

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 15, 2018 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 15, 2018, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 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
Mike Fryar, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Ellen Frost, Commissioner
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Mandy Stone, County Manager; Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Tim Flora, Finance Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Diane Price, Administrative Services Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board; Mike Frue, Senior Staff Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman mentioned the upcoming Memorial Day as a day thought of as the kickoff of the summer season and encouraged everyone to take time to remember its real meaning and remember those that have given their lives for our country. He asked for a moment of silence to remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The Chairman announced that there would be parking passes available for those attending the meeting who parked in the county parking deck or used transit and that the County Manager would share more about this during her report.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Approval of Minutes of the April 24, 2018 Closed Session**
- **Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- **Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2018 Closed Session**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium for HOME Funds and Approval of Housing Projects**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for firework Displays**
- **Resolution Amending the System Safety Plan for Mountain Mobility**
- **Resolution Amending the Title VI Plan for Mountain Mobility**
- **Resolution Authorizing the county Manager to Execute a Sub-allocation and Sub-recipient Agreement with the City of Asheville for FTA Section 5307 Transportation Funding**
- **Budget Amendments:**
 - **AB Tech Capital Plan Maintenance**
 - **Mountain Mobility Special Revenue Fund**
- **Article 46 Sales Tax Capital Fund Project Ordinance**

GOOD NEWS

- **County Communication Team Recognition**

Lisa Eby, HR and Communication/Community Engagement Director, recognized the Communication Team (Cataldo Perrone, Max Taintor, Kassi Day and Dan Hesse) for the awards that they recently brought back from the North Carolina City/County Communication Association annual conference. She outlined the awards that were won including First Place for County Commission Meeting Video; Still Standing Campaign promoting the Family Justice Center; and the Farm Fresh Table Video. They received second place awards for Buncombe Life Magazine; PSA on Kennel Frustration and Social Media B:60 Videos.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Parking Policy To Assist Participants**

Mandy Stone, County Manager, explained that to promote citizens attendance at County Commission meetings, the County would begin offering free parking and transit access to attendees. She said that that attendees can pick up a validation sticker to cover the parking deck fee or a transit pass from the security team as they exit the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Appointing a Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

The Chairman said that this was a hard position to fill with over 200 applications to choose from. He said Commissioners Frost, Whitesides and Belcher along with members of the staff worked together to select and interview 12 of the finalists. The full Board of Commissioners interviewed the final 6 applicants and Lamar Joyner was chosen for the position.

Lisa Eby, HR Director, reviewed Mr. Joyner's qualifications for the position of the Clerk including his experience as the Deputy Director of Elections for Forsyth County and a degree in engineering that points to his ability to have attention to detail.

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Message**

Mandy Stone, County Manager, presented the budget message as attached to the minutes of this meeting. She said that the adversity of the past year was used by staff as an opportunity to make positive changes in areas that needed improvement. All department directors had worked hard to focus on serving the citizens in a tumultuous year and during many management structural changes and improvements. She reviewed the strategic priorities that the county focused on during FY18. Ms. Stone said that the Board had held over 50 hours of budget workshops to prepare for this budget and make online tools available to the public. She said that this budget maintains a 15% undesignated fund balance and that minus the requested increases from education, the budget would be proposed at the same rate as last year or 52.9 cents. She reviewed the fire service district increase requests, suggesting that a more sustainable financial model be implemented for all fire services for management and oversight. Twelve districts had requested increases ranging from .08 to 5.5 cents. She outlined proposed county support to be implemented in the coming year to assist with the management and oversight of fire service districts.

Ms. Stone invited the citizens to send questions and attend the public hearing on June 5 at 5 p.m.

Vice Chair Fryar thanked the Manager and staff for the work they have done on the budget.

Commissioner Whitesides said that this was a much different budget that he felt he could confidently vote for as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Frost thanked the staff for delivering a budget during difficult times.

Commissioner Belcher pointed out that all Commissioners had input into this budget, highlighting the positive improvements that were part of the budget and the hard work that had gone into the presentation. He said that the Mission merger could have a positive impact on future budgets. He encouraged everyone to check out the budget dashboards for more financial information.

Commissioner Frost thanked the Fire Chief's for their service and continued strong partnerships.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara agreed with the comments and also commended the budget process and access to information. She encouraged the public to continue to talk to the Commissioners about their concerns.

Commissioner Pressley thanked the Manager and staff for their hard work during stressful situations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton commended the Commissioners' attempt to be transparent. He commented on Mission Health beginning to pay property taxes when they merge and suggested that the extra money that the County would receive be used to pay off the County's debt.

Jerry Rice said that the Commissioners should have talked to him about the budget and be educated about the schools and their budget and fund balance. He felt that the schools were only increasing supplements for top salaries and would not be used for teachers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice Chairman made the following announcements:

- *May 22 @ 11:30 a.m. – Commissioners will attend the Annual County Employee Awards Luncheon at the First Baptist church in downtown Asheville.*
- June 5 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street in Room 326.

Commissioner Frost moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11a(4) economic development (6) personnel matters and (3) attorney client matter. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board heard about an economic development incentive opportunity involving a new industry considering locating in the County. The company would bring a \$17.9 million investment and 100 jobs over 5 years paying an average wage of \$19 per hour. The Board gave consensus to consider an incentive agreement with no action at this time.

The Board heard an update on the incentive agreement previously executed with Linamar. No action was taken.

The Board heard an update and discussion of a pending legal matter involving the former County Manager and the ongoing investigation. No action was taken.

The Board discussed the position of County Attorney and gave consensus to make an offer regarding this position. No action was taken. **(Vice Chair Fryar left the meeting during this discussion)*

Commissioner Frost moved to return to open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0*.

Commissioner Beach Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frost seconded and the motion passed 6-0*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS