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**Gaston County Board
of Commissioners**

GASTON COUNTY

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 25, 2023

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met in Regular Session on April 25, 2023 at 6:02 p.m., in The Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Forum, Gaston County Courthouse.

Chairman Chad Brown presided with Commissioners Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman; Cathy Cloninger, Allen R. Fraley, Kim Johnson and Ronnie Worley in attendance.

Commissioner Tom Keigher was not in attendance.

Others present included Dr. Kim S. Eagle, County Manager; William T. Stetzer, County Attorney; and Angela Stacks, Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Upon request of Chairman Brown, Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd led those assembled in the Invocation and Commissioner Hovis led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Johnson - County Manager - Proclamation - To Proclaim April 22, 2023 as Marshall Schuyler Cabiness, Sr., Day in Gaston County

Commissioner Johnson read the Proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Gaston County is proud to commemorate the life and legacy of Lt. Marshall Schuyler Cabiness, Sr., a Tuskegee Airman, for his bravery and service to our country; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabiness is remembered as one of our local leaders, mentor, native son and real-life hero; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabiness was a graduate of Highland High School in Gastonia and Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and was considered a pillar of pride in Gaston County and surrounding communities; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabiness married the granddaughter of Booker T. Washington, notably known as the Founder of the Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabiness was the first Black person in the Gaston County area to earn a pilot's license in the 1930's and a member of the Tuskegee Airmen who were the nation's first Black military pilots in the final years of World War II; and,

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen played a substantial role in the desegregation of the U. S. Armed Forces by proving no shortage of intelligence, skill, courage or patriotism for such an endeavor among African Americans; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabiness was one of hundreds of Blacks who flocked to volunteer for the 99th Pursuit Squadron when the first all-Black squadron was formed in 1941.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims April 22, 2023 as

MARSHALL SCHUYLER CABINESS, SR., DAY

in recognition of Mr. Cabiness' many contributions to our Country and for the respect and honor he brought to Gaston County. The Board further urges all citizens in Gaston County to remember and honor the valor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Ms. Tanzy Barrow Wallace of Shelby, NC, accompanied by Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd and Mr. Frank Barrow, accepted the Proclamation and advised that after 80 years it was a grand opportunity to recognize a distinguished man and native son of the County who also had origins in Cleveland County (at The Cabiness Farm; a 72-acre farm located north on 226); the Cabiness family in NC, CA, KS, PA, Washington, DC, NY, GA) are honored and grateful to the BOC for this special tribute; this is a legacy of standing under the shadows of perseverance, bravery, uncommon valor and overcoming the odds; this acknowledgement and recognition is in remembrance of the men who

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put a stake in the sand to continue to uphold and set standards for us and our children to give no excuses nor be a victim in these times and to empower us to pass down this story; honored that Lt. Tuskegee Airmen Marshall Schyuler Cabiness was recognized in such a beautiful and honorable way.

Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd stated it is a privilege and an honor to be a part of this; she and Ms. Barrow have been friends almost 20 years and she did not know about her family; she thanked Mrs. Dorothy "Dot" Guthrie, African-American Museum of History & Culture Director, for ensuring that one of our finest soldiers had a day of recognition; Mr. Cabiness was a member and Trustee of St. Paul Baptist Church (one of the oldest black churches in the County) where he became an ardent community leader; he paid for funerals when people didn't have the money, visited the less fortunate in the community, etc.; proud to share this history; planning, with Mr. Adam Gaub's (Communications Director) assistance, to have a conversation with Ms. Wallace to preserve this information and his legacy.

Hearing no objection, the Chairman revised the order of the agenda and the Board proceeded to the Citizen Recognition segment.

Citizen Recognition

The following individuals spoke in support of funding the Museum of Art & History: Mr. Marshall Rauch (Retired NC Senator); Ms. Kimberly Norwood, Art & History Museum Board of Trustees Chairman, 1327 Hardin Rd., Dallas, NC; former Sheriff Alan Cloninger, 601 McSwain St., Dallas, NC; Ms. Pat Rudisill, 1232 Queensgate St., Gastonia, NC; Mrs. Lucy Penegar; Mr. Andy Osborne, 2231 Water Oak Ln., Gastonia, NC; Mr. Scott Warren, 5233 Buckingham Dr., Charlotte, NC and representing the NC Museum Council; Mrs. Laurel Morris, 2348 Villa Oaks Ct., Gastonia, NC; Ms. Logan Smith; Ms. Diane Marenfeld, 1519 Buckingham Ave., Gastonia, NC; Mr. Clark Simon, 311 W. 10th Ave., Gastonia, NC; Ms. Karen Bringle, 109 N. Belvedere Ave., Gastonia, NC; Ms. Lauren Parker, 4604 Oakleaf Ln., Gastonia, NC and Executive Director of The Little Theatre of Gastonia; Mr. Brent Messer, 1220 Oakwood Ave., Gastonia, NC; Dr. Daniel Hutchinson, 5066 Meanna Dr., Clover, SC.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously accepted the document from Ms. Norwood as information.

Chairman Brown advised that the BOC discussed the Museum at a previous Work Session and spoke with the County Manager individually; the Museum is fully funded in the budget which will be addressed on May 9th. In response to a citizens comment, he stated the Museum study was conducted before the exhibit.

Mr. Dewayne Jordan, Gastonia, NC, thanked BOC for their consideration of his rezoning request and looks forward to making their home at 4545 Crowders Crest Dr., Gastonia, NC.

Mr. Larry Simmons, Lowell, NC, spoke in support of adopting an interim budget until the BOC receives the audit in October to obtain a true assessed value.

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Mr. Mike Tomberella, Gastonia, NC, spoke in support of a revenue neutral tax rate due to the recent reevaluation process and reducing the tax rate to \$0.54/\$100.

Presentation - Parks & Recreation (**Comprehensive**) Master Plan Update

Ms. Cathy Hart, Parks & Recreation Director, advised staff has been working on a Master Plan update with Alfred Benesch & Company since July 2022; deferred to Mr. Jon Wood, Senior Project Manager and a professional landscape architect, who has worked on many parks plans in the area for comments.

Mr. Wood presented a slide presentation and advised the plan focuses on the County's offerings but the partnership will continue with municipalities and other agencies to expand and increase recreational opportunities; the 10-minute rule to get to a park or greenway was modified to 20 minutes; parks are located throughout the center of the County going east to west and the County needs a few more going north and south.

The update included visiting parks to see its condition, what has changed since the previous plan, conducting a random stratified survey (critical if County apply for state grants) and public stakeholders and staff meetings so that everyone understand all the needs.

Conducted a survey via a sub-consultant in December/January and came up with high-priority investment items for facilities and amenities; the survey asked many questions (what parks people visit and what they do in the parks; what programs and activities occur in the park) and collected a lot of demographic information (asked a few tax questions and how do you fund parks, etc.); looked at the importance various households place on each program or activity and how many households have unmet needs through the County.

Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities Rated as High Priority Items: The eight items are: 1) Nature trails, 2) Greenway trail system, 3) Indoor fitness/exercise facilities, 4) Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing), 5) Picnic shelters, 6) Indoor event space, 7) Dog park, 8) Community gardens.

Recreation Programs/Activities Rated as High Priority Items: The top six items looked at were: 1) Adult fitness & wellness program, 2) Outdoor music/concerts, 3) Special events/family festivals, 4) Arts, crafts, 5) Aquatics programs, 6) Outdoor adventure programs.

Community Meetings: Held a couple of meetings and those in attendance were very vocal; many of the items that came up were similar to what came out in the survey; with a focus on passive recreation and being able to walk, boat and bike.

2017 Plan: A plan is usually good for eight to ten years; the County had some demographic change as the population increased and growth occurred in different directions; Parks & Recreation staff accomplished many goals in the plan (made sure all parks were ADA compliant, constructed new trails/greenways, added spray grounds/splash pads, renovated existing parks and looked at land for a new district park in the northeastern and northwestern part of the County.

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They also acquired many things on the programs/activities side (made ADA improvements to most parks except Dallas Park which is underway; constructed more greenway or trail (Poston Park mountain bike trails, N. Belmont Park learning trail and the Gaston Tech Park Trail Connector currently under NCDOT review), new splash pad at Dallas Park and renovations at Dallas, Poston, Tryon, and N. Belmont Parks.

The property acquisition plan depicts acquisition of land northeast/northwest that has not occurred yet; the County has looked at about 550 acres at south end of County through Catawba Cove by Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens (BSBG) via partnership through Duke Energy, Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) and Catawba Lands Conservancy (CLC); there has been some conceptual planning done via CLC on part of that acreage which provides another area for passive recreation which ties onto the CTT; looking at about 19 miles of the Southfork corridor with Catawba Cove at the south end and ending up at Poston Park in Spencer Mountain.

Trails connectivity remains popular and in demand; want to make sure the proposals and recommendations are attainable and accountable; continue the work with the CLC on the corridor from Spencer Mountain; expand trails and opportunities at Dallas Park; partner with Duke Energy via a lease at the South Point access area; continue to build on accessibility inclusivity and all park facilities to ensure you can get from each element within a park easily; look for more senior Olympics venues; make the Catawba Cove conceptual plans a reality over time; seek new park development to existing parks by adding perimeter walking loops to provide additional walking opportunities; continue search for the northeast district park; look for areas that provide revenue generation activities; continue working with municipalities and other recreation providers to keep that opportunity available within County; make sure the parks are maintained and operated equitably; make sure the municipalities are accessible to the parks within 20 minutes for everybody.

Have set some guidelines to help make the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board a good sounding Board and to help Recreation & Parks staff make decisions to help BOC decide how best to fund its budget yearly; included a Meet the Director for the Director to meet with the citizenry countywide to hear their comments on a routine basis.

When you increase recreation offerings, opportunities and look for land for parks it increases the budget, Capital Improvements Plans (CIPs), maintenance, staffing, equipment, and insurance; however, keeping the parks and recreation facilities well-maintained translates into more usage and safer park environments.

Added locations for parks on map and the County still needs one between Stanley, Mount Holly and the County line; connect the trail from Spencer Mountain down to Catawba Cove and developing that 19 miles corridor; bullet to the west depicts where the City of Gastonia is in the process of designing Linwood Springs and converting the golf course into a passive opportunity to get closer to Crowders Mountain; have already mentioned the South Point access opportunity in the southeast.

The next step for BOC is to consider the Master Plan Update to help Parks & Recreation start planning for the future, obtain additional grant funding and to work with the Advisory Board to help make some of these things happen; balance the needs with other budget requests; work on the three to five-year CIP for implementation; continue to look at Part F Grants and CF Grants offered through the state to help improve the quality of life that will bring people to the County.

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Chairman Brown thanked Mr. Wood for the presentation and called for comments, concerns or questions from the BOC; none were heard.

Chairman Brown thanked Mr. Wood for his presentation and advised that the BOC will get with the Parks & Recreation Director and County Manager.

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Cloninger - Building & Development Services - Zoning Map Change: REZ-23-03-02-00144, Ginna G. Farris (Applicant); Property Parcel: 165781, Located at 3934 Puetts Chapel Rd. in Dallas, NC, Rezone from (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District to the (C-1) Light Commercial Zoning District

Chairman Brown announced the Public Hearings as advertised; explained procedures to be used and called for the motion to enter into Public Hearing.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously entered into Public Hearing.

Chairman Brown introduced Mrs. Laura Hamilton, Planner III – Building and Development Services, for comments.

Mrs. Hamilton advised subject zoning request from Ginna G. Farris (Applicant) and Property Owners (Ginna Farris/Just Chillin Holdings, LLC) is to rezone property parcel 165781 located at 3934 Puetts Chapel Rd. (Dallas, NC), from the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District to the (C-1) Light Commercial Zoning District; the parcel is 4.56 acres and is located in the northwest area of County (between Dallas Cherryville Hwy. and Ike Lynch Rd. on the Puetts Chapel Rd.).

The parcel is located in Area 2: North 321 Gaston/ North Central Gaston of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) in the Rural designation which exemplifies the County and existing natural resources that exist throughout the jurisdiction; it meets Goal 8 by increasing economic development throughout the County and improving viable job opportunities by focusing on retaining and growing small businesses within the County.

The parcel has an existing commercial building that was constructed between 1968 and 1979; a second structure was built in 1994 for Mundy Machine Shop; the current owners want to make the machine shop more conforming and to possibly add another structure; all options to expand the business were explained to Applicant before the rezoning request was submitted; it is surrounded by wooded, residential and farm use areas; if approved, any uses allowed in the C-1 zoning district would be permitted per the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

The Gaston-Cleveland-(Lincoln) Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) has advised that the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) has no funded transportation improvements projects in the immediate vicinity area of the site; a proposed unfunded Minor Road Improvement to Puetts Chapel Rd. is included in the MPO's Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP) to modernize the road and widen existing travel lanes to 12' with wide shoulders; the existing right-of-way along Puetts Chapel Rd. is sufficient for the proposed improvement.

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Staff feels the application, as presented, is consistent with the CLUP.

The Planning Board discussed the impact of the existing use and an expansion of it versus other allowed uses in the zoning district; there were some concern about the increased traffic impacting neighbors with a change of use; some members felt that some uses allowed in the C-1 zoning district would impact the neighbors more than others; questioned why Applicant was not pursuing a Conditional Rezoning; staff informed the Planning Board it could not require an Applicant to go through a Conditional Rezoning process and that both rezoning options were shared with Applicant; staff explained the current use has been on the property for several decades which makes it an existing non-conforming situation; bringing the use into compliance with zoning regulations is in line with the UDO and CLUP.

The Planning Board made a motion to recommend approval of the request as presented since it was reasonable and in the public interest and is consistent with the goals of the CLUP (it will keep the existing parcel light commercial in nature as envisioned by the Rural land use designation) and meets Goal 8 of the CLUP which focuses on increasing economic development by supporting and improving viable job opportunities. The Planning Board met and voted on April 3; the motion to recommend approval failed to carry due to a 4-4 vote.

Staff did not receive any calls about the request; the sign was placed on 4/12/23 and notices were mailed out on 4/10/23; this concludes the presentation.

Chairman Brown called for comments from the Applicants.

Mr. Greg Farris, 905 Toncin Ave., Bessemer City, NC, advised their facility has been in operation for many years at this location; he cannot do anything except what has been done in the past due to its current zoning; wants to rezone it to C-1 to expand operations if needed; thanked BOC for its consideration.

Chairman Brown called for citizen comment; hearing none, called for questions from the BOC.

Chairman Brown asked if the rezoning would put the operation in compliance.

Mrs. Hamilton responded it would put in more compliance of the current use and zoning district.

Chairman Brown recapped the Planning Board did not make a motion for this case; the motion for approval failed to carry.

Chairman Brown introduced the motion to approve and Commissioner Worley provided the second.

Chairman Brown called for discussion.

In response to Commissioner Hovis, Mrs. Hamilton responded if Applicant makes any changes (such as an additions or expansion).

Commissioner Hovis advised the purpose of the rezoning is so Applicant can do that without being restrictive because of the non-conforming use.

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Mrs. Hamilton advised a type D buffer is required between roads, commercial and residential.

Commissioner Johnson asked what Applicant wanted to use the building for now; if Applicant can change the use to different things they like.

Mrs. Hamilton responded the Applicant will continue using the building as a machine shop; if the rezoning is approved, anything in the C-1 zoning could potentially locate there.

Commissioner Johnson referenced the various uses that would be allowed if approved; is that why the Planning Board voted 4-4.

Mrs. Hamilton responded some of the potential C-1 uses and possible traffic increase is part of the reason.

Chairman Brown stated he has visited the machine shop several times and with the surrounding area and what Applicants wants to do via enhancements that he will support the rezoning.

With no objection heard from the Board, the Chairman closed the public hearing and proceeded to the vote.

Chairman Brown called for the vote, and the BOC unanimously approved **2023-117** upon consideration of the map change application, public hearing comment and recommendation from the Planning Board and Planning staff, finds:

- 1) The map change request is consistent with the County's approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as it will keep the existing parcel light commercial in nature as envisioned by the rural future land use designation and meets goal 8 of the CLUP, which focuses on increasing economic development by supporting and improving viable job opportunities.

The Commission considers this action to be reasonable and in the public interest, based on: compatibility with existing land uses in the immediate area. Therefore, the map change request for Property parcel: 165781, is hereby approved, effective with the passage of this Resolution.

- 2) The County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate parties.

The County Attorney read the Consistency Statement as follows: *This is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) as it will keep the existing parcel light commercial in nature, as envisioned by the rural future land use designation and meets Goal 8 of the CLUP, which focuses on increasing economic development by supporting and approving viable job opportunities.*

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Johnson - Building & Development Services - Zoning Map Change: REZ-23-03-15-00145, Dewayne Jordan (Applicant); Property Parcel: 145599, Located at 4545 Crowders Crest Drive, Gastonia, NC, Rezone from (R-1) Single Family Limited with (US) Urban Standards Overlays to the (R-3) Single Family General with Urban Standards (US) Overlays

Chairman Brown introduced Ms. Peyton Ratchford, Planner II – Building and Development Services, for comments.

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Ms. Ratchford advised Mr. Dewayne Jordan (Applicant) is requesting to rezone parcel 145599 located at 4545 Crowders Crest Drive, Gastonia, NC, from the (R-1) Single Family Limited with (US) Urban Standards Overlays to the (R-3) Single Family General with Urban Standards (US) Overlays; the parcel is .69 acres.

She reviewed aerial, ortho photo, zoning and property owners maps and advised the property is located in the Gastonia Township (South Gastonia; west of Hwy. 321); the parcel is currently vacant and surrounded by residential homes and wooded areas; the homes are a mix of stick built and manufactured single-family residential homes; there is an existing mobile home park across Crowders Crest Dr. on Only St.; zoning throughout the area is R-1, R-3, C-2 and C-3; the property is in a heavily residential area of County; if approved, any uses in the R-3 single-family zoning district would be permitted per the UDO; property owners map and table depicts those notified about the public hearing; notices were mailed out and a sign was placed on the site per NCGS; staff did not receive any comments or inquiries about the request.

The parcel is located in Area 5: Scenic Gaston/Southwest Gaston of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP); key issues for area citizens include preservation of open space, roadway improvements and better connectivity to other areas of County, preservation of existing conditions while allowing low to moderate growth, repurpose of vacant buildings and facilities for new economic opportunities and increased commercial opportunities along existing major thoroughfares.

The future land use designation is Rural communities which are largely Rural areas where there are a number of residential buildings on smaller lots, built closer to roadways. Driving through the areas, you feel like you are in a neighborhood.

The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) advised via letter that there are no planned transportation improvement plans on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), (2050) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

The Planning Board met on April 3rd and recommended approval of the request by a 6-1 vote (**actual vote was 7-1**); this concludes the presentation.

Chairman Brown called for comment from the Applicant and citizens; hearing none, called for questions from the BOC; none was heard.

Chairman Brown recapped that the Planning Board recommended approval by a 7-1 vote.

With no objection heard from the BOC, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing and proceeded to the vote.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously approved **2023-118**, upon consideration of the map change application, public hearing comment and recommendation from the Planning Board and Planning staff, finds:

- 1) The map change request is consistent with the County's approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as it will keep the parcel residential

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in nature as envisioned by the rural community future land use designation. The proposed use and district will also allow for preservation of existing conditions in the area while allowing low to moderate growth in the Scenic Gaston area of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Commission considers this action to be reasonable and in the public interest, based on: Planning Board recommendation and compatibility with existing land uses in the immediate area. Therefore, the map change request for Property parcel: 145599, is hereby approved, effective with the passage of this Resolution.

- 2) The County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate parties.

Chairman Brown asked the County Attorney to provide the Consistency Statement.

The County Attorney read the *Consistency Statement* as follows: *This is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) as it will keep the parcel residential in nature as envisioned by the rural community future land use designation. The proposed use and district will also allow for preservation of existing conditions in the area while allowing low to moderate growth in the Scenic Gaston area of the CLUP.*

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Hovis - Building & Development Services - Zoning Map Change: REZ-23-03-21-00146, Jason M. Negra (Applicant); Property Parcel: A Portion of 156389, Located on Lewis Rd. in Kings Mountain, NC, Rezone 1.807 Acres of 126.08 Acres from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District

Chairman Brown introduced Ms. Peyton Ratchford, Planner II – Building and Development Services, for comments.

Ms. Ratchford advised Mr. Jason M. Negra (Applicant) is requesting to rezone a portion of parcel 156389 (1.807 of 126.08 acres) located on Lewis Rd., Kings Mountain, NC, from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District; the parcel is located in the southwestern portion of County.

The lot went through the subdivision process earlier this year and the plat was recorded in March; the new parcel has not been mapped or assigned an (parcel) id yet so the request is for a portion of the parent parcel; according to the approved subdivision, once the new parcel is mapped the R-2 zoning district would only be applied to the new lot if approved.

She reviewed the approved subdivision plat and advised the new lot is in northern portion of parent lot and will have direct access off of Lewis Rd. which is NCDOT (NC Department of Transportation) maintained.

The site will have a well and septic systems and be required to obtain a driveway permit; the property is in a heavily residential area of County; surrounding parcels are zoned R-1, R-2 and R-3; if approved, any uses in the R-2 zoning district would be permitted in accordance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) standards and regulations.

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She advised the property owners map listed those notified about the Public Hearing; four adjacent properties are owned by same property owner; notices were mailed out and a sign was placed on the lot per NCGS; staff did not receive any calls or inquiries about the request.

The parcel is located in Area 5: Scenic Gaston(/Southwest Gaston) of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and not Area 1: Rural Gaston/Northwest Gaston as identified in staff's report; key issues for area citizens include preservation of open space, road improvements and better connectivity to others areas of County, preservation of existing conditions while allowing low-to-moderate growth, repurpose vacant buildings and facilities for new economic opportunities and increased commercial opportunities along existing major thoroughfares.

The future land use designation is Rural and is characterized by having plenty of open space along with farmstead style housing and agribusiness; residential homes are located on large lots and are set back from the roads they front upon.

The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) has advised there are no transportation improvements plans on the (2050) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP); the CTP shows bike facilities improvements along Lewis Rd.

Natural Resources informed staff that the parent parcel is under a conservation easement with the Catawba Lands Conservancy; the proposed use and rezoning for this portion of lot does not interfere with the conservation agreement.

The Planning Board met on April 3 and unanimously recommended approval of the request; this concludes the presentation.

Chairman Brown called for comments from the Applicant and citizens and for questions from the BOC; none was heard.

Chairman Brown declared the Public Hearing closed; recapped that the Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Chairman Brown called for a motion to approve.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the BOC unanimously approved **2023-119** upon consideration of the map change application, public hearing comment and recommendation from the Planning Board and Planning staff, finds:

- 1) The map change request is consistent with the County's approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as it will keep the parcel residential in nature and maintain the rural "feel" of the area, which is consistent with the rural future land use designation of the parcel and the vision of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Commission considers this action to be reasonable and in the public interest, based on: Planning Board recommendation and compatibility with existing land uses in the immediate area. Therefore, the map change request for Property parcel: a portion of 156389 (1.807 acres of 126.08 acres), is hereby approved, effective with the passage of this Resolution.

- 2) The County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate

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parties.

Chairman Brown asked the County Attorney to provide the Consistency Statement.

The County Attorney advised this request is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) as it will keep the parcel residential in nature and maintain the rural “feel” of the area, which is consistent with the rural future land use designation of the parcel and the vision of the CLUP.

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Brown - Building & Development Services - Zoning Text Amendment: TEXT-23-03-21-00008- Gaston County Planning Board (Applicant); To Consider Proposed Text Amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO): Chapter 2 (Definitions); Table 2.7-1 - Definition of “Dwelling, Small House”

Chairman Brown introduced Ms. Peyton Ratchford, Planner II – Building and Development Services, for comments.

Ms. Peyton advised subject request to amend the definition of “dwelling, small home” in Chapter 2 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) will allow structures up to 1,000SF and remove all references to tiny houses/homes.

A developer advised staff the NC Housing Finance Agency requires two bedroom dwelling units to have a minimum of 850SF to qualify for financing; the current UDO definition restricts small homes to 800SF and financing options for developers.

The Planning Board asked where the 800SF cap came from; staff explained it was in the original definition but was not addressed when developing the small home community use.

Private residential quarters (PRQs), referred to as mother-in-law suites, are allowed on residential lots by right and cannot be greater in size than 50% of the principal dwelling unit ground floor or 1,000SF (whichever is less); staff and Planning Board felt that 1,000SF would be a good size restriction for small homes and small home communities and would allow for flexibility in floor plans and rooms when financing these type dwellings.

She reviewed and advised the proposed text changes of removing the references to tiny homes/houses would help clarify misconceptions about what a small house is; tiny homes are often portrayed as movable structures; per UDO, small homes have to be built on site per NC building codes and are not intended to be movable; this concludes the presentation.

Chairman Brown called for citizen comment and for questions from the BOC; hearing none, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Chairman Brown recapped that the Planning Board recommended approval by a unanimous vote and called for a motion to approve.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously approved **2023-120** upon consideration of the

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proposed amendments, public hearing comment and Planning Board recommendation, the County Commission considers this action to be reasonable and in the public interest and finds the proposed amendments to be consistent with the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The proposed text amendment is consistent with goal six of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as it will allow for financing of small house dwelling units, which can be seen as a form of affordable housing and will allow the County to attract and retain many populations, including young professionals.

The County Commission hereby approves, effective with the passage of the Resolution the amendments to UDO Chapter 2 (Definitions): Table 2.7-1; the Definition of "Dwelling, Small House".

The County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate parties.

Sec. 2.7 Terms defined in this ordinance.

- A. A list of definitions of terms, phrases and words used in this Ordinance follows. Other terms may be defined elsewhere in this Ordinance. Terms that are specifically defined in this Ordinance outside of Section 2.7 shall apply solely to the Sections or Chapters as so indicated, may supersede the definition list in this Section 2.7. Definitions of Terms found in Section 2.7 shall otherwise be applicable throughout the Ordinance.
- B. Words not specifically defined in this Ordinance shall be defined by reference in the following order: first in the most recently adopted version of the State Building Code; second in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and third in the American Collegiate Dictionary. The Land Use Administrator shall make the interpretation if not found in the above references.

TABLE 2.7-1 DEFINED TERMS		
Term	Use Table Subcategory*	Definition
Dwelling, Small House		<p>A "Dwelling, Single-family Detached", that is no greater than 1,000 square feet, constructed or assembled onsite, and meets applicable NC State Building Code requirements.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>

Chairman Brown asked the County Attorney to provide the Consistency Statement.

The County Attorney advised *the text change is consistent with Goal 6 of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) as it will allow for financing of the small house dwelling unit which can be seen as a form of affordable housing and will allow the County to attract and retain many populations including young professionals.*

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

APRIL 25, 2023

GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Keigher - EDC - To Approve a Gaston County Level Three or Level Four Incentive Grant Pursuant to N.C.Gen.Stat. 158-7.1 and To Authorize Gaston County to Enter into an Economic Development Agreement (EDA) with Crow Holdings

Chairman Brown introduced Mr. Donny Hicks, Economic Development Commission (EDC) Director, for comments.

Mr. Hicks advised he has the site plan for the two buildings that Crow Holdings anticipates building off Shannon Bradley Road; the 420,000SF and 280,000SF buildings fit in the mid-range size of what has been built recently; the market has pulled back to 300,000SF - 400,000SF versus the 500,000,000SF – 800,000,000SF market it was a couple of months ago.

Construction will begin this summer and end the first quarter of 2024; anticipate the tax value will be at \$49M; the reason for requesting the Level Three and Level Four Grants is to keep staff from requesting BOC to approve the same thing if it was \$51M; cannot project the amount but it should be at \$50M which qualifies for a Level Four (Grant).

Chairman Brown called for citizen comment and for questions from the BOC; none was heard.

Chairman Brown declared the Public Hearing closed.

Chairman Brown called for a motion to approve.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the BOC unanimously approved **2023-121** as follows:

WHEREAS, Crow Holdings is considering a total investment of \$49,000,000 to design and build two buildings (i) 280,000 square feet and (ii) 420,000 square feet at its Shannon Bradley Road location; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes a County to undertake an economic development project by providing grants for the location of industry; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County developed an economic grant policy to provide global advanced manufacturing companies and distribution facilities with incentives to develop high quality industries within the County; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Company's capital investment in and at the Property and its operations thereat will generate significant ad valorem tax, sales tax and other revenues to the County and will qualify for a Level Three or Level Four Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the County will prepare a detailed Economic Development Agreement (EDA), between Crow Holdings, the County and the City of Gastonia, to provide a Level Three or Level Four Incentive Grant, so as to induce the company to provide good job opportunities and capital investment which will enhance the County's ability to attract additional business and industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners approves a Level Three or Level Four Grant, as determined by County policy, and authorizes the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the County Manager to execute any documents necessary to complete an Economic Development Agreement for Crow Holdings.

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Keigher - EDC - To Approve a Gaston County Level One Incentive Grant Pursuant To N.C.Gen.Stat. 158-7.1 and To Authorize Gaston County to Enter into an Economic Development Agreement (EDA) with Project Tyca

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Chairman Brown introduced Mrs. Sara Gilbert-Kay, Economic Development Project Administrator, for comments.

Mrs. Gilbert-Kay advised Project Tyca has proposed to construct a 15,000SF manufacturing and distribution building on Landers Chapel Rd.; plan to invest \$1.3M to qualify for a Level One Grant Incentive (project involves \$800k in real estate; \$500k in equipment); Tyca anticipates hiring three or four more employees at an average salary of \$50k/year; the project is anticipated to generate \$48k/year in tax revenue; staff is requesting a Level One Incentive Grant for Project Tyca.

Chairman Brown called for citizen comment; hearing none, called for questions from the BOC.

Commissioner Hovis asked if the property was already zoned for this use.

Mrs. Gilbert-Kay responded "yes".

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Worley, the BOC unanimously approved **2023-122** as follows:

WHEREAS, Project Tyca is considering a total investment of \$1,300,000 to design, build and upfit a manufacturing and distribution facility at its Landers Chapel Road location; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes a County to undertake an economic development project by providing grants for the location of industry; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County developed an economic grant policy to provide global advanced manufacturing companies and distribution facilities with incentives to develop high quality industries in the County; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Company's capital investment in and at the Property and its operations thereat will generate significant ad valorem tax, sales tax and other revenues to the County and will qualify for a Level One Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the County will prepare a detailed Economic Development Agreement (EDA), between Project Tyca and the County, to provide a Level One Incentive Grant, so as to induce the company to provide good job opportunities and capital investment which will enhance the County's ability to attract additional business and industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners approves a Level One Incentive Grant and authorizes the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the County Manager to execute any documents necessary to complete an Economic Development Agreement for Project Tyca.

Chairman Brown announced that the Public Hearings had concluded.

Agenda Revision/Approval

- REVISED/ Commissioner Brown - BOC - *To Revise the Gaston County Board of Commissioners' (BOC) 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule for May 2023 to: 1) Cancel the May 9th 6:00 PM Work Session; 2) Schedule the May 9th Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearing Time for 7:00 PM; 3) Reschedule the Regular Meeting from May 23, 2023 to May 25, 2023 - 6:00 PM - VI., A.*
- REVISED/ Commissioner Cloninger - *Parks and Recreation - To Award Bid for Dallas Park Inclusive Playground to Next Level Recreation of the Carolinas (\$202,044) - VI., S.*
- ADDED/ Commissioner Brown - *DHHS (Social Services Division) To Authorize a Bid Award and Purchase with HPI International for FY23 Refresh of Desktop Computers for Social Services in the Amount of \$185,981.52 - VI., AD*
- ADDED/ Commissioner Brown - *DHHS (Community Support Services Division) - To Accept and Appropriate Opioid Abatement Allocation Funds from Partners' Health Management in the Amount of \$91,514 - VI., AE*

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously approved the Agenda of April 25, 2023 with changes as noted above.

Approval of Minutes

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously approved the Minutes of February 28, 2023.

Consent Agenda

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the BOC unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 2023-123 Commissioner Brown - BOC - To Revise the Gaston County Board of Commissioners' (BOC) 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule for May 2023 to: 1) Cancel the May 9th 6:00 PM Work Session; 2) Schedule the May 9th Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearing Time for 7:00 PM; 3) Reschedule the Regular Meeting from May 23, 2023 to May 25, 2023 - 6:00 PM as follows:**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with N.C.G.S §143-318.12(a), hereby revises the 2023 BOC Meeting Schedule as follows:

1. Cancel the May 9th 6:00 PM Work Session.
2. Schedule the May 9th Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearing time for 7:00 PM.
3. Reschedule the Tuesday, May 23, 2023 Regular Meeting to Thursday, May 25, 2023 – 6:00 PM.

- 2023-124 Board of Commissioners - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of April 16-22, 2023 as Volunteer Week in Gaston County**

- 2023-125 Commissioner Worley - Budget & Strategy (Sheriff's Office) - To Approve Re-allocation of 2022 JAG Funds for the Sheriff's Office from a Training Line Item to Equipment per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
FedGrtRev: Ebynre Memrl JAG	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-410000-G0044	16,445.00
Emp Train: Ebynre JAG	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-G0044	(16,445.00)
FedGrtRev: Ebynre Memrl JAG	4000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-410000-G0044	(16,445.00)
Transfer to Gen Govt Capital	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-584005-	16,445.00
Transfer from CIF	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484000-	(16,445.00)
F/E>\$5K: Ebynre Memrl JAG	4005-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-540002-G0044	16,445.00
F/E>\$5K: Ebynre Memrl JAG	4005-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-540002-G0044	(4,805.00)
Transfers to CIF	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-584000-	4,805.00
Transfers From CIP	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484005-	(4,805.00)
Transfers to General Fund	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-581000-	4,805.00
Transfer From CIF	1000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484000-	(4,805.00)
F/E<\$5,000	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-	4,805.00

- 2023-126 Commissioner Worley - Building & Development Services (Housing Rehab) - To Accept and Appropriate \$3,900.00 for Reimbursed Rehab Housing Improvement Proration per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Housing Rehab Improvements	1000-BDS-233-00000-UrgRpr-ProgInc-0000-07-540015-22221	3,900
Fund Balance Appropriated	1000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(3,900)

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

APRIL 25, 2023

GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

2023-127 Commissioner Brown - County Attorney - Approval of Technical Revisions to the Procedures of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners**2023-128 Commissioners Brown & Hovis - County Manager - To Adopt Revisions to the Organization's Core Values and Direct the County Manager to Operationalize These Through the Implementation of the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as follows:**

WHEREAS, to maintain momentum and build upon the success of work aligned to the FY 2021-2023 Gaston County Strategic Plan; and,

WHEREAS, during the previous four months, department directors and key staff across the County energetically engaged to update the Gaston County Strategic Plan document; and,

WHEREAS, the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan document builds upon the County Manager's three Priority Areas, the 2013 Board of County Commissioners' Adopted Priorities Areas, and the Board's Guiding Philosophies from their 2019 Board Retreat; and,

WHEREAS, the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan includes the County's mission statement, vision statement, refined core values, and strategic focus area goals and objectives; and,

WHEREAS, the County's mission statement challenges employees to continue "providing excellent public service every day," a short but meaningful statement of what it means to work for Gaston County Government; and,

WHEREAS, the County's vision statement challenges the organization by laying out a vision that "Gaston County Government will be a model of excellence in public service leadership, innovation, collaboration and inclusion, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents, preserving natural resources and providing recreational, cultural, and economic opportunities that lead to global success and set the stage for future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the refined Core Values for the organization express the values of People and Relationships, County Employees, Accountability, Quality and Creativity, and Resources and Resiliency; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Focus Area Goals and Objectives included in the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan serve to guide County departments focus on ensuring communities are healthy and safe, maintaining Gaston County's position as a leader in economic growth, and providing residents and visitors opportunities for recreation and personal enrichment; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Focus Area Goals and Objectives included in the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan serve to guide County departments focus on ensuring communities are healthy and safe, maintaining Gaston County's position as a leader in economic growth, and providing residents and visitors opportunities for recreation and personal enrichment; and,

WHEREAS, the Strategic Focus Area Goals and Objectives included in the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan also align with the five focus areas of One Gaston 2040 and its vision of Gaston County as "A place where everyone thrives."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Focus Areas and directs the County Manager to operationalize these through the implementation of the Gaston County Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2028.

2023-129 Commissioner Hovis - County Manager - To Accept Departmental Budget Change Requests as Information as follows:

DEPT NAME	ENTRY DATE	ACCOUNT	DR/CR	AMOUNT
03/01/2023	Emer Mgmt	1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520020-	C	5,118
03/01/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520020-AG004	C	11,318
03/01/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530052-	D	5,118
03/01/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530052-AG004	D	11,318

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03/01/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-560000-EMPGO	C	1,200
03/01/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530052-	D	1,200
03/01/2023	Mgr	1000-MGR-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530029-	D	25,000
03/01/2023		1000-MGR-000-00000-SpcPrg-000000-0000-01-560000-	C	25,000
03/01/2023	Tourism	2005-TRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520013-	C	5,000
03/01/2023		2005-TRM-000-00000-CTAPPg-000000-0000-07-530054-	C	30,000
03/01/2023		2005-TRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-530010-	D	35,000
03/01/2023	Library	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520001-	C	1,600
03/01/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520005-	C	500
03/01/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520017-	C	500
03/01/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-530014-	C	1,500
03/01/2023		1000-LIB-350-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520001-	C	500
03/01/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520007-	D	4,600
03/01/2023	Tourism	2005-TRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520013-	C	10,000
03/01/2023		2005-TRM-000-00000-CTAPPg-000000-0000-07-530054-	C	38,860
03/01/2023		2005-TRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520015-	D	48,860
03/01/2023	Tax	2010-TAX-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530015-	C	55,000
03/02/2023		2010-TAX-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530013-	D	55,000
03/02/2023	Health	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-000000-0000-05-530013-	C	200
03/02/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-000000-0000-05-520015-	D	200
03/02/2023	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-560000-22CHE	C	12,209
03/02/2023		1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-530010-22CHE	D	12,209
03/03/2023	Parks & Rec	1000-PRK-360-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-520007-	C	47
03/03/2023		1000-PRK-360-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530052-	D	47
03/03/2023	Natural Res.	1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520011-	C	3,000
03/03/2023		1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520020-	D	3,000
03/03/2023		1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520001-	C	200
03/03/2023		1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-530030-	D	200
03/03/2023		1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520001-	C	300
03/03/2023		1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-07-520005-	D	300
03/03/2023	Landfill	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530015-	C	80,000
03/03/2023		6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530023-	D	80,000
03/05/2023	HUSN	1000-CSS-291-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520017-	C	676
03/05/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-000000-0000-05-530030-	D	676
03/06/2023	Landfill	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-520017-	C	10,000
03/06/2023		6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530022-	C	8,000
03/06/2023		6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530030-	D	18,000
03/06/2023	Health	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOYuth-0000-05-510103-	C	5,000
03/06/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOAdlt-0000-05-510103-	D	5,000
03/06/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOYuth-0000-05-510104-	C	250
03/06/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOAdlt-0000-05-510104-	D	250
03/07/2023	HR	1000-HRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530015-	C	5,670
03/07/2023		1000-HRM-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530010-	D	5,670
03/07/2023	Health	1000-HLT-253-00000-Matern-000000-0000-05-530010-	C	1,700
03/07/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-HHCntr-000000-0000-05-530000-	D	1,700
03/08/2023	Health	1000-DSS-270-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-	C	2,000
03/08/2023		1000-DSS-271-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-	C	2,000
03/08/2023		1000-DSS-272-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-	C	2,000
03/08/2023		1000-DSS-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-	D	6,000
03/08/2023	Museum	1000-MUS-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520013-	C	500
03/08/2023		1000-MUS-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520015-	D	500
03/08/2023	Library	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520001-	C	1,500
03/08/2023		1000-LIB-350-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-530003-	D	1,500
03/10/2023	Health	1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-000000-0000-05-540003-	C	38,000
03/10/2023		1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-000000-0000-05-520020-	D	28,750
03/10/2023		1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-000000-0000-05-530015-	D	9,250
03/10/2023	Tax	1000-TAX-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530015-	C	10,000
03/10/2023		1000-TAX-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530029-	D	10,000

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

03/10/2023	GCPD	1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-510001-	C	35,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-510002-	D	35,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520001-	C	5,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530010-	C	15,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520006-	D	20,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530010-	C	3,000
03/10/2023		1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520005-	D	3,000
03/13/2023	Health	1000-HLT-253-00000-Matern-0000000-0000-05-530010-	C	12,000
03/13/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-Matern-0000000-0000-05-520020-	D	12,000
03/13/2023	Health	1000-HLT-252-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510102-22549	D	498
03/13/2023		1000-HLT-252-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-22549	C	498
03/14/2023	Parks & Rec	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530023-18084	C	5,000
03/14/2023		1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530010-	D	5,000
03/14/2023	Mgr	1000-NDP-000-00000-SpcPrg-0000000-0000-01-520015-	D	20,000
03/14/2023		1000-NDP-000-00000-SpcPrg-0000000-0000-01-560000-	C	20,000
03/14/2023	Health	1000-HLT-253-00000-ComDis-0000000-0000-05-520002-21547	C	104
03/14/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-ComDis-0000000-0000-05-520015-21547	D	104
03/14/2023		1000-HLT-251-00000-WIC000-ClntSvc-0000-05-520002-	C	2,620
03/14/2023		1000-HLT-251-00000-WIC000-ClntSvc-0000-05-520020-	D	2,620
03/14/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-FamPln-0000000-0000-05-520002-	C	1,000
03/14/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-ComDis-GHOP000-0000-05-520002-	D	1,000
03/15/2023	HUSN	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520007-	C	3,000
03/15/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520002-	D	3,000
03/15/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520017-	C	1,500
03/15/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520001-	D	1,500
03/15/2023		1000-CSS-291-29102-000000-0000000-0000-05-530053-G0049	C	5,000
03/15/2023		1000-CSS-291-29102-000000-0000000-0000-05-520017-G0049	D	5,000
03/15/2023	Landfill	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-0000000-0000-08-520020-	C	20,000
03/15/2023		6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-0000000-0000-08-520014-	D	700
03/15/2023		6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-0000000-0000-08-530012-	D	19,300
03/17/2023	Emer Mgmt	1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-	D	7,000
03/17/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530029-	C	3,500
03/17/2023		1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530030-	C	3,500
03/20/2023	Parks & Rec	4005-PWK-192-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-540006-	C	26,750
03/20/2023		4005-PWK-192-00000-Annual-PayGo23-0000-01-540002-	D	26,750
03/21/2023	Library	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-520018-21577	C	2,500
03/21/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-530029-21577	D	2,500
03/21/2023	Health	1000-CSS-292-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-530003-	C	1,948
03/21/2023		1000-CSS-292-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-520020-	D	1,948
03/22/2023	Parks & Rec	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530023-18084	C	5,000
03/22/2023		1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530010-	D	5,000
03/22/2023	Health	1000-DSS-000-00000-EmpRec-0000000-0000-05-520017-	C	2,000
03/22/2023		1000-DSS-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520005-	D	2,000
03/23/2023	Parks & Rec	4095-PWK-192-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-540006-	C	11,200
03/23/2023		4095-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-540005-20051	D	11,200
03/23/2023	Health	1000-HLT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-	C	9,500
03/23/2023		1000-HLT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-530015-	D	9,500
03/24/2023	Bldg Svces	1000-BDS-230-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-	C	3,000
03/24/2023		1000-BDS-230-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520010-	C	3,300
03/24/2023		1000-BDS-230-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-	D	6,000
03/24/2023		1000-BDS-230-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520012-	D	300
03/27/2023	HUSN	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-530030-	D	676
03/27/2023		1000-CSS-291-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520017-	C	676
03/27/2023	Mgr	1000-NDP-000-00000-SpcPrg-0000000-0000-01-560000-	C	4,500
03/27/2023		1000-MGR-100-10001-000000-0000000-0000-01-520001-	D	1,300
03/27/2023		1000-MGR-100-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530029-	D	1,800
03/27/2023		1000-MGR-100-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530010-	D	1,400
03/27/2023		1000-NDP-000-00000-SpcPrg-0000000-0000-01-560000-	C	3,300

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

03/27/2023		1000-NDP-000-00000-SpcPrg-0000000-0000-01-530010-	D	3,300
03/27/2023	Health	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-530023-	C	1,350
03/27/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-530013-	C	3,100
03/27/2023		1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-530030-	D	4,450
03/27/2023	GEMS	1000-EMS-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-530015-	C	3,450
03/27/2023		1000-EMS-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-530030-	D	3,450
03/27/2023	Parks & Rec	1000-PRK-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-530023-	C	7,353
03/27/2023		1000-PRK-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-520020-	D	7,353
03/28/2023	GCPD	1000-GPD-201-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-510001-	C	90,000
03/28/2023		1000-GPD-201-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-510002-	D	90,000
03/28/2023	Parks & Rec	1000-PRK-360-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530023-	C	329
03/28/2023		1000-PRK-360-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520020-	D	329
03/28/2023	Library	1000-LIB-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-520001-	C	3,000
03/28/2023		1000-LIB-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-520002-	D	3,000
03/28/2023	Health	1000-CSS-292-00000-SrPrgm-0000000-0000-04-560000-	C	500
03/28/2023		1000-CSS-292-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-520005-	D	500
03/29/2023	Health	1000-CSS-290-29001-0000000-0000000-0000-05-410001-16501	D	8,025
03/29/2023		1000-CSS-290-29001-0000000-0000000-0000-05-410001-CTCap	C	8,025
03/30/2023	Bldg Svces	1000-BDS-233-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-07-530015-G0042	C	7,000
03/30/2023		1000-BDS-233-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-07-510001-G0042	D	5,000
03/30/2023		1000-BDS-233-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-07-510005-G0042	D	2,000
03/30/2023	Health	1000-HLT-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-	C	7,500
03/30/2023		1000-HLT-253-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-	D	7,500
03/30/2023	Tourism	2005-TRM-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-07-530010-	C	7,000
03/30/2023		2005-TRM-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	D	7,000
03/30/2023	Museum	1000-MUS-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-530010-	C	1,500
03/30/2023		1000-MUS-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-04-520011-	D	1,500
03/30/2023	HUSN	1000-CSS-291-29103-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-	C	4,770
03/30/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530005-	D	4,770
03/31/2023	Audit	1000-OIA-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	D	4,000
03/31/2023		1000-OIA-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520020-	C	2,000
03/31/2023		1000-OIA-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530029-	C	2,000
03/31/2023	HUSN	1000-CSS-291-29103-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-	C	6,000
03/31/2023		1000-CSS-291-29103-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530000-	D	6,000
03/31/2023		1000-CSS-291-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-520011-	C	10,000
03/31/2023		1000-CSS-291-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-520020-	D	10,000

2023-130 Commissioner Johnson - County Manager - Proclamation - To Proclaim April 22, 2023 as Marshall Schyuler Cabiness, Sr., Day in Gaston County

2023-131 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Health Division) - To Appropriate Excess Fee Revenue Earned During Fiscal Year 2022 from Health Fund Balance for the Public Health Clinics and Environmental Health Program (\$132,978) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	1000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(132,978)
Prog Sup: Carolina Access Exce	1000-HLT-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-520002-15252	20,050
Prof Srv: Env Hlt Excess Fees	1000-HLT-252-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-18147	90,584
Prog Sup: STD/TB/CD Excess Fee	1000-HLT-253-00000-STDHIV-0000000-0000-05-520002-14236	22,344

2023-132 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Health Division) - To Approve the Gaston County Public Health Department Patient Fee Schedule incorporated herein by reference as filed with the Clerk to the Board

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2023-133 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Health Division) - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of April 3-9, 2023 as Public Health Week in Gaston County

2023-134 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - To Accept and Appropriate Additional Federal Funds as a One-Time Supplemental Payment to Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Eligible Households in the Amount of \$10,400 per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
LIEAP FY23 One-Time Supplements	1000-DSS-270-00000-RLIEAP-PAPayts-0000-05-410000-S0039	(\$10,400)
LIEAP FY23 One-Time Supplements	1000-DSS-270-00000-RLIEAP-PAPayts-0000-05-560008-S0039	\$10,400

2023-135 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - To Accept and Appropriate Donated Funds Received During the Third Quarter of FY23 for Various Social Services Programs in the Amount of \$1,435 per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Adult Nutrition donations	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdtNut-HmDelMI-0000-05-445004-	(855)
Adult Nutrition donations	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdtNut-00000000-0000-05-520019-15259	855
Adult Daycare donations	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdtDC-00000000-0000-05-445004-	(80)
Adult Daycare donations	1000-CSS-272-00000-ADLTDC-00000000-0000-05-520019-	80
Links Donations-revenue	1000-DSS-271-00000-FostCr-Links01-0000-05-445004-	(500)
Links Program Donations	1000-DSS-271-00000-FostCr-Links01-0000-05-520019-13263	500

2023-136 Commissioner Worley - Finance - To Accept as Information the Attached Property Tax Refunds Less than \$100. These Tax Refunds Should Be Recorded in the Board's Minutes. (Total NCVTS Refunds - \$1,946.31) as follows:

TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT	TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT
FEBRUARY 2023 REFUNDS			
ABERNATHY, JOHN DAVID	\$ 3.79	MOFFITT, JANICE SWANGER	\$ 74.15
ABSHER, RODNEY JOSEPH	\$ 36.52	MOFFITT, JEFFREY NEAL	\$ 75.39
ALJOHANI, JAMEEL MUBAYRIK	\$ 41.34	MOFFITT, JEFFREY NEAL	\$ 32.92
ARREDONDO PICHARDO, SANDY ISAEAL	\$ 88.52	MOFFITT, JEFFREY NEAL	\$ 77.88
BROWN, RODNEY ERIC	\$ 50.17	PARHAM, HILIARY NICOLETTE	\$ 31.57
CROFT, STELLA DIANNE	\$ 39.22	PROCTOR, GEORGE LARRY	\$ 80.35
DANNER, PAUL DOUGLAS	\$ 31.39	QUINN, DOUGLAS HOWARD	\$ 34.38
DAVIS, ANTHONY BERNARD	\$ 77.01	ROWLETTE, KELLY DELANE	\$ 60.43
ED WALLACE CONSTRUCTION INC	\$ 26.32	RUSHING, RANDALL ROBINSON	\$ 16.56
EMENER, SHONEAN BANKS	\$ 51.19	SMITH, TODD DARREN	\$ 66.41
GREEN, CLAYTON JAMES	\$ 8.28	STEWART, JANET BROWN	\$ 19.64
HAMMERLY, GREGORY JAMES	\$ 59.40	STORY, JOHN ALEXANDER	\$ 59.88
HAMRICK, KENNETH BRANDON	\$ 5.32	SUTTON, CHARLES DURRELL	\$ 99.94
HANSEN, DANIEL JOHN	\$ 0.19	SYHACHACK, JOANN	\$ 46.85
HENSLEY, GARY DEAN	\$ 65.37	VELASCO, SOPHIA VICTORIA	\$ 63.21
HOSTETLER, DAVID ALEXANDER	\$ 31.46	WARWICK, KYLE AARON	\$ 59.00
HOVIS, MARK CALVIN	\$ 68.23	WEBB, DAVID RICHARD GILMORE	\$ 10.97
HOYLE TRANSPORTATION LLC	\$ 26.06	WEBB, DAVID RICHARD GILMORE	\$ 7.56
KOCH, STEVEN	\$ 51.51	WILMARTH, ANDREW	\$ 1.32
MARZAN, REBECA ANGELICA	\$ 11.61	WOODS, KRISTEN NICOLE	\$ 71.22
MATHIS, AMELIA TUCKER	\$ 28.71	YELVERTON, SHANITHA SHONTAE	\$ 22.19
MCAULAY, CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN	\$ 26.49	ZUKUS, LAUREN MARIE	\$ 96.99
MCCLURE, FRANK	\$ 9.40	Total NCVTS Refunds (Feb. 2023)	\$ 1,946.31

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

2023-137 Commissioner Worley - Finance - To Appropriate and Transfer an Additional \$1,532,207 from CIF Fund Balance to the Gaston County School System's Capital Budget for Costs Associated with the Construction of Grier Middle School; and Approve the Reimbursement Declaration per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	4000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(1,532,207.00)
Transfer to Education Capital	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfrTo-0000000-0000-98-584010-	1,532,207.00
Transfer from CIF	4010-NDP-000-00000-TrfrFr-0000000-0000-98-484000-	(1,532,207.00)
School Bond Advance	4010-000-000-00000-School-0000000-0000-03-540005-P2207	1,532,207.00

**DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT
TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES**

I, Tiffany Murray, Director of Finance of the County of Gaston, North Carolina (the "County"), having been designated by the Board of Commissioners for the County pursuant to a resolution passed by said Board on April 13, 2006 as a person authorized to declare official intent on behalf of the County to reimburse certain expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be issued or incurred by the County, DO HEREBY DECLARE, on behalf of the County, as follows:

1. This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2, promulgated by the United States Department of Treasury, to declare expressly the intention of the County to reimburse itself with the proceeds of debt to be hereafter issued or incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County within sixty days after payment of the original expenditure.
2. The expenditures for which the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself with the proceeds of debt to be hereafter issued or incurred by the County include costs to provide additional school facilities by erecting additional school buildings and other school plant facilities, enlarging, reconstructing, renovating, and replacing existing school buildings and other school plant facilities and acquiring any necessary land, furnishings, equipment, and appurtenant facilities therefore pursuant to an order authorizing \$250,000,000 School Bonds that was approved by the voters of the County at a referendum held on May 8, 2018 (the "Project").
3. \$20,789,687.00 is the maximum principal amount of debt reasonably expected to be hereafter issued or incurred for the purpose of paying costs of the Project. Such amount is a portion of the authorized and unissued School Bonds described above.

WITNESS my hand this ____ day _____ of 2023.

Tiffany Murray
Finance Director

2023-138 Commissioner Brown - Hope United Survivor Network - To Accept and Appropriate Additional Grant Funds from The Duke Endowment through the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina and the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers in the Amount of \$15,000.00 Awarded to the Lighthouse of Gaston County per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Revenue- CAC Duke Endowment	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-445006-L0006	(15,000.00)
CAC Duke Endow Prog Sup	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520002-L0006	7,000.00
CAC Duke Endow F/E <5k	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520020-L0006	8,000.00

2023-139 Commissioner Brown - Hope United Survivor Network - To Accept and Appropriate Donations Totaling \$8,481, Hope United Survivor Network

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(\$6,095.88), The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center (\$649.40) and The Lighthouse (\$1,735.72) from January 11, 2023 to March 30, 2023 per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Donations & Gifts - Shelter	1000-CSS-291-29102-000000-0000000-0000-05-445004-	(649.40)
Donations: Shelter	1000-CSS-291-29102-000000-0000000-0000-05-520019-08162	649.40
Donations & Gifts - CAC	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-445004-	(1,735.72)
Donations: CAC	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-0000000-0000-05-520019-16282	1,735.72
Donations & Gifts - HUSN	1000-CSS-291-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-445004-	(6,095.88)
Donations: HUSN	1000-CSS-291-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520019-22218	6,095.88

2023-140 Commissioner Brown - Hope United Survivor Network - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Gaston County

2023-141 Commissioner Cloninger - Parks and Recreation - To Award Bid for Dallas Park Inclusive Playground to Next Level Recreation of the Carolinas (\$202,044) as follows:

Barrs Recreation, LLC	\$149,783 (did not fulfill specs as requested in bid packet)
Cunningham Recreation	\$165,917 (did not fulfill specs as requested in bid packet)
Next Level Recreation of the Carolinas	\$202,044 (lowest responsive bid)
Bliss Products and Services, Inc.	\$269,064 (complete bid)
Great Southern Recreation	\$289,131 (complete bid)

2023-142 Commissioner Hovis - Police Department (Animal Care and Enforcement) - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of April 9-15, 2023 as Animal Care and Enforcement Appreciation Week

2023-143 Commissioner Brown - Police Department (Communications 911) - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of April 9-15, 2023 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

2023-144 Commissioner Hovis - Police Department (Animal Care and Enforcement) - To Accept and Appropriate Donation received from the Bissell Pet Foundation for a Successful "Empty the Shelters" Event (\$1,200) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Donations and Gifts	1000-GPD-200-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-445004	(1,200.00)
Professional Services	1000-GPD-200-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530010	1,200.00

2023-145 Commissioner Cloninger - Public Works - To Approve a Bid Award and the Purchase of a New Landfill Compactor from Sun Machinery Company, Lexington, SC (\$860,250.00) and Appropriate Funds from the Solid Waste Fund Balance as follows:

Vendor	Make/Model	Price
National Equipment Dealers, LLC	TANA H380	\$926,200.97
National Equipment Dealers, LLC	TANA H555	\$1,211,912.34
Sun Machinery Company	Wagner LC90	\$860,250.00
Linder Industrial Machinery	Bomag BC873 RB-5	\$991,585.00
Carolina Tractor & Equipment Company	CAT 826	\$1,093,789.00

and per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	6000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(860,250.00)
Heavy Equipment Purchases	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-0000000-0000-08-540012-	860,250.00

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

2023-146 Commissioner Cloninger - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute a Contract with the City of Gastonia for Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste and Yard Waste for a Term of Five (5) Years

2023-147 Commissioner Johnson - Public Works - To Approve the Qualifications Based Selection of Kimley-Horn and Associates, and Authorize the County Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement to Provide Planning and Design Services for the Rankin Lake Park to Gastonia Tech Parkway Greenway Extension (STIP# C-5606K)

2023-148 Commissioner Keigher - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Stewart Cooper Newell Architects, P.A. for the Design of IT Data Center Renovation Project

2023-149 Commissioner Johnson - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Creech & Associates, PLLC for the Design of the Administration Annex Upfit Project

2023-150 Commissioner Johnson - Sheriff's Office - To Approve the Transfer of \$5,000 from the General Government Capital Fund to the General Fund per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
NC OSBM: Boss Building	4005-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-540005-22535	(5,000)
Vehicle Prep:NC OSBM:PS Equip	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530052-22535	5,000
Transfer to CIF	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-584000-	5,000
Transfer From Gen Govt Capital	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484005-	(5,000)
Transfer to Gen'l Fund	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-581000-	5,000
Transfer from CIF	1000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484000-	(5,000)

2023-151 Commissioner Fraley - Tax Collections - Pursuant to G.S. 105-381, the Tax Collector Requests that the Listed Tax Refunds be Made. (Overpayments - \$26,263.88; VTS Refunds - \$12,329.35; Grand Total - \$38,593.23) as follows:

TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT
MARCH 2023 RELEASES AND REFUNDS	
TOTAL	\$0.00

MARCH 2023 OVERPAYMENTS

Ashley, Azar	\$126.21
Austin, Randy Howard	\$264.66
Bailey & Carlino, PLLC	\$200.00
Bailey, James W.	\$263.82
Baucom, Stacey	\$268.00
Black, Alston	\$370.00
Carpenter, Martha B	\$246.00
Cook, Althea	\$202.80
Corelogic	\$200.00
Dimmer And Sons Construction, Inc.	\$141.54
Dowdle, Michael Roger	\$349.16
Doyne, Justin	\$403.14
Flowers, Nickey	\$160.86
Grabowski Law Firm, PLLC	\$128.00
Grant, Sandra Mays	\$701.01

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Hamilton, Jeremiah	\$110.78
Hilderbrand, Jessica	\$146.48
Hull, Irene C	\$400.00
Hunter, William	\$432.00
Jenny P. Holman Chapter 13 Trustee	\$210.86
Kauer, Neil K	\$680.77
Kimble, Jasmine	\$131.16
Koone David Blanton	\$171.65
Martonffy, Carolyn	\$3,922.75
McFee, Marvin	\$203.34
Mills, Antholisha	\$155.20
Milwood, Paula	\$379.73
Mohamed, Christopher	\$128.00
Monteith, Eric	\$362.00
Morrison, Sarah J	\$461.54
Patronis, Joanna	\$280.00
PHH Mortgage Services	\$1,459.07
PHH Mortgage Services	\$500.79
Robbins, Johnnie L Jr.	\$150.00
Robbins, Johnnie L Jr.	\$150.00
Roland, Jerry Breat	\$255.64
Smith, Katie C	\$101.81
Smith, Linda	\$374.63
Sneed, Ciarra	\$139.59
Southpoint Properties LLC	\$361.21
St Johns Missionary Baptist Church	\$114.66
Stinson, Carolyn Long	\$380.00
The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints	\$815.43
Tropical Foods Co Inc.	\$6,714.84
Vazquez, Rosemaire	\$125.54
Walker, Crystal	\$354.20
We's Is Trees LLC	\$423.94
Whitlock, Bradley	\$148.70
Whitlock, Bradley	\$125.39
Willard, Amber	\$1,366.98
TOTAL	\$26,263.88

MARCH 2023 VTS REFUNDS

Arminio, David V	\$196.48
Brobeck, Anne Boggs	\$282.13
Bryne, Shannon Brewer	\$167.47
Carolina Skylights LLC	\$421.18
Desmarais, Philip Albert	\$146.24
Dimmer, Brandon Scott	\$114.25
Dimmers Precision Grading LLC	\$769.50
Dixon , Kathryn Lynne	\$132.29
Funkhouser, Paul Dwight	\$340.15
Hamam, Hathum Rafat Nimer	\$139.35
Heffner, Larry Dennis	\$114.01
Heffner, Larry Dennis	\$103.78
Horne, Angel Cheyanne	\$239.86
Hudson, Debra Theresa	\$118.60
Huffstetler, Tiffne Freck	\$879.10
Hullander, Kimberly Chivers	\$700.60
Hurley, Christine Anne	\$282.70
Jackson Properties Real Estate Inc	\$340.35
Jackson, David Wayne	\$479.85
Jenkins, Frances Cline	\$111.02

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Kulick, Jade Victoria	\$185.80
Lanier, Michael Stephen	\$366.38
Lemons, Richard Clay	\$117.24
Lincoln County Tax Dept	\$512.09
Lincoln County Tax Dept	\$531.76
Lincoln County Tax Dept	\$373.81
Llyod, Mary Dianne	\$130.88
Lucero, Lorena Tatiana	\$142.64
Marshall, Shane Andre	\$174.23
Mauney, Charles Frederick	\$102.98
Northey, Christopher Curtis	\$112.58
Polson, Garry Eugene	\$272.58
Polson, Jessie Lee Jr	\$103.43
Poovey, Brandon James	\$208.86
Sampson, David Wayne	\$137.02
Senior Total Life Care	\$341.15
Smith, Mark Jeffery	\$161.24
Somerville, Arlisa Lynette	\$108.88
Surbeck, Matthew Stephen	\$171.48
The King's Daughter Ministry	\$131.50
Usery, Melody Braddy	\$148.63
Utiliquet LLC	\$185.07
Vargosko, Stephen Paul Jr	\$939.57
White, Patti Smith	\$142.96
Willsey, Yvonne Horacio	\$139.73
Wilson, Barbara Adams,	\$104.29
Winkles, Barbara Hamilton	\$203.66
TOTAL	\$12,329.35
GRAND TOTAL	\$38,593.23

2023-152 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - To Authorize a Bid Award and Purchase with HPI International for FY23 Refresh of Desktop Computers for Social Services in the Amount of \$185,981.52 as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Price</u>
HPI International	\$185,981.52
Databit Inc.	\$197,045.58
New Century Systems Inc.	\$202,125.00

2023-153 Commissioner Brown - DHHS (Community Support Services Division) - To Accept and Appropriate Opioid Abatement Allocation Funds from Partners' Health Management in the Amount of \$91,514 per Budget Change Request:

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Opioid Settle:Partners Funding	1000-CSS-000-00000-PartnR-0000000-0000-05-410211-OP001	(91,514.00)
OthMedSup: Naloxone Kits	1000-CSS-000-00000-PartnR-Naloxon-0000-05-520004-OP001	67,514.00
OthMedSup: Fentanyl Kits	1000-CSS-000-00000-PartnR-Fentayl-0000-05-520004-OP001	24,000.00

Appointments

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the BOC unanimously reappointed Ms. Lynn Whiteside to the ***Animal Care and Enforcement Advisory Board*** to a term ending February 28, 2027.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously appointed Mr. Brian Weyeneth to the ***Gaston County Fire Commission*** to a term ending June 30, 2026.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Brown, the BOC unanimously appointed Commissioner Ronnie Worley to the ***Centralina Council of Governments*** to an unexpired term ending November 30, 2023.

Other Matters

None.

Commissioners Committee Reports

Commissioner Cloninger reported attendance to: ***The Lighthouse (Children's Advocacy Center) Grand Opening*** at the City Church complex; she encouraged community involvement and to complete the partnerships and relationships when working for the children in our community; ***Rise Above Traveling Exhibit*** at Tabernacle Baptist Church, which highlighted the Tuskegee Airmen pilots during World War II and watched a movie that highlighted bravery, the desire to do what was right, and a group called the WASPS (Women's Airforce Service Pilots); ***2022 Officer of the Year Banquet for the Bessemer City Police Department; Cherry Blossom Festival*** in Cherryville, NC.

Chairman Brown advised anchors were given to stakeholders to symbolically anchor themselves to their commitment to The Lighthouse located at 3150 City Church Street (Gastonia, NC); he recognized, thanked and congratulated its staff.

He advised that previously it was an 800SF basement office now the County has a lovely home; he asked **a staff representative** to provide comments.

Ms. Heather Kauffman stated The Lighthouse Children Advocacy Center serves physically or sexually abused children and children that have witnessed extreme violence; the children receive forensic interviews and medical and therapy services; the new 8000SF space was created with their entire healing journey in mind; from the time they arrive, until they depart, they are wrapped around with comfort; staff is available, but not on site 24 hours.

County Attorney's Report

No report.

Chairman Brown called for a five-minute recess at 7:55 pm.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

County Manager's ReportPresentation of the Recommended FY2023-2024 Gaston County Budget

The County Manager advised that BOC has some additional information that will be referred to during the FY24 Operating Budget and FY24-FY28 Capital Budget presentation.

Total recommended budget is \$414M; general fund portion of that is \$322M; recommending tax rate of \$0.61/\$100 assessed value which is a \$0.20 decrease from current rate and below revenue neutral. She stated that a budget is a plan – an estimate for a set period of time. The steps taken to balance this budget in order to give maximum relief to the taxpayers was unique; the level of effort required to absorb inflationary costs, continue to provide adequate service levels and reduce revenues below revenue neutral is possible for this budget but is not sustainable as a standard practice. This budget maintains a conservative fiscal approach that 1) funds only programs and initiatives that align with BOC top priorities; 2) funds the County's core critical services and programs; and 3) absorbs the unprecedented levels of inflation while lowering tax rate significantly. She stated that the presentation would first include an overview of the recommended budget and then context would be provided related to Revaluation, Economic and Population Growth, Increases in Service Demand, Inflation, General Operating Budget, Five-year Capital Plan and the Path forward.

She presented as follows:

- BOC has a copy of the recommended Budget book providing details on everything that will be covered tonight and more
- During her tenure, the Budget theme has transitioned from **Responsiveness** (FY2021 - in middle of COVID-19 and tasked with providing quick but safe emergency services) to **Resiliency** (FY2022 - coming out of pandemic and facing economic uncertainty while restoring in-person services) to **Readiness** (FY2023 - preparing our organization to face challenges with an eye toward our unpredictable future) to **Responsibility** (FY2024 - revaluation process saw massive growth in the tax base; it is crucial to be responsible stewards of these resources to further our mission to provide excellent public service everyday)
- The new Strategic Plan is built around our mission; provides another layer of responsibility and accountability by tracking performance measures and outcomes of our Services.

She presented the following recommendations:

- **\$0.61 tax rate** (\$0.20 decrease from current rate of \$0.81 and lower than published revenue neutral rate of 62.1 cents; capturing sales tax growth and strategic appropriation of CIF Fund Balance allows County to absorb mandatory and inflationary increases in personnel and operating expenses while reducing the tax rate significantly and not appropriating Unrestricted Fund Balance)
- **Twenty-three (23) new positions** (19 - 100% fee funded or 50%-75% federally funded and tied to unfunded mandates; 4 - 100% County funded and essential to maintaining facilities and vehicles)
- Three percent (3%) Merit Based Compensation implemented mid-year for a 1.5% budget impact compared to current year

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- One percent (1%) increase in Schools and Gaston College operating allocations (includes funding to fulfill all debt service obligations; new school debt that County is in the process of issuing; no increase in capital allocations).

She advised the recommended Budget is \$414M (for all funds) and General Fund makes up 72% of Budget; the Community Investment Fund (16% of Budget) includes debt service, school debt service and capital projects over \$300,000; a breakdown of revenues and expenditures is in the recommended Budget Ordinance (beginning on page 97).

This year the Budget process was aligned with an update of the new Five-Year Strategic Plan; this is the second year its CIP Committee has evaluated and prioritized proposed projects in the recommended capital budget; grateful departmental staff participated in numerous CIP and strategic planning meetings, workshops and presentations which laid the foundation for the Budget and Strategic Plan documents that BOC is receiving tonight.

The Five-Year Strategic Plan, in concert with BOC priorities, interests and five focus areas defined in the *One Gaston 2040 Vision Framework*, serve as the internal roadmap to ensure the County's work, as an organization, supports the BOC policy direction.

The Five-Year (Strategic) Plan for 2024-2028 includes 14 organizational goals and 90+ strategic objectives to address key issues facing our communities within the County; the Plan goals and objectives exemplifies our continued commitment to the organization's mission "*Providing excellent public service every day*"; a large one-page infographic summarizing the Plan was placed at BOC seats.

The Guiding Principles that led the Budget process are to 1) Implement (Maintain) Sound Fiscal Policy and Stewardship; 2) Deliver Competitive Services; 3) Diversify Revenue (and Encourage Development); 4) Prepare for Growth with investment in our infrastructure.

She recognized some **Recent Accomplishments** the County made this past year.

Community Health, Safety & Well-being

- **Public Health** implemented new methods of outreach including a Walk & Roll Together Gaston event and planning for new Mobile Medical Units. Additionally, the new Language Line offers onsite, telephone and video interpreting services for multiple languages and American Sign Language
- **County Police** lead in creation of the Gaston Recovery Court and obtained an \$1.2M grant to establish the first Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program in the County; Telecommunications Division continues to answer 911 calls faster than the national average time, decreased vacancy rate by 50% and begin utilization of automated fire dispatch.

Recreation, Cultural & Life-long Learning

- **Social Services** referrals to Cooperative Extension Triple P Parenting Education Program more than doubled; the program graduated 44 parents in 2022; 97 of whom demonstrated improved parenting skills; in addition, provided over 1700 County residents with food and nutrition programming; engaged 820 youths in school gardening programs

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- **Tourism Development** Business Development Team brought in 46 events generating over 17,000 hotel stays and a direct economic impact of over \$7.5M.

Economic Development and Planned Growth

- **EDC** opened Apple Creek (Corporate Center); as of January, more than half of the sites are sold
- **Public Works** completed several major projects including the Public Health parking lot replacement, Tryon Park ADA renovations and facility improvements, Dallas Park splash pad and Main Library renovation; have increased overall (HUB)/MWBE bid participation almost 13%
- **Tax Office** obtained the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration through the International Association of Assessing Offices; achieved a collection rate of 99.1% for FY2021; successfully completed the 2023 property reappraisal which included extensive public engagement and ongoing appeals.

Property Revaluation (Total Assessed Value & Tax Rate History): The total projected assessed valuation, following the 2023 revaluation, is \$30.9B, a 41% increase from FY23; the Budget recommends a \$0.20 tax rate cut to \$0.61/\$100 assessed value; currently the County is on a four-year revaluation cycle which lined up with the 2023 revaluation process; the County would be required to do a revaluation regardless due to its low sales assessment ratio; sales assessment ratios are published by the NC Department of Revenue and measure the level of appraisal; ratios less than 100 means appraised values are lower than market or sales prices; the County's 68.67 rate means that prior to revaluation, its appraised values were only capturing 68% (the rate calculated as of 1/1/2022) of the market value and not last year's growth.

Property Revaluation (2022 Sales Assessment Ratios): She reviewed visuals depicting the County's sales assessment ratio and advised the County's ratio is lower than Mecklenburg (74.33), Lincoln (75.40) and Catawba (69.73) counties who conducted revaluations in 2019 as the County.

Significant tax base and population growth increases the growth in the demand for County services; the County's public safety agencies is seeing an increase in service calls.

Public Safety Calls for Service: GEMS ambulance productivity is measured per unit hour utilization; the national standards idea range for unit hour utilization is between .3 and .5; since 2020, more than half of our unit hours are above that .5 standard which is not sustainable for our employees and could threaten the quality of emergency response if it is not addressed in the coming years.

Animal Control & Enforcement (ACE) is steadily decreasing the number of impounded animals and has reduced its euthanasia rate and shelter overcrowding via years of educating, assisting and partnering with the community to develop alternate solutions to keep animals from coming to the shelter.

Building Permits: Building Inspections permits decreased in 2020 due to Covid but has recovered to pre-pandemic levels; development has ramped up again which increase service demands and infrastructure needs.

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Children in Foster Care: Human Services (DSS Division) experienced a 12% growth, between 2018 and 2020, in the number of children 0–17 in their custody and an increase in the overall rate to control population growth.

Inflation Absorption (Inflation-Adjusted Expenditures per Capita): The County has managed to keep its per capita spending low despite increases in service demand.

She reviewed a graph depicting a 10-year history of expenditures per capita; advised the County's population has grown by 22% since 2002; is spending less per capita compared to 20 years ago (\$1,390/citizen in 2002; \$1,346/citizen in 2021); is doing more with less due to inflation and increasing demands.

The impact of inflation since 2020 is now at 15%; County had a 9% increase the past year; have not seen inflation rise so sharply since the late 1970s; \$10 today has the same buying power as \$8.55 in 2020; during that time period the County held expenditures per capita flat.

FY2024 General Fund Operating Budget

As mentioned earlier, am recommending \$322M; more than three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the General Fund budget goes to Human Services, Public Safety and Public Education; taxes (Property, Sale & Other Taxes) make up nearly 75% of General Fund revenue.

Property Tax Revenue is the County's largest and most stable revenue source and is projected using a total assessed value of \$30.9B; the total assessed value, including projected appeal loss, is multiplied by an estimated collection rate and a tax rate to equal the estimated property tax revenue; am recommending \$0.61 as the tax rate (lowest rate since 1970); using those figures, the calculated tax levy is \$186M.

Sales Tax Revenue is the County's second largest revenue source; staff made a decision to budget less than sales tax for FY21 Budget due to the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic's short term effects; the County continues to see growth in sales tax.

For the recommended FY24 Budget, sales tax is projected to match what it feels is realistic and a less conservative amount than previous years to account for those gains; capturing this growth is a significant factor in decreasing the tax rate as recommended.

User Fees are accounted for by taking the actual cost of that service delivery and charging the actual amount as the price for the service changes over time; recommended Budget continues the Fee Schedule methodology approved by BOC in March 2021; this plan includes User Fees increases that were phased in using a three-year plan to lessen the impact of large year-over-year increases; the increase in projected revenue is largely driven by the consolidation with the City of Gastonia and resulting increases in inspection fees.

Summary of General Fund Expenditures: More than three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the General Fund Expenditures goes towards Public Safety, Human Services, and Education.

Personnel - The number of employees per 100/County residents has gone from 142 to 135 in the last 20 years; staffing levels are not keeping pace with population growth; am recommending 23

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full-time positions for the FY24 Budget (*Social Services* - 14 Economic Services Caseworkers and 2 Economic Services Supervisors that are 75% federally funded; 1 Client Services Technician - 50% federally funded); *Natural Resources* - 1 Floodplain Administrator and 1 Conservationist, both fully funded via Natural Resources fees; *Public Works* – an Electrician, Plumber Assistant, HVAC Tech and Auto Tech; all fully County funded); 133 new full-time positions were requested in this year's Budget process.

Unfunded Needs - The Sheriff's Office requested 20 additional Detention Officers, 2 sworn Deputy Sheriffs in Field Services and 1 Deputy Sheriff for Special Services (to help combat mental health concerns, substance abuse and overdose cases challenges within the jail); County Police requested a Community CAT Coordinator for Animal Control and Enforcement (ACE) (to manage trap and release program), Internet Crimes Against Children Investigator (due to increasing cases over last two years) and Overdose Fatality Investigator (to help prosecute the increase in distribution cases); GEMS requested 12 additional EMTs (to upstaff quick response vehicles and increase coverage during peak call times), 10 additional EMTs (for additional BLS units for coverage and to maintain and preserve response capabilities) and 1 Trainer (to improve safety); several departments including Public Works, Finance and Tax Department requested Data Analysts or Process Improvement Positions (reflects growing commitment to being a data informed workforce; indicates need for new skillsets and workload capacities in these analytical areas).

Having fewer employees per citizen means growing workloads, increased burnouts and potentially turnover; last year's Budget included zero new County funded positions; this year am recommending four County funded positions.

Operational Inflationary Expenses – For years County departments have operated under tight budget conditions; County has routinely reduced discretionary spending by delaying needed software, reducing training opportunities, and reducing office and printing supplies to run operations to absorb non-discretionary inflation increases; temporary (staffing) service continues to rise as demand grows and are used, in some cases, in lieu of adding full-time positions.

(Public) Education (Operating) Allocations are the County's single, largest operating expense; compared to current year funding and their request for FY24, am recommending a \$500,000 increase in operating allocation and a flat capital allocation for the Schools; a \$100,000 increase in operation allocation and a flat capital allocation for Gaston College.

CIP Highlights – She recommended \$32M in CIP projects (\$27M for County projects; nearly \$5M for Solid Waste projects) representing investments in Facilities maintenance, repairs and new construction; replacement of existing equipment and new equipment or vehicles; land acquisition, design and planning services; Economic Development land acquisition and infrastructure improvements. She highlighted four of the proposed projects as follows:

- **Bridge Betterments** - The County is partnering with local municipalities on two NCDOT road widening and bridge expansion projects (on I-85 and US-74 Catawba River); will contribute a local match that will leverage \$9M in state funding to enhance aesthetics of interstate and highway bridges and interchange landscaping throughout County to enhance County's image with businesses and visitors as they drive through the community on one of the highest traveled roads in the state.

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- (Culture and Recreation) **Catawba Cove** - The Catawba Cove development will include a New Hope Rd. and a Ratchford Farm Rd. access; the property will be a County park with trails and support facilities, including restrooms and maintenance facilities; will connect to the upcoming South Fork Corridor Greenway so residents can bike or hike from Spencer Mountain to Catawba Cove
- **Dallas Park Master Plan Buildout** – Dallas Park was built in the 1970s and is County's oldest park; many areas of the park has been upgraded over the last 10 years except for the baseball/softball complex; there are no accessible routes to the field; field 4 has drainage issues; the concession stand and bathrooms did not meet ADA guidelines; the parking lots are not large enough.
- **Public Health Renovation Design** – Renovation and expansion will help improve customer service, delivery of health services and better coordinate care and linkage to additional services.

The recommend CIP projects will increase in FY25; the planning and design phases are included in FY24; County is planning for a debt issuance to fund these projects; it is crucial to maintain our revenues as County prepares for these projects and anticipate future debt issuances.

Community Investment Fund (CIF) - Revenues for the CIP projects flows through the CIF and are transferred out for capital projects and debt service obligations; \$67M+ is the total revenue projected for FY24; in addition to the \$27M in CIP projects, am recommending \$26M to fully fund the schools debt service obligation and issuance of new debt currently in progress for Grier Middle; \$14M in County debt service, vehicle installment financing payments, and smaller furniture/equipment purchases.

Priorities for Future Work:

- *Maintain Sound Fiscal Policy and Stewardship*; In April 2022, Moody upgraded the County from a AA2 to a AA1 and will update our rating again with the issuance of debt for Grier Middle; it is imperative to maintain or improve this rating as County moves forward with the next school bonds issuance; the County maintains an AA+ rating, received in April 2019, with Standards and Poors
- *Deliver Competitive Services*: County will continue to pursue productive and efficient service delivery efforts and maximize our resources through peer reviews, benchmarking, analyzation of data and trends and restructuring how public services are offered; also are prioritizing employees wellness and looking to implement an onsite clinic for employees for a more comprehensive health and wellness program; County-wide policies are being reviewed and updated or created including travel, P-card and vehicle policies
- *(Investing in Infrastructure) Prepare for Growth* – County will continue to review existing and planned infrastructure investments to ensure consistency and good stewardship of natural and physical resources; two projects being recommended for design funding are the Public Safety Campus and Public Health building renovation.

The Budget document will be available for public review tomorrow on the County's website, [in the office of the Clerk to the Board], in person at the Main Library (Gastonia) and Administration Building (Gastonia); an electronic version is available in all libraries; staff has scheduled the Budget

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Public Hearing & Budget Adoption for May 9, Courthouse at 7 pm; the presentation for the Unified Fire Protection Service District budget and tax rates is scheduled for the May 25 meeting.

She concluded her presentation and thanked the BOC for their input, guidance and support throughout the Budget process; she also thanked: Budget staff for working late at night analyzing complicated data; departmental budget contacts for being in constant communication with Budget staff; Finance, and Human Resources to ensure each department is well managed and County Manager's directives and policies are carried out fairly, consistently and communicated throughout departments; Finance, Human Resources and IT staff for their expertise and departmental support to make it possible to accomplish our work with great skill and patience and the employees and organization for what they do to make the County the best place to work and for providing excellent public service every day.

The FY24 Manager's Recommended Budget Message is set forth as Exhibit A of these minutes.

Chairman Brown called for comments from the BOC.

Commissioner Hovis asked the County Manager to include a metric chart showing an aging aggregate by vehicle type in next year's budget to better understand and track trends, maintenance costs and measure effectiveness since the County is moving into a different direction in that area.

He asked if Fees, Licenses & Permits (\$34.5M) on the **Summary of General Fund Revenue** chart (slide 21) was a combination of two (2) line items on page 18 of the Budget Book (\$33.9M); prefers breakdowns on pie charts to be a line item that coincides in the Budget Book to understand year-to-year and the effect.

He encouraged the public to review the actual revenue from property tax and the percent of increase for this year on page 18 of the County Manager's Budget presentation; the increase from reval is 6%. He noted the County is not trying to take advantage of this huge reval; citizens will pay less in taxes with the reduced tax rate (\$0.61); the work done by staff is exemplary and took a tremendous amount of effort. In response to an earlier comment that the County is pocketing an additional \$27M into the County coffers with reval, he clarified that number is less than \$11M which results in a 6% increase.

The County Manager advised staff has some information to share regarding fleet maintenance and will include that next year.

Chairman Brown thanked the County Manager and staff for listening to the BOC's goals and for making the citizens a priority; as the BOC work towards these priorities, want to make the County the destination for people to work, play and stay; the goals in the Budget have put those to task and the County will continue to work toward its goals.

He thanked the BOC for their input and thanked everyone for their hard work on the Budget.

He thanked the Sheriff for providing safety for the citizens and the citizens whom BOC has worked hard to make sure it continues to be an outstanding steward of its monies and that Gaston County

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is a family affair – from the employees, to the citizens, to the BOC; the County has done many phenomenal things over the past years, especially since Covid-19.

He thanked the County Manager for the County's ongoing success.

The BOC will reconvene on May 9th in a Special Meeting at 7 pm. to hold a Public Hearing and to consider adoption of the proposed Budget, Courthouse.

He thanked Deputy Clerk Angela Stacks for covering the meeting.

Adjournment

Upon unanimous consent, Chairman Brown adjourned the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023 at 8:49 pm.

(All aforementioned documents are on file with the Clerk to the Board.)

Chad Brown, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Angela Stacks
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board

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Exhibit A – FY24 Manager's Recommended Budget Message:**GASTON COUNTY**

128 West Main Avenue
P.O. Box 1578
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053-1578

County Manager

Phone: (704) 866-3101
Fax: (704) 866-3147
Email: Kim.Eagle@gastongov.com

Honorable Chairman Brown and Members of the Board of County Commissioners:

In accordance with the General Statutes of North Carolina, I am honored to submit, for your consideration, the FY 2024 (FY24) Recommended Budget. The budget is balanced and prepared under the guidelines of NC General Statute Chapter 159-Article 3, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. This budget incorporates the County's newly updated and adopted FY 2024 – 2028 Strategic Plan, which includes the County's vision and mission statement that focuses every dollar we spend and every action we take on providing excellent public service every day. It accomplishes the goals and policy direction of the Board, while setting the stage for the organization to look long-term through a strategic planning lens.

Over the past twelve months, our organization and the broader community continued to persevere and adapt to the on-going effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those long-term effects include rapid inflation levels not seen in forty years, which have resulted in higher consumer good prices and continued supply chain disruptions and delays. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud of how we, as an organization, have responded with resiliency, compassion, integrity, and honesty, working tirelessly to better inform and respond to the public.

Given the context of the last three years, I am framing this budget recommendation around the theme of **responsibility** with a focus on the need to prepare our organization to face the challenges of today with an eye focused on an unpredictable future. A prepared community, organization, and region that is ready to respond to short and long-term challenges through data-driven decision making, keen problem solving, empathy, integrity, and with an inclusive and service-oriented mindset.

Since July, we have seen gains in employment and sales and property taxes, and continued growth of the local economy. Correspondingly, this budget is crafted with increases in overall projected revenue. There is a 7.6% increase (excluding one-time design costs for public health building renovation) in the general fund budget from the current year that mirrors almost exactly the current levels of inflation, levels that have not been felt so strongly since the late 1970s when gas shortages and skyrocketing costs of everyday goods were the norm.

This budget recommends four new County-funded positions in Public Works that will address critical county facility maintenance needs, seventeen DSS positions that will be 50-75% funded by the federally government due to Medicaid expansion, and two fee-funded positions for Natural Resources. Maintenance of the board-directed merit-based compensation plan and the first full-year implementation of the market study are reflected in this budget, both of which have greatly benefited the organization. These benefits are imperative to keeping us competitive with our neighbors – nearly all of whom have consistently given higher merit-based pay increases year after year.

Notably, this budget is balanced without the use of unrestricted general fund balance, which follows last year's example that previously had not been accomplished in fifty years. This is a significant achievement for our county and sets us toward a goal of continuing to appropriate no unrestricted fund balance in the coming years. Such a strategy is vital to improving our credit ratings and lowering future borrowing costs. We are striving to become a more data-driven organization with a focus on continuous improvement that seeks to aid our residents most in need through effective service delivery, resilient governance and financial stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim S. Eagle
County Manager



FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

Key FY 2023-2024 (FY24) Budget Recommendations

Over the past four years, the budget theme has transitioned from:

- Responsiveness: Providing quick but safe emergency services in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Resiliency: Facing economic uncertainty while restoring in-person services post-pandemic
- Readiness: Preparing the organization to face today's challenges with an eye on an unpredictable future

That brings the County to the FY24 theme of **responsibility**. Following a revaluation process that saw massive growth in the tax base, it is crucial that the County remains a responsible steward of these resources, using them to further its mission to provide excellent public service every day.

The FY24 Recommended Budget is \$414.1 million for all funds, net of internal transfers. The General Fund, totaling \$322 million, is the County's major operating fund and is primarily funded with property taxes. This budget includes a 61 cent tax rate. This is a 20 cent decrease from the current rate of 81 cents, and is lower than the published revenue neutral rate of 62.1 cents. Capturing sales tax growth and the strategic appropriation of CIF fund balance would allow the County to absorb mandatory and inflationary increases in personnel and operating expenses while reducing the tax rate significantly and not appropriating unrestricted fund balance.

A breakdown of revenue by type and expenditures by function for all funds is shown below:

In terms of personnel, the FY24 Recommended Budget includes 23 new full-time positions, 19 of which are either 100% fee-funded, or 50-75% federally funded. The remaining four are 100% County-funded but are essential to maintain our facilities and vehicles. Aside from new positions, the recommended budget would continue to fund the Board-directed merit-based compensation plan. A 3% merit-based adjustment would be implemented mid-year for a 1.5% budget impact compared to the current year.

The recommended budget includes 1% increases in operating allocations for both the Gaston County school system and Gaston College, no increase in capital allocations, and includes funding to fulfill all debt service obligations, including the new school debt that the County is in the process of issuing.

Revenue by Type	FY24 Recommended
Property Tax	\$ 187,130,714
Sales & Other Taxes	\$ 77,280,543
Intergovernmental & Grants	\$ 46,533,800
Fees, Licenses & Permits	\$ 10,529,680
Sales, Services & Fees	\$ 38,006,733
Other	\$ 4,022,989
Health Insurance	\$ 26,758,769
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 23,851,321
Total Revenue Net of Transfers	\$ 414,114,549

Expenditures by Function	FY24 Recommended
General Government	\$ 73,537,706
Public Safety	\$ 97,185,852
Education	\$ 66,588,335
Cultural & Recreational	\$ 12,565,338
Human Services	\$ 97,180,220
Environmental Protection	\$ 110,661
Economic & Physical Development	\$ 14,820,212
Solid Waste	\$ 16,349,160
Debt Service	\$ 35,777,065
Total Expenditures Net of Transfers	\$ 414,114,549

The following sections provide more information on recent departmental accomplishments, the FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, the General Fund, education allocations, and the Community Investment fund, which funds major capital improvements and debt service.

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

Recent Departmental Accomplishments

- The **County Attorney's Office** reviewed, negotiated, or approved over 463 new contracts and 194 contract amendments.
- **Building & Development Services** implemented new software to track all grant documents and compliance. The Planning Division went through a complete overhaul of the Unified Development Ordinance and restarted the GCaMP (Gaston County and Municipal Planners) series. Additionally, the Building Inspections Division underwent a merger with the City of Gastonia's Building Inspections Department, as well as implemented an on-call policy to assist emergency personnel as needed.
- **Budget & Strategy** obtained the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award through the Government Finance Officers Association, which achieved Gaston County's first Triple Crown award in collaboration with Finance and Communications.
- The **Clerk to the Board of Commissioners** updated the Board of Commissioners Policies and Procedures in collaboration with the County Attorney's Office.
- **Elections** assisted over 300 voters at 22 assisted living facilities with voter changes, absentee ballot requests, and assistance with returning absentee ballots.
- **Cooperative Extension** improved the productivity of farms, gardens, and landscapes by providing over 400 residents with soil samples. Also, 1730 individuals participated in program workshops, and as a result, 1357 adopted a recommended best practice, 211 started a home garden, and 28 farms diversified marketing strategies.
- **Hope United Survivor Network** led a collaborative effort to implement the use of the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement, which will route all domestic violence survivors to HUSN while identifying the most dangerous offenders. Additionally, multifaceted prevention efforts expanded by providing human trafficking and strangulation training for all GEMS staff, jail education classes, and STD and STI testing in partnership with Public Health.
- **Veterans Services** continued to provide the full range of services to the veteran community without any loss of quantity or quality of those services despite being unable to conduct in-person client meetings.
- **Social Services** expanded the Home Delivered Meals program to include social work assessments of client needs with the goal of preventing the necessity for additional high-risk services, embodying a 'More than a Meal' philosophy.
- **Economic Development Commission** opened Apple Creek Corporate Center in May; more than half of the sites are already sold.
- **Emergency Management & Fire Services** has successfully completed all required fire inspections, bringing the department into full compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes mandated fire inspection schedule.
- **Gaston Emergency Medical Services** implemented a transport-capable paramedic Quick Response Vehicle for Kings Mountain and western Gaston County, which was an area that had our longest response times.
- **Finance** saved taxpayers over \$100,000 in costs by reviewing costs and accounts in collaboration with Information Technology. We also revamped the chart of accounts structure and implemented new governmental accounting standards (GASB 87).
- **County Police** lead in the creation of the Gaston Recovery Court and obtained a \$1.2M dollar grant to establish the first Law Enforcement Assisted version (L.E.A.D.) program in Gaston County. Telecommunications continued to answer 911 calls below the national average time, decreased the employee vacancy rate by 50%, and began utilization of fire automated dispatch.
- **Public Health** implemented new methods of outreach, including the Walk & Roll Together Gaston event and planning for new Mobile Medical Units. Additionally, the new Language Line offers onsite, telephone, and video interpreting services for multiple languages as well as ASL.

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

Recent Departmental Accomplishments (Continued)

- **Human Resources** launched a new Learning Management System, which offers training for all employees. New Employee Orientation has been revamped to include training provided through this system, thereby streamlining the onboarding process. Also, a comprehensive compensation classification study was implemented, which includes a new compensation methodology that boosts our recruitment and retention efforts.
- **Information Technology** replaced GastonGov.com with a fresh new site, utilizing the County's refreshed branding. In addition, the site has more features and capabilities than the previous site.
- The **Library's** programmatic collaborations continue to grow, such as summer reading program, jail outreach, Covid vaccination and testing, and increased access for students of Gaston County Schools.
- The **Communications Office's** Savvy Citizen podcast won second place at the 2022 NC3C Excellence in Communication Awards. The podcast surpassed 6,400 downloads and had a record number of episodes (53) published in 2022.
- The **Museum** strengthened relationships with Gaston County residents through community discussion panels. One result of the community discussions is the addition of Spanish language translations of exhibit materials and programming.
- **Natural Resources** applied for \$1.9M in grant funding to install measures to improve water quality and reduce flooding. They also transitioned to online permitting and plan review for enhanced client services.
- **Internal Audit** partnered with Information Technology and S2K Consulting to conduct an audit of the County's AT&T billing, which will result in cost savings for taxpayers.
- **Parks & Recreation** completed renovations at Tryon Park, which improved park accessibility for all visitors. Additionally, the Senior Center's attendance continues to increase, and is offering new programming.
- **Public Works** completed several major projects, including the Public Health parking lot replacement, Tryon Park ADA renovations and facility improvements, Dallas Park splash pad, and the Main Library renovation. They have also worked to increase the County's overall HUB/MWBE bid participation to 12.91%.
- The **Register of Deed's Office** experienced the most significant year of passport acceptance in 2022 since the service was started. Total revenue for the passport service for the past 12 months was over \$80,000.
- The **Sheriff's Office** partnered with multiple agencies to apprehend violent criminals and sex offender absconders, which resulted in a 100% apprehension rate. Additionally, they served over 20,000 civil papers that assisted the citizens of Gaston County with Civil and Criminal Court processes.
- **Solid Waste** opened new facilities in the past year, including the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and the Recycling Drop-Off Center. The Unit III Site Grading project is also now underway. Additionally, staff performed essential repairs in-house, which saved the County approximately \$15,000 per event on outside labor costs.
- The **Tax** office obtained the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration through the International Association of Assessing Offices; achieved a collection rate of 99.1% for fiscal year 2021 (which is the highest to date); and successfully completed the 2023 property reappraisal, which included extensive public engagement efforts and ongoing appeals.
- **Tourism Development's** Business Development team brought in 46 events, generating 17,000 hotel room stays and a direct economic impact of \$7.6 million.

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

FY 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

To maintain momentum and build upon the success of work aligned to the FY 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, staff across the county have energetically engaged in strategy sessions over the past three months leading to the development of a new five-year strategic plan.

In concert with the priorities and interest of the Board of Commissioners and the five focus areas defined in the One Gaston 2040 Vision framework, this plan serves as an internal roadmap as staff continues to focus on ensuring communities are healthy and safe, maintaining our position as an economic leader in the region, and providing opportunities for recreation and personal enrichment for residents and visitors. The plan also includes minor revisions to the organization's core values and direct connections to the One Gaston 2040 Vision.

The new five-year plan for FY 2024-2028 includes 14 organizational goals and more than 90 strategic objectives to address key issues facing communities throughout Gaston County. The goals and objectives within this plan exemplify our continued commitment to the organization's mission of "Providing excellent public service every day." As we move into the implementation phase, we will be intentional to measure our progress toward achieving the goals within the plan and provide regular updates via a Strategic Plan dashboard that is currently under development by staff.

Our Mission

Providing excellent public service every day.

Our Vision

Gaston County Government will be a model of excellence in public service leadership, innovation, collaboration, and inclusion, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents, preserving natural resources, and providing recreational, cultural, and economic opportunities that lead to global success and set the stage for future generations.

Core Values

We Value People and Relationships.
Compassion, Inclusivity, and Respect for All

We Value County Employees.
Equity, Staff Development, and Well-Being

We Value Accountability.
Integrity, Transparency, and Trust

We Value Quality and Creativity.
Innovation and Continuous Improvement

We Value Our Resources and Resiliency.
Stewardship and Sustainability

General Fund Overview

This recommended budget maintains a conservative fiscal approach and achieves three broad goals. First, it funds only the programs and initiatives that align with the Board of County Commissioners top priorities. Second, this budget funds only the County's core critical services and programs. Third, it absorbs the unprecedented levels of inflation being experienced in the County and across the country while lowering the tax rate significantly.



FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

General Fund Overview (Continued)

The General Fund, totaling \$322 million, is the County's major operating fund. This is an 7.6% increase from the current budget, excluding the one-time appropriation of restricted fund balance to fund design costs for the Public Health building renovation. Capturing sales tax growth and the strategic appropriation of restricted and unrestricted fund balance allow us to absorb mandatory and inflationary increases in personnel and operating expenses and increase our transfer to the CIF while reducing the tax rate significantly

Revenue

The largest and most stable source of projected General Fund revenue is property taxes, totaling \$187 million (58% of General Fund revenue, net of transfers). The total projected assessed valuation following the 2023 revaluation is \$30.9 billion, a 41% increase from FY23. This massive increase in assessed value is the main driver behind my recommended 20-cent tax rate cut to 61 cents per \$100 in assessed value—below the published revenue-neutral rate of 62.1 cents.

Sales tax revenue is traditionally more volatile than property tax revenue, but is now the County's second largest revenue source. The County has traditionally been very conservative when budgeting sales tax revenue projections. Following the example of regional tax data and growth projections, the FY24 property tax revenue projection builds on the growth of the past few years. Capturing this growth in property tax is a significant factor in decreasing the property tax rate as recommended.

The recommended budget continues the fee schedule methodology approved by the Board of Commissioners in March 2021. This plan includes user fee increases that were intentionally phased in using a three-year plan to blunt the impact of large year-over-year increases. The increase in projected revenue is largely driven by the consolidation with the City of Gastonia and the resulting increase in inspection fees. The following are proposed fee schedule changes for FY24:

- Building & Development Services
 - Fee increases/changes associated with the consolidation of departments and adjustments to better reflect time spent on services
- Cooperative Extension
 - New fee associated with rental the spreader equipment
- GEMS
 - Fee increases associated with increase in cost to provide services
 - Fee added for football game standby
- Solid Waste
 - The fee for municipal solid waste is increasing \$1/ton per the escalation agreement
- Solid Waste (continued)
 - Removal of the construction/demo debris fee – to be charged at municipal solid waste rate
- Library
 - Fee added for space rental
 - Adjustments to faxing fees made
- Natural Resources
 - New Fees added to cover the addition of the floodplain development permitting and inspections program
- Police
 - Removal of the nuisance car administrative fee

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

General Fund Overview (Continued)

Personnel Expenditures

The following 23 new full-time positions are recommended for funding in FY24.

Fully- or partially funded through non-County dollars and departmental revenues:

- 14 Economic Services Caseworker II & 2 Economic Services Supervisors – Both are 75% funded with Federal dollars. Because Medicaid expansion has now passed in NC, Gaston County is expected to have an additional 10,311 eligible cases.
- 1 Client Services Technician – 50% funded with federal dollars. This dedicated IT position will serve as subject matter expert for department and respond quickly in emergency situations.
- 1 Conservationist – This position is fully funded through Natural Resources' departmental revenues. In the past 5 years (FY18-22), Natural Resources' program revenues increased by 188%. Additionally, in January of this year, the Environmental Review Advisory Board approved/recommended fee increases that have not been updated since 2015.
- 1 Floodplain Administrator – This position will also be fully funded through Natural Resources' departmental revenue. The County anticipates a 25% increase in flood permits (and associated fee revenue) due to new flood mapping boundaries.

Additionally, the following positions are fully funded with County dollars:

- 1 Electrician - This position would offset current outsourced labor costs and enable Public Works to launch a preventative maintenance program.
- 1 Plumber Assistant - This calendar year, current staff completed 1,409 work requests, an average of 5.4 per day. They worked 610 hours of overtime this year. They work a minimum of 6 days per week, every week, and many times work several weeks straight without a day off. An additional position is needed to balance the workload.
- 1 HVAC Tech - This calendar year, the HVAC I techs completed a grand total of 3,395 work requests and an average of 4.4 requests per day.
- 1 Auto Tech - The growth of the fleet has outpaced existing workload capacity if technicians are to maintain an efficient level of vehicle down-time.

FY24 Requested FT Positions	Requested	Recommended
Cooperative Extension	1	
County Police	12	
Emergency Management & Fire	2	
Finance	4	
GEMS	24	
Hope United Survivor Network	9	
Human Resources	3	
Information Technology	1	
Internal Audit	1	
Library	4	
Natural Resources	3	2
Parks & Recreation	4	
Public Health	1	
Public Works	9	4
Sheriff's Office	30	
Social Services	19	17
Tax	4	
Tourism Development	1	
Veterans Services	1	
Grand Total	133	23

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

General Fund Overview (Continued)

Operating Expenditures

The recommended budget absorbs mandated inflationary increases in non-discretionary expenses by not adding additional County-funded positions aside from those discussed above, and by reducing discretionary budgets within departments. Examples of budget drivers in the recommended budget include:

- State-mandated increase in retirement contribution
- Increase in placement costs for foster care due to the number of children coming into care
- Contracts for professional services, banking services, lawn maintenance, and other services
- Laptop refresh for public safety agencies
- Investment Grant program which provided incentives for businesses
- Education operating allocation increases

Examples of discretionary budget reductions, other than unfunded new positions, include:

- The delay of new software, furniture, and equipment
- Reductions to employee training and mileage reimbursement
- Reductions to dues and subscriptions, office supplies, printing, and other miscellaneous expenses not directly tied to public services or programs

Education

North Carolina law requires Gaston County to provide funding for maintaining all public-school buildings within the County. The \$2,227,000 budgeted for the school system's recurring capital needs, with no increase from FY23, comprises Gaston County's annual appropriation to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. The recommended FY24 budget increases the County's spending for public schools by \$500,000 for school operations. Gaston County Schools operates with expenditures per student lower than many other jurisdictions, and has aging facilities that require costly repairs and maintenance. The overall estimate for capital improvements for Gaston County Schools is in excess of \$600 million.

In 2018, Gaston County voters authorized the issuance of \$250 million in school bonds, along with an additional one-quarter cent sales tax dedicated to debt service. To date, \$60 million of the \$250 million in bonds have been issued to construct the new Belmont Middle School, and to renovate existing school facilities from across the County. Two new schools were opened in 2018, and while the student count has remained stable in recent years, growth in certain parts of the County can be expected in coming years due to extensive residential development. Financial and management staff from the County and the school system meet throughout the year to communicate and facilitate the coordination of the bond package and to ensure financial oversight of the funds. A second round of bonds in the amount of \$80 million will be issued in early FY24 for the construction of the new Grier Middle School, school renovations, and school facility addition projects.

The recommended FY24 budget increases the operating support for Gaston College by \$100,000 to pay for the increased cost of operations and support. The County recommends holding the capital contribution flat at \$797,219. A summary of the recommended education allocations, compared to requested and recommended allocations is on the following page.

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

Education (Continued)



Gaston County Schools	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 Recommendation
Operating	\$52,501,704	\$55,386,704	\$53,001,704
Capital	\$2,227,000	\$6,500,000	\$2,227,000
Total Direct Allocation	\$54,728,704	\$61,886,704	\$55,228,704



Gaston College	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 Recommendation
Operating	\$5,868,062	\$7,049,494	\$5,968,062
Capital	\$797,219	\$5,133,495	\$797,219
Total Direct Allocation	\$6,665,281	\$12,182,989	\$6,765,281

Capital Improvements

During FY24, staff will continue the significant progress made in FY22-23 to advance the way capital projects are planned, budgeted, and implemented. These changes ensure the County is ready to act, is prepared, and remains flexible to changing economic conditions and increasing construction costs due to upward inflationary pressures. Long-term capital planning lowers borrowing costs, improves ratings given by credit rating agencies, and offers more accurate data to the community, elected officials, and to the Local Government Commission to reflect long-term capital needs. It helps explain how the County will address short and long-term infrastructure needs. Staff continues to review and evaluate all capital, financial, and debt-related policies in order to update and restructure them to meet sound financial condition benchmarks and to help upgrade future credit ratings.

The Board of County Commissioners endorsed the introduction of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) during FY21. This signaled that Gaston County is implementing best practice management for capital and debt. The CIF collects all capital revenues into one fund and then allocates those revenues into two specific funds for expenditure purposes, including County and school debt service and the general capital improvements fund.

The County budgets for general capital improvement projects and equipment in a separate Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Expenditures in the CIP are defined as capital projects, such as building construction, facility improvement, and equipment purchases that generally have an initial, individual cost of more than \$300,000 and an estimated useful lifespan of more than one year. In most instances, major capital projects take several years to plan and execute as seen with the projects moving forward in FY24.

The list on the following page provides descriptions and budgeted amounts for Gaston County's FY24 capital expenditures totaling approximately \$13.6 million. Each of the approved projects fulfills a critical infrastructure need or deficiency. The list below includes major facility renovations and repairs included in the County's CIP and other recurring maintenance, renovations and repairs that are undertaken by the County's Public Works department.

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FY 2024 Recommended Budget Executive Summary

FY 2024 Recommended Capital Projects

Public Safety Campus (Approved in Concept - FY23 CIP)*	\$ 7,000,000
Public Health Renovations (Approved in Concept - FY23 CIP)*	\$ 6,600,000
City of Gastonia FUSE Parking Contribution	\$ 5,000,000
US74 Catawba River Bridge & I-85 Betterments (NCDOT)	\$ 2,900,000
Catawba Cove - Multiphase Project	\$ 1,937,333
Dallas Park Master Plan Buildout	\$ 1,205,876
Courthouse 5th Floor Upfit Gap Funding	\$ 1,100,000
Fleet Maintenance Facility Gap Funding	\$ 1,000,000
Playground Updates (Bessemer City, Tryon, and Poston Parks)	\$ 450,000
Poston Park Sidewalk Construction	\$ 20,000
Expanded Maintenance Facility Poston Park	\$ 10,000
Subtotal of Project Costs	\$ 27,223,209
*Less Non-County Funds	\$ (13,600,000)
Total Impact to Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 13,623,209

Moving Forward

For the reasons stated above, FY24 will be a year defined by **responsibility** through staying prepared and flexible. Gaston County seeks to move its strategic priorities, goals, and objectives forward to be ready for current and future growth and development. The County is continuously seeking to improve, and that mindset will continue into FY24 with the implementation of its organization-wide FY24-28 Strategic Plan and the adoption of its first long-term CIP. Additionally, this mindset is reflected through our Community Investment Fund, investments in education, public health, planning and development, but most importantly, investments in our people – community members, employees, and visitors.

Next Steps

Gaston County's proposed FY24 Budget is available for public inspection on the County website at www.gastongov.com. The Board of Commissioners may wish to schedule budget work sessions between now and May 9, 2023 to review all facets of this budget.

The Board of Commissioners will hold its regularly scheduled Business Meeting on May 9th at 6:00 PM, as well as a public hearing on the proposed budget and consideration of budget adoption. The meeting will be held at the Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Forum of the Gaston County Courthouse, 325 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Gastonia, NC and will be open to the public. Citizen comment on the proposed budget is welcomed.