowledged that a better bus system created a better city.

Council Member Reece explained the transit plan was developed by the entities that were planning on passing the plan, of which did not include the City of Durham; and appreciated the public speakers' contributions to the improve the overall transit system. He spoke to Council's limited input into the Durham County transit plan, in that the entire Council could not approve or reject the operating plan; however, individual Council Members were on various planning boards that could. He also noted that the transit system served predominantly local persons of color in zero-car households. The City's investment in GoDurham Transit represented investment in the residents' livelihoods, was a necessity, and served as support of racial and socio-economic equity in the City of Durham.

Council Member Caballero concurred with her colleagues' remarks. She also noted that local and regional transit was a necessity.

Mayor Schewel announced there was a speaker to the item.

Constance Wright, resident of Braggtown, favored Scenario A; emphasized the need for bus service in her community; noted Route 9 served the deeply under-served portion of Braggtown and had not been mentioned in the plans. She urged Council's follow-through of funding for plans that impacted under-served neighborhoods.

Council Member Freeman spoke to community engagement and the process of establishing services for the folks had no choice in not needing bus service.

Council Member Reece spoke to how to afford projects for disinvested communities; and urged persons to ride public transport.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson addressed the contradiction of more services and lower taxes; and noted that taxation created public dollars to afford services. . She supported more progressive ways to collect tax revenues in NC, such as progressive property tax or progressive local income tax; however, progressive taxation was not in permissible in North Carolina.

Mayor Schewel encouraged interested persons to contact Ms. Beckmann and Mr. Caine with their feedback.

Mayor Schewel expressed appreciation over the past couple years that the city's bus needs have been funded by the Transit Plan by a larger degree than had been previously.

The meeting was paused for closed captioning from 3:04 until 3:09 p.m.

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DISPOSITION AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 505 WEST CHAPEL HILL STREET  
(ITEM 25/ PR 14647)**

Stacey Poston General Services' Project Manager for disposition and redevelopment at 505 West Chapel Hill Street; gave the staff report; spoke to the timeline and goals issued in the RFP; the restrictive covenants related to the affordable housing aspect of the project; in Oct 2020 Council voted to approve six related motions supporting the disposition of the property to Fallon Company and their associated team members, Wynn Development. Subsequent to the October approval, the city entered into a master development agreement and a purchase and sale agreement and the Fallon Company began performing due diligence. After many months, Fallon Company determined they could not advance on the previously Council approved development program. In April 2021, Fallon Company sent the city an Issue of Termination along with an alternate development proposal.

Kyle Vangel, representing HRNA, reviewed the alternate proposal and possible next steps.

Staff was informing Council on the process and asking Council for direction.

Presentation highlights:

Newly proposed development options proposed by Fallon and Winn; compared the master development agreement with Proposed Alternatives A and B.

Fallon Company reasons for moving ahead with alternative proposal:

1. More distressed condition than anticipated.
2. Residential conversion of building led by Winn is not feasible without additional financial concessions and subsidy.
3. COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant uncertainty in real estate market.

Proposed alternatives reduced the net present value of total proceeds to the City over ten years by \$3 million to \$3.8 million from the amount contemplated by the MDA. The majority of the difference in value between the programs was attributed to the substantial proposed reduction in the purchase price.

The City's five core priorities were reviewed.

1. Provide 80 units of onsite affordable housing to residents at or below 60% AMI.
2. Generate significant revenue to city from sale of land and future local tax revenues from onsite development.
3. Deliver mixed-use project, including significant component of office space, with preference for minimum of 150,000 gross square footage.
4. Preserve existing PD Headquarters Building as part of the development program.
5. Deliver signature design and activated street-level experience to support DT's identity.

Alternative A affects the total revenue generated to the City, size of committed office program and quality of street front activation.

Alternative B adds additional affordable housing units above the City's baseline expectation of 80 units but at a cost of \$800,000 to the City.

Pathways to move forward:

1. Re-commence negotiations
2. Subdivide the site
3. Re-start solicitation process

Mayor Schewel called on speakers:

Tom Miller, President of Preservation Durham, was disappointed by the status of the Fallon Proposal. He emphasized the city's original five goals were correct; did not recommend one proposal over the other; and encouraged a restaurant be

located on the first floor on the historic corner in a building designed by a student of Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. He also supported the Milton Small Building being used for affordable housing.

Cathleen Turner, representing Preservation North Carolina, supported retaining the building due to its design significance; and supported Winn's development of additional residential. She spoke to urging the consideration of sub-dividing out a portion of the parcel and reviewing of NCGS 168-266 Disposition of Surplus Historic Properties through negotiated sale.

Stella Adams, Durham resident, noted there was no urgency to this matter; noted Fallon Company was reneging on the deal; and with Google coming to Downtown along with other entities, there would be other opportunities.

Zac Vuncannon, representing Fallon Company, noted the team was committed to finding a solution and keeping the development on track; attributed the revised plans to the impacts of the global pandemic, increase in construction costs and market forces.

Mike Fallon, representing Fallon Company, addressed maintaining the current building and spoke to the viability of tax credits on the property.

Gilbert Winn, representing Winn Development, was available to answer questions.

Mayor Schewel requested Council's comment.

Council Member Middleton emphasized the importance of the gateway location; supported asking the second developer, Akridge, to do the project as a path forward; addressed Fallon's deep pockets; was not comfortable with Fallon dictating terms, especially after Fallon walked away from the Master Development Agreement combined with the \$2 million reduction; and favored re-soliciting the process if the second place RFP was not possible.

Council Member Freelon inquired about the importance of the Milton Small Building; noted there was a lingering question about not keeping the building and favored seeing other options; noted his father, Architect Phillip Freelon, designed the fire escape on the back of the building; and encouraged Council that if they decided to go back to the drawing board with a blank canvas, then weigh alternate proposals that included not preserving the building. He also favored engaging Akridge.

Council Member Freeman supported the backup offer in pursuing Akridge for their response; and asked Winn if the historic tax credit would be of benefit in creating affordable housing by including an additional 80 units at the site over the next one/two years. She also asked about an Akridge/Winn Development option.

Alternative A was not an option; and favored pursuing the backup offer with Akridge. If Akridge was not possible, go back to the drawing board. She also asked about the plan for setting up affordable housing at the location, by using historic tax credits.

Gilbert Winn responded to the usage of tax credits. The cost of renovating the Milton Small Building was a third higher than to construct on a green field/new construction project. He also noted that 35% of joint federal/state historic tax credits could offset the increase, bringing the project 5-10% lower than new construction. His company created a plan for home ownership conversion opportunity for mixed-income housing; rent out for mixed income for five years, then sell units to first time home-owners and market rate home-owners.

Mayor Schewel asked what other affordable housing would be on the property. He summarized that 11 units located in the Milton Small Building was possible at 80% AMI with a city subsidy of \$1 million.

Mr. Winn stated whether or not Milton Small was converted into housing, there would continue to be 80 units on the other part of the site. Resulting in 280 units of new construction with 80 units affordable at 60% AMI. He also noted that state 4% tax credits would be applied for by a rolling application between now and end of year.

City Attorney Rehberg deferred to Assistant Attorney Crista Cuccaro to address the legal questions raised by Council. Attorney Cuccaro stated in terms of proceeding with Akridge within the scope of the original RFP, it was an acceptable route.

Ms. Poston requested Council's direction in moving forward; and noted the RFP might be stale at this point in current market.

Mayor Schewel expressed disappointment considering where the project was now; urged de-politicizing the process moving forward; and had felt there had been a good outcome the first time around. He was supportive of the five goals as stated in the first RFP; 80 units and 250,000 feet of office space and preservation of the building. The amount of revenue incoming was significantly less and activation of the street scape remained a priority.

1. What was estimate of sale value for the land
2. What did a less activated street scape mean
3. What would green space be like in new design

Mayor Schewel was less supportive of going back to Akridge and the local partner was no longer viable; he was not ready to reject the Fallon alternatives; and asked about an update on the market.

Council Member Caballero addressed the historic nature of the building; priority was the affordable housing units and was interested in keeping the building. She also was in favor of finding other options and was open to going back to Akridge and willing to move forward with a new package.

City Manager Page thanked staff for their work on the project over multiple years; favored a public discussion about where the project stood currently; the item was to prevent a status until Council provided their direction. She noted that she had not heard consensus from Council about timeline and/or expectation about the 505 West Chapel Hill Street property.

Mayor Schewel inquired about the timeline of the Fallon/Winn supplemental offer.

Mr. Vuncannon responded that his company would take direction from Council.

Mayor Schewel summarized the timelines and processes.

City Manager Page requested clarity on the timeline.

It was the consensus of the majority of Council to go back to the market with a new RFP process.

City Manager Page appreciated the direction and staff would respond with providing Council additional information based on the direction the Mayor provided.

Mayor Schewel thanked Fallon Company and Winn Development and reflected on the RFP process.

Council Member Freelon inquired if Council would be able to weigh in on the next RFP process. Mayor Schewel noted that a whole new process would ensue.

**SUBJECT: 2021 FIRST QUARTER CRIME REPORT (ITEM 27/ PR 14607)**

City Manager Page congratulated Chief CJ Davis on her latest appointment as Police Chief of the City of Memphis, Tennessee, noted that this was the Chief's last quarterly report to Council and acknowledged the Chief's five years of service to the City of Durham.

Each Council Member congratulated Chief Davis, appreciated her service and wished her much success in her new role as the Police Chief of Memphis.

Cerelyn 'CJ' Davis made remarks about her service in Durham under Mayor Bell, City Manager Bonfield, Mayor Schewel and City Manager Page; and presented the staff report.

The report included the following:

Part 1 Violent Crime

Homicides, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Violent Crime  
Shooting Incidents- dropped by in 1Q21 dropped by 4%, number of shooting victims dropped by 2%. Provided data on multi-victim firearm incidents. There were 3 weeks in a row, late in 1Q21 there were no reported multi-victim firearm incidents. Centralized the city's shooting investigations whose investigators have worked with federal partners in area of weapons charges/prosecutions.

Part 1 Property Crime – all dropped by double digit percentages in 1Q21 compared to same period in 1Q20.

Burglary, Larceny, Vehicle Theft, Property Crime.  
80% of the vehicles have been recovered.

Part 1 Clearance Rates

Compare departments of Durham with peer cities.  
Clearance rates were higher than FBI rates.

Priority 1 Calls for Service

1784 calls for service in 1Q21.

Target Response Time= 5.8 minutes; Average Response Time: 5.95 minutes  
Target Under 5 minute response 57%; less than 5 minute response 53.76%

Staffing

Sworn – 88% staffed (authorized 556; actual 489)

Non –Sworn – 90% (authorized 126; actual 113)

Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program Oct 15-Mar 21

Total 368 participants; only 16 have re-offended

Referrals include wrap-around services

Chart: Use of Force Incidents (5 year period 2015- 2020)

U-Visa Requests by Quarter

No backlog

PAL Mentoring & Venturing Program

Launched in McDougald Terrace; expanded academic program to include outdoor activities like bike rides, hikes and other outdoor activities

Positive youth engagement opportunities supported and are requested by caregivers.

PAL 1Q Activities

Baseball, softball, basketball; expanded to virtual E-sports League, sports and gaming opportunity. Golf starting up in 2Q. Neighborhood Clean Ups in 1Q.

Mayor Schewel inquired if his colleagues had comments.

Council Member Reece appreciated how the Chief had changed the way the community perceived the work of the Police Department in Durham; and was grateful for the Chief's accessibility in the community and to Council. He also inquired about the increase in domestic violence and asked how the Department

was responding to the trend; and asked about the trending of clearance rates across the country.

Chief Davis reported that the domestic violence cases were more violent and that officers provided support by making referrals to perpetrators and victims of violence. Chief responded that Durham had higher clearance rate percentages above that of the FBI and attributed this fact to investigators' capabilities.

Council Member Middleton inquired about staffing levels and asked if recruitment should be a concern or not and how were staffing levels determined.

Chief Davis noted that recruitment was down due to the pandemic and that recruitment numbers were coming back up; and explained the application and academy processes. She noted that calls for service, population and demand were evaluated and stated 62 officers had to be working every shift and then augmented with supplemental officers.

Chief Davis spoke to methods in evaluating officers; in her parting remarks, offered words of wisdom that Council should pay attention to the data; and indicated the trend of solving homicides in 2021 v 2020 was facilitated by the fact that the homicides were being conducted by either acquaintances or family members.

Council Members expressed gratitude and appreciation for the Police Chief's outreach into various Durham communities, departmental operations, and approach to leadership.

**SUBJECT: FY2022 STORMWATER RATES (ITEM 31/ PR 14629)**

Paul Wiebke, Stormwater Division, made a PowerPoint Presentation on Stormwater Fund and Rates.

The presentation included the following:

Description of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund

- Revenue sources
- Annual Budget
- Capital Projects
- Activities as part of the NPDES Permit, including state regulations

Key Issues

- Rate increase for FY22

Chart of FY22 to FY27 Proposed Rates

Chart FY21-FY27 CIP Spending Projection

Customer Billing Impact FY22

- Residential 1, 2, 3 rates
- Non-Residential rates

Estimated Accounts and Revenue by Tier FY22- piecharts  
Monthly Billing Benchmarking chart  
Multi-Family & Commercial Equivalent Monthly Rate chart  
Monthly Residential Stormwater Rate History Tier Comparison  
Falls Stage 1  
South Ellerbe Stormwater Restoration Program  
- Algae Turf Scrubber

Mayor Schewel made remarks about the South Ellerbe Creek Restoration Project and expressed appreciation for the restoration project along with the Algae Turf Scrubber technology and innovation. He concurred with the rate increase as it was necessary to keep local lakes clean and the city's water supply at a quality level.

City Manager Page appreciated Mr. Wiebke's presentation from the Stormwater Division.

**SUBJECT: VACCINATION EQUITY PROPOSAL (ITEM 32/ PR 14657)**

Mayor Schewel introduced the item that he requested to present to Council a couple weeks ago in regard to vaccine equity; referenced meetings with community based organizations that focused on enhancing vaccination equity amongst African-American and Hispanic communities in Durham, updated the Council and public on vaccination rates demographically and summarized that there was not yet vaccine equity in Durham at this time. He spoke to meetings with public health providers and stated there was unanimity in regard to community health workers being crucial to reach vaccine equity.

Mayor Schewel emphasized that it was growing necessary to take the vaccines to the people since the number of vaccinations taking place at vaccination sites were falling; and noted that vaccination clinics were popping up at churches and at other community locals.

Proposed a budget:

- Duration: five months
- Cost: Total cost to be split by City and County partners; up to \$650,000 each.
- Provider: Curamericas Global as the administrator and coordinator

Council Member Reece inquired about the County Health Director's conversations about this program dovetailing with other public health initiatives.

It was the consensus of the public health directors and stakeholders that community health workers were critical to vaccine equity.

Council Member Reece inquired about the timing of the approval of the proposal on the County side; and if the city were only funding the proposal, then approximately 25 health workers could be hired.

Council Member Freeman encouraged funding local organizations in this area; and she spoke to the feeling of being disjointed and inequitable.

Mayor Schewel listed off the local community based organizations who would be involved in the proposal and stated 92% of the funding would go to the community based organizations with 8% allocated for administrative fees. He also stated that a portion of the funding was for wages, supplies, mileage and support staff.

Council Member Caballero was supportive of the proposal.

Council Member Middleton was supportive and asked about the duration of the outreach and inquired about the source of the workers and their benefits.

Mayor Schewel reinforced public health experts' remarks by stating the next 5 to 6 months was a crucial period. There were groups of trained community health workers who could be hired under the new proposal in combination with new hires; it was mentioned that new hires could be sourced from Durham Technical Community College and other local medical training programs. He noted the community based organizations would be handling the wages and benefits of the workers.

Council Member Freelon spoke to local organizations who were addressing violence interruption and inquired about the resources available for emergency funding.

City Manager Page spoke to the initial \$5 million COVID Fund with the purpose to fund COVID program response; explained how contracts were funded and authorized; spoke to the balance in the COVID Fund; and noted that Council could approve the allocations to certain funds and that once approved, the administration was responsible for execution.

Mayor Schewel urged the use of the COVID Fund as resources for the vaccination equity program.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson appreciated the proposal and funding plan; and expressed gratitude for community partners for pivoting from supply acquisition to vaccination distribution. She also urged partnership building with the Durham County Commissioners and was willing to wait to hear about the County's contribution to the proposal.

Council Member Freeman noted her support of the proposal and the spelling out of how to incorporate the folks on the ground was important and noting the public health facing part of it, the workforce aspect of it had to be at the backside of it and was glad Durham Tech was engaged.

Council Member Caballero inquired about the timeline and when the County Commissioners would pass their funding portion.

Mayor Schewel indicated that the proposal had been sent to the Durham County Public Health staff to vet and explained he had been in contact with Chair Howerton and would be in touch.

City Clerk Schreiber announced Council's nominations to boards, committees, commissions and taskforces. The following persons were nominated:

Deniz Ayedemir was nominated for appointment to the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission representing Transportation Planning and Policy;

Idreese Foxworth was nominated for appointment to the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission representing University Students/University Facilities;

Jerry Ulysses Guerrier was nominated for appointment to the Durham City-County Appearance Commission; and

Aissa L Dearing-Benton was nominated for reappointment to the Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board representing Energy.

### **SETTLING THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 17, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Manager Page settled the agenda for the May 17, 2021 City Council Meeting by announcing the following items on the Consent Agenda Items 1 through 22, Item 26 and Item 32; General Business Agenda Item 23 and General Business Agenda - Public Hearings, Items 28 through 31.

**MOTION** by Council Member Freelon, seconded by Council Member Reece, to settle the City Manager's agenda for the May 17, 2021 City Council Meeting was approved at 6:12 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson and Council Members Caballero, Freelon, Freeman, Middleton and Reece. Noes: None. Absent: None.

Council Member Freeman spoke to expanding the bylaws of the Durham Open Space and Trails Committee (DOST) to include an equity seat.

Council Member Caballero responded that it was her understanding that DOST wanted to revise all of their bylaws.

Mayor Schewel recommended that Council Members Caballero and Freeman work with DOST and provide guidance to Council.

Being no additional items to come before Council, Mayor Schewel adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, NCCMC, CMC  
City Clerk