

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 2, 2019, 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
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: George Wood, Interim County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Eric Hardy, Performance Management Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Tim Love, Business Officer; Jennifer Chilton, Budget Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

As the year changes, the Chairman took a moment to reflect on the many blessings and things to be thankful for including the dedicated public servants that we have in our community.

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara motioned to add the following item below to New Business and to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee Appointments**

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of November 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 4, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Commissioners' Property Tax Release Report
 - More Information

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, explained each of the tax resolutions below that were previously discussed during the December 4, 2018 meeting. He referenced the statutes that were relevant to each of the resolutions and asked the Board if there were any questions surrounding these resolutions. Approving the first resolution would advance the general appraisal cycle to start on January 1, 2021.

- **Resolution Advancing the Scheduled Octennial Reappraisal and Adopting a New Reappraisal Cycle**

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

- **Resolution Authorizing Employment of Appraisal Experts**

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

- **Resolution Establishing a Special Reserve Fund for Reappraisals**

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the resolution as presented. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Wanda Skillington Greene and Michael Gene Greene as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 18 CVS 2577 and RAB Builders vs. Buncombe County Court file # 18 CVS 2406. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the previous mentioned legal matter. No action was taken.

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee Appointments**

Chairman Newman stated that this good opportunity to partner with the community. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara thanked fellow commissioners and Buncombe County staff for the work on the process to promote this cause.

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara and Commissioners Pressley and Whitesides to the committee. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Discuss Settlement in the Matter of the County of Buncombe vs. Wanda Skillington Greene and Michael Gene Greene as Recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 18 CVS 2577**

Ron Payne, County Attorney, proposed and recommended the \$750,000 settlement with Wanda Greene for a limited release for the following approximate dollar amounts: \$176,000 for credit or purchasing cards and gift cards, \$241,000 for retention incentive pay, \$221,000 for life insurance and annuity policy, and \$110,000 for trips and expenses associated with Joe Wiseman or his company. Mr. Payne stated that the County would continue to hold her accountable for anything that is discovered.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the settlement. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the Chairman to execute the release settlement. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing Execution of Tax Collections Agreement**

Tim Love, Business Officer, presented the PowerPoint which gave background on the work that has been accomplished with the City of Asheville for the past four months. Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, stated that these tax collections have been provided for over ten years and offers the citizens a payment plan process with financial education.

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

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

- **FY2019 Budget Amendment Summary 1-2-19**

Jennifer Chilton, Budget Director, explained each of the budget amendments outlined in the amendment summary and identified individually below.

- **FY2019 General Fund Budget Amendments**

- **Interfund Transfer to Grants Projects Fund for Blue Horizons Energy Efficiency Network Grant Match**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-1. (NOES-Commissioner Fryar)

- **Interfund Transfer to Capital Projects Fund for Lake Julian Marina Dock Replacement**

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

- **Appropriate Fund Balance for Evergreen Solutions LLC Pay Study Recommendation – Salary & Benefits**

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program**

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

- **FY2019 Capital Projects Fund**

- **Lake Julian Marina Dock Replacement – Additional Budget for Demolition and Additional Boat Slips**

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

- **FY2019 Grants Project Fund**

- **Blue Horizons Energy Efficiency Network Grant – Year 2**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Whitesides moved to appoint **Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara** to the **Justice Resource Advisory Council**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 15 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*
- *January 21 - County Offices will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday*
- *February 5 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*

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

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS