

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 19, 2016, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

David Gantt, Chairman
Brownie Newman, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Miranda DeBruhl, Commissioner
Ellen Frost, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Holly Jones, Commissioner

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/HHS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Tim Flora, Finance Director; Bob Deutsch, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rice mentioned the motions made on the revaluation at the April 5 meeting and the actions that he felt were unlawful. He questioned the advice given by the County Attorney and why the Board allowed action on the matter.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays**
- **Ordinance Amending Ordinance Levying Tax on Gross Receipts Derived from Retail Short-Term Rental of Motor Vehicles**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**

GOOD NEWS

- **Proclamation of Public Health Month**

Commissioner Belcher read the proclamation and moved for its approval. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, County Medical Director, thanked the Board for supporting their work in the community.

- **PTSD Town Hall Meeting**

Allen Perkal and Mike Burkett with the Vietnam Veterans of America, thanked the Board for allowing them to announce the PTSD Town Hall meeting scheduled for June 11 at the Mission Health/AB Tech Conference Center. They requested that the Board declare June 11 as PTSD Awareness Day in Buncombe County.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Art Presentation**

Gigi Francis, Library Manager, presented the Committee's work to create a history wall as requested by the Commissioners last year. She thanked members of the Committee: Jack Thompson, Preservation Society; Grace Pless, Asheville Urban Trail; Steve Hagman, NC Stage Company; Michael Manes, Blue Spiral 1/Asheville Area Arts Council; Stephanie Brown, Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau; Pam Myers, Asheville Art Museum; Angie Chandler, Blue Ridge National Heritage Area; Kitty Love, Asheville Arts Council; Stephanie Moore, Center for Craft, Creativity and Design; Jeff Futch, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; Constance Richards, Public Arts and Cultural Commission. The history wall will be located in the lobby of the courthouse. The WNC Carvers Club had agreed to donate a carved quilt for the project made up of 26 blocks each carved by an individual carver. The quilt is in

production and about 95 percent complete. The outside plaza monument will include a kinetic sculpture. They will submit request for proposals for the history wall art and the sculpture.

- **Reynolds High Graduation Rates & Public Transit**

Tammy Young, Cindy Oaks and Tina Stovall and a number of students from Reynolds High School presented a request for bus transit service to Reynolds High School. Their presentation is attached to the minutes of this meeting. They requested the Board's support asking that they work with the School Board to improve the transportation options for students.

They had not checked with other districts but felt students needing transportation was a County-wide problem. Vice Chair Newman said that these were extremely expensive needs that should be addressed by everyone working together.

- **Budget Amendment – Election Services – Congressional Primary**

Trena Parker, Election Services Director, asked the Board to approve the budget amendment so that the congressional primary could be held in June of this year. She was asking for funding to cover the primary only.

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Removing the Question Regarding Whether a Person Has Been Convicted of a Criminal Offense from the County's Main Hiring Application**

Curt Euler, Human Resources Manager, said that the resolution, also known as the "ban the box" request was a national civil rights movement seeking to remove the question asking if an applicant had ever been convicted of a crime from job applications. The County does have this on the application at this time. EEOC wants employers to consider all applications in light of possible convictions. Approval of this resolution would not drastically change how employees were hired--the County would continue to conduct criminal background checks on employees.

The Chairman allowed comment on this topic.

Dee Williams said that she supported the ban the box efforts and saw it as a second chance and thanked Mission Hospital for leading the way in removing the box.

Mark Siler spoke in favor of the ban the box movement and thanked the Board for considering the effort.

Steven Smith said that he hires individuals who were formerly incarcerated and being given the opportunity to work helps the entire community.

Brenton Bailey, coordinator for the Reentry Council, said that he would suggest that the County measure the impact of removing the box.

Jerry Rice was in favor of getting rid of the box in light of the numerous ways to get good background checks.

Commissioner Jones thanked the community agencies and organizations for leading the way in this effort and encouraged the community to join the effort.

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion passed as follows:

AYES: Chairman Gantt, Vice Chair Newman, Commissioners Frost and Jones

NOES: Commissioners Fryar, DeBruhl and Belcher

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Michael Woods, Robin Merrell, Brooks Ann McKinney, Dan Garrett, Emily Ball and Elizabeth Kelly** to the **Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee**. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost moved to appoint **Gene Bell** to the **Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College Board of Trustees**. The motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Newman moved to appoint **Cynthia Ann Stockman, Brenda Gernandt and Katherine Elliott** to the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**

Commissioners Belcher moved to appoint the members recommended by the Women's Commission to the **Women's Commission: Leslie Council; Sara Coplai; Lisa Cook; Katrina Andberg; Jennifer Nehlsen; Kristin Gowin, MD; Libby Mae Kyles; Donna Ensley; Lauren Akiko Pittman, Paulina Mendez, Andrea Golden, Lizzi Shimer**. Vice Chair Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- **May 3 – Commissioners Regular Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street**

- **May 31** – the May 17 regular meeting has been moved to May 31 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS