

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 7, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 7, 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: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Terri Orange, Internal Auditor; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

The Chairman asked for moment of silence to acknowledge the death of Riley Howell, from Western NC, and Ellis "Reed" Parlier, from Midland, NC, who were students killed in a shooting at UNC-Charlotte.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara motioned to add **Buncombe Wins 4 Excellence in Communication Awards** to the agenda under **Good News**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Commissioner Fryar motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of April 16, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays
- Donation of Surplus Personal Property
  - Resolution
- Quarterly Settlements
  - Report
- Commissioners' Property Tax Release Report
  - Report
  - More Information
- Fund 224: Special Programs Fund
  - Sluder Farm Conservation Easement
  - More Information

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **Buncombe Wins 4 Excellence in Communication Awards**

Cataldo Perrone, Communications Director, presented the four awards that were won at the NC City & County Communications conference. The awards were won in the categories of intranet, branding/new logo, community visioning, and citizen participation. He thanked the Communications team and students from the Student Summit that assisted with these projects.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Motorcycle Awareness Month**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation to members of the Buncombe County Concerned Bikers Association. Jodi Martin, of the bikers association, thanked the Board for acknowledgement of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month and stated that this awareness will save lives.

- **Financial Quarterly Report**

Don Warn, Finance Director, summarized the third quarter report and Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the projections through March. Revenue increases were outlined during the presentation as well.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, informed the Board that the Crown Victoria car that the Board donated to Working Wheels at the last meeting was returned by them because they couldn't use it due to high mileage. Ms. Pinder noted that the vehicle will be disposed as provided in the surplus property policy. Ms. Pinder and the Board also scheduled the external audit presentation for May 14 at 2 p.m.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Joint Resolution of the Board of Commissioners and the Asheville City Board of Education**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, stated that the Asheville City Board of Education will enter into a lease-purchase of a new phone system for the schools with no additional funding and the purchase is already budgeted by Asheville City Schools.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Dinga, Amy Churchill, Jennifer Westbrook, and Renee' Ledford expressed the importance of instructional assistants in schools and pledged their support for the school systems' budget requests.

Jerry Rice stated that the Commissioners are policy makers and should not advocate for a cause. He also expressed his concern with the number of new teachers in Buncombe County and the lack of support for all students.

Don Yelton requested the publishing of the pre-meeting on the agenda page and stated that special interest group will continue to ask for money.

Tom Vance said that the budgets for schools are important and he supports their requests. He also would like for the Board save money by saying no to some causes.

John Coffey, Riceville Fire Chief, offered invitations to a variety of activities being held at the Riceville Fire Station.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *May 21 @ 12 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, 1st Floor Conference Room in downtown Asheville.*
- *May 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) for a personnel matter with no possible action to be taken following the closed session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## CLOSED SESSION

The Board had discussion on a personnel 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.

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS