MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY

Greensboro, North Carolina
December 1, 2014

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on December 1, 2014 at 10:00 AM, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Bill Bencini, presiding; Vice Chairman Hank Henning; Commissioners Jeff Phillips, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Kay Cashion, Bruce Davis, Linda O. Shaw, Alan Branson, Ray Trapp. Commissioners Elect J. Carlvena Foster, Alan Perdue, and Justin Conrad.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Marty Lawing, County Manager; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Robin Keller, Clerk to the Board; Michael Halford, Budget Director; Paul Lowe, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Sheriff BJ Barnes; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director; Thomas Marshburn, Parks Division Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Katredia Martin, Executive Administrative Officer; Donna Riner, Legal Services Administrator; Jerry Coble, Assistant Fire Marshal; Bonnie Stellfox, Purchasing Director; Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Register of Deeds Jeff Thigpen; and members of the media and community.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplin Chavis provided the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Bencini led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bencini called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM.

IV. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Chairman Bencini commended Commissioner Davis for his twelve years of service to the County and presented him with a present as a token of the Board’s appreciation.
Chairman Bencini recognized Commissioner Shaw for sixteen years of service representing the constituents of District Three and provided her with a gift on behalf of the Board.

V. REMARKS FROM RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Commissioner Davis thanked the Board for recognizing his service to the County. Davis commended all of his supporters that have backed him during his twelve years on the Board. Davis thanked his wife for her ongoing support and shared his appreciation for the County staff.

Commissioner Shaw shared that it had been an honor to serve on the Board for sixteen years. Shaw noted that during her tenure she had tried to represent all residents while working to foster economic growth in the County. Shaw commented that though incentives are controversial, the development tool had aided the Board in attracting many companies and jobs to the County. Shaw then recognized her family for their support and thanked County staff. Shaw commended Davis for his work to assist veterans and welcomed the newly elected commissioners.

VI. REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN AND EXCUSING OF OUTGOING MEMBERS

Chairman Bencini thanked the citizen's of the County for allowing him to serve. Bencini then shared his appreciation for his fellow commissioners for their ongoing support and commented on the shared respect that is felt among members of the Board.

Vice Chairman Henning thanked each of the outgoing members for their work over the years.

Chairman Bencini turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Henning and called a brief recess.

Meeting went into recess at 10:39 AM. Meeting reconvened at 10:47 AM.

VII. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

A. REELECTED COMMISSIONER CAROLYN Q. COLEMAN OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Patrice A. Hinnant, Guilford County Resident Superior Court Judge, stated that it was an honor to swear in Commissioner Coleman and thanked her for her service to the County. Hinnant then administered the oath of office to newly reelected Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman.

B. REELECTED COMMISSIONER KAY CASHION OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable H. Thomas Jarrell, Jr., Guilford County District Court Judge, thanked Commissioner Cashion for her support of the Court System and noted that programs initiated by Cashion including the County’s Drug Court have been beneficial to both the County and to the judicial system. Jarrell then issued the oath of office to newly reelected Commissioner Katie S. Cashion.
C. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER J. CARLVENA FOSTER OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Judge Teresa Vincent, Guilford County District Court Judge, opined that it was an honor to swear in Commissioner Elect Foster. Vincent then issued the oath of office to newly elected Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster.

D. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER ALAN PERDUE OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Robert Hold Edmunds, North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice, shared that it was an honor as a resident of Guilford County to be afforded the opportunity to administer the oath of office to Commissioner Elect Perdue. Edmunds then administered the oath of office to Commissioner Alan W. Perdue.

E. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER JUSTIN CONRAD OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Justice Robert Hold Edmunds, North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice, issued the oath of office to Commissioner Justin Conrad.

VIII. CLERK TO BOARD ROBIN KELLER WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Robin Keller, Clerk to the Board, opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Commissioner Jeff Phillips to nominate Vice Chairman Hank Henning for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.
NOES: None.

Keller congratulated newly elected Chairman Henning.

IX. NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN WILL CONDUCT THE ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Chairman Henning called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to nominate Commissioner Jeff Phillips for Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.
NOES: None.
X. REMARKS FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Coleman shared that it is a real joy to serve the citizens of the County and noted that she has sat on the Board for the past twelve years. Coleman commented that she always works to do what is right and make the best possible decisions while representing the citizens of Guilford County.

Commissioner Cashion recognized her family, and thanked those of her continuants who came to the installation. Cashion shared her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the At-Large Commissioner for Guilford County. Cashion then reviewed projects she has had the pleasure to work on during her service as a Commissioner, including the County’s Family Justice Center.

Commissioner Foster thanked God for the opportunity to serve and shared her excitement to be elected as a County Commissioner. Foster shared her appreciation for Commissioner Davis and past County Commission Chairman Skip Alston for their leadership and mentorship. Foster then commended her Husband, Otis, and the rest of her family for their support and encouragement.

Commissioner Perdue shared his appreciation for the opportunity to continue to serve the citizen's of Guilford County. Perdue thanked his wife and family for their support. Perdue then commended his supporters and County employees for their efforts.

Commissioner Conrad thanked Commissioner Shaw for her service to the third district. Conrad shared his appreciation for his wife and family for their support and commented that he was honored and humbled to serve the County. Conrad opined that he would work hard to make himself accessible to citizens and was looking forward to serving with his fellow commissioners.

XI. REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Henning recognized the recent passing of Commissioner Branson's father and shared the Board’s condolences.

Chairman Henning thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chairman and added that he was looking forward to working with his fellow commissioners over the next year.

Vice Chairman Phillips thanked his peers for electing him as Vice-Chairman. Phillips welcomed all of the newly elected commissioners and thanked outgoing Commissioners Davis and Shaw as well as Chairman Bencini for their service to the County.

XII. REVIEW AND ADOPT COMMISSIONERS 2015 MEETING CALENDAR

The Board reviewed the proposed 2015 meeting calendar and made adjustments accordingly.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Coleman, and seconded by Vice Chairman Phillips to adopt the updated 2015 meeting calendar.
VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.
NOES: None.

Chairman Henning suggested GTCC’s Cameron Campus as a possible location for the Board’s Annual Retreat in February.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND ADJOURN TO RECEPTION

Commissioner Branson welcomed the newly elected commissioners and thanked the retiring members for their service to the Board.

Commissioner Trapp congratulated newly elected and reelected commissioners and commended outgoing Board members for their efforts and wished them well in their retirement.

Commissioner Foster thanked Commissioner Davis for his service to the citizens of High Point.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:45 AM to a reception honoring newly elected and outgoing commissioners.

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Chairman

Deputy Clerk