

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Cabarrus Summit at the Cabarrus Areana and Events Center, Concord, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2025.

Present - Chairman: Jeff Jones  
 Vice Chairman: Laura Lindsey  
 Commissioner: Larry Pittman

Also present were Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; David Thrift, Tax Administrator; and Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board.

Municipal representatives from Kannapolis, Harrisburg, Mount Pleasant, Midland, Concord, and Locust were also present.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Welcome

Chairman Jones welcomed municipal elected officials, city managers and other guests.

### Introductions / Updates

Each mayor/municipal representative provided an update on current and future projects.

### Dinner & Networking/General Discussion

The Board took a dinner break around 6:30 p.m. The meeting resumed shortly afterward.

### Presentations

#### Economic Development Corporation

Brian Hiatt, Interim Executive Director; Samantha Grass, Economic Development Manager; and Stephanie Burleson, Local Business Support Manager; presented a PowerPoint Presentation, which included the following:

- EDC Overview
- Our Mission
- Highlights of Cabarrus County Economic Development Over the Years
  - Textiles and Hosiery
  - Charlotte Motor Speedway
  - Creation of the EDC
  - Phillip Morris
  - International Business Park
  - Suburban Residential Growth and Annexations
  - Concord Regional Airport
  - WSACC
  - Motorsports
  - Concord Mills
  - Evolution and Growth of Health Care Services
  - Pillowtex Bankruptcy
  - Hospitality and Tourism
  - Phillip Morris Closure Announcement
  - The Great Recession
  - North Carolina Research Campus
  - Competition and the Investment in Speculative Buildings
  - Explosion of Distribution Facilities
  - Covid
  - Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences
- Average Manufacturing Employment - Cabarrus County
- Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups
- Local Start-Ups
  - Strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem
    - Increase access to funding
    - Support tech/scalable startups
    - Collaborative business support
- Cabarrus Center Overview
  - Cabarrus Center - Building
  - Flywheel - Management Company
    - Private Offices

- Co-working Memberships
- Meeting Space
- Flywheel Foundation
  - Programming
- Cabarrus Center Overview
- Venture Mentoring Service - Retail Lab
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Existing Businesses - Supporting business retention and expansion
  - Build relationships
  - Educate and inform
  - Serve as concierge
  - Acknowledge and celebrate
- Retention and Expansion - FY24-25
  - 56 unique company visits
  - 85 company engagement (not including phone calls)
  - 800+ student engagements
- Workforce Initiatives
  - Student Track
- Recruitment
  - Recruiting new industry
  - Responding to RFIs
  - Decision drivers
  - FY24-25 Recruitment Numbers
  - FY24-25 Projects by industry and source
  - Project Activity
  - Current Project Activity
- Grant Programs
  - Impact on local government budget
  - Balancing the scales
  - Grant agreements
- Project ABC
  - Project ABC impact

A brief discussion ensued.

**Closing**

Chairman Jones thanked everyone for attending.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned around 8:00 p.m.



*Fuaene Ohuna*  
Clerk to the Board