

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 6, 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:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Ellen Frost, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman read an excerpt from Tom Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation" in honor of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The Chairman welcomed Alfred Whitesides as the newest member of the Commission from District 1 who was sworn in just prior to this meeting. Commissioner Whitesides said he looked forward to working for the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Thompson expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Whitesides for his work on the Asheville City School Board where his children attended and he asked that the Board continue to work to make the schools strong in the community.

Jerry Rice commented on the losses at Pearl Harbor 75 years ago and how it impacted his family. He welcomed Commissioner Whitesides for being willing to serve on the Commission. He felt there were serious problems in the city and county school systems and there should be more teachers in special education.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approval of the Minutes of November 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

Release Report

Grant Projects Ordinance

Capital Projects Ordinance

Budget Amendment

- **Detention Center**

Resolution in Support of the Fonta Flora State Trail

Resolution Donating Surplus Vehicles to Madison County sheriff

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution of Intent to Convey Property to Habitat for Humanity**

The County Manager said that the two parcels of foreclosed property in consideration were located inside a subdivision in the Avery's Creek community. Cynthia Barcklow, County Planner, said that the parcels were zoned R-1 and had a steep slope overlay and that Habitat for Humanity would be willing to take the properties.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Against Discrimination and Intimidation**

Commissioner Pressley asked that this resolution be postponed until the January meeting. Commissioner Belcher seconded the motion.

Commissioner Whitesides said that he understood why it might be put off; however, after the recent election season and hearing what was happening on both sides, he felt it was important that leadership make a statement that hate speech should not be tolerated. Commissioner Frost agreed and asked that this be seen as an example of leadership.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara said that this should be voted on at this time without hesitation.

The motion to postpone consideration failed as follows:

AYES: Fryar, Pressley and Belcher

NOES: Chairman Newman, Commissioners Frost, Whitesides and Beach-Ferrara

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara said that the Town of Weaverville had already passed a similar resolution and approving this resolution would simply affirm the County's core values and commitments, not legislate behavior. This welcomes a wide range of political and life beliefs and should be inclusive of all.

Commissioner Frost read the resolution.

Commissioner Fryar made comments about discrimination and asked that politics not be allowed in the classroom. Commissioner Frost said that the Commissioners did not have any jurisdiction over the classroom.

Commissioner Frost moved to adopt the resolution with the addition of the words "political party" included in the second whereas. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion.

Melissa Murphy said that she was a public school teacher and agreed with the resolution seeing it as a strong opportunity to show leadership.

Keith Thompson said that he was raised to love his neighbor and not to pass his neighbor by on the road.

Jerry Rice said that federal laws were clear about discrimination and there should be no reason to have a resolution like this one and he did not want it on the agenda.

Commissioner Whitesides said that until race was discussed, the problems of discrimination could not be solved. He said that the same problems exist today as they did 30 years ago and leaders must begin discussion. Commissioner Belcher made comments on respect for his beliefs and said that he was in favor of the resolution. The motion passed as 7-0.

- **Voting Delegate for Legislative Goals Conference**

Commissioner Belcher said that he had attended before and would be willing to attend again. Commissioner Frost moved to nominate Commissioner Belcher as the voting delegate. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Susan Stuart** and **Laura Wagenknecht** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Fryar nominated **Commissioner Whitesides** to serve on the **Audit Committee**. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost nominated **Chairman Newman** to serve on the **Metropolitan Planning Organization**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Fryar nominated Commissioner Pressley to serve on the **Metropolitan Planning Organization**; Chairman Newman nominated Commissioner Beach-Ferrara. After a poll of the Board, **Commissioner Beach Ferrara** was appointed.

Commissioner Belcher nominated **Commissioner Pressley** to serve as an **alternate on the Metropolitan Planning Organization**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost moved to appoint **Commissioner Fryar** to the **Crimestoppers Board of Directors**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Fryar nominated **Commissioner Frost** to serve on the **Health and Human Services Board**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost nominated **Commissioner Whitesides** to serve on the **Riverfront Development Board**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost nominated **Commissioner Whitesides** to serve on the **Economic Development Coalition**. Commissioner Belcher nominated Commissioner Pressley. After a poll of the Board Commissioner Whitesides was appointed.

Chairman Newman nominated **Commissioner Pressley** to serve on the **Land of Sky Regional Council**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher nominated **Commissioner Beach Ferrara** to serve on the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council** and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement:

- ***December 7 – Sustainability Plan Update/Public Comment at Pack Library beginning at 5:30***
- ***December 23, 26 & 27 – Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday***
- ***January 2 – County Offices Closed for New Years***
- ***January 3 – Commissioners; Regular Meeting Room 326 @ 200 College beginning at the new time of 5 p.m.***

Commissioner Frost moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11a(4) to discuss a possible economic development incentive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beach- Ferrara and passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

Discussion was held concerning a possible economic development incentive for a company considering locating in the County and bringing 500 jobs over a 5 year period. The Board gave consensus for staff to continue with discussions. No action was taken.

Chairman Newman moved to return to open session.

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**