

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 3, 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; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Jim Blanton, Library Director; Mike Mace, General Services 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 a moment of silence for those individuals impacted by Hurricane Dorian and the people who have helped save lives and assisted the affected communities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Belcher motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and follow the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of August 20, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Quarterly Settlements
 - Report

GOOD NEWS

- **Tax Assessment awarded “Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration”**

Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, explained the award that was given by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). He also acknowledged the staff members that participated in the project that earned the award and stated the project promoted teamwork within the department.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Tourism Management and Investment Plan (TMIP) Update**

Stephanie Brown, of Tourism Management Authority (TDA), presented information about the TMIP and how investments have been made through community projects. The TMIP is a project that has a ten-plus year investment strategy with the TDA, City of Asheville and Buncombe County being key partners. The process will be inclusive as to garner feedback from the neighboring towns.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, asked for an update on the RAB Builders and the Board of Adjustment settlement from Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney.

Mr. Frue stated that through mediation the claim was settled for \$200,000 and suggested that it would have been less than potential attorney's fees.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Authorizing Technical Correction for Contracts Policy**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the resolution eliminate the discrepancy between the Procurement Manual and the Contract Policy that allow the County Manager to enter into contract.

Commissioner Belcher moved to authorize the technical correction as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Enter into a Lease with the City of Asheville for the East Asheville Library**

Jim Blanton, Library Director, stated that the lease agreement fee from the City of Asheville is \$1/year for 99 years. The County will be responsible for improvements to some exterior areas, such as the basketball court, playground and pedestrian crossing.

Don Yelton asked how much does each library costs and how many people does each serve.

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

- **Rules and Procedures for Board of County Commissioners**

Chairman Newman explained that the origination of the conversation surrounding the changes to the rules and procedures started with the interest of moving and changing the public comment session within the meeting. The Commissioners provided their perspective on some of the changes and agreed to delay any decisions until more thought and understanding could be included.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Alan Lang** to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Michael Fisher** and **Julie Goodman** to the **Crime Stoppers Board of Directors**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-1. (NOES-Belcher)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton expressed his concern with the public comment session moved to the beginning of the meeting and questioned some of the policies and procedures of the board meeting.

Jerry Rice stated that the commissioners talk too much and don't listen enough. He also suggested that the Board talk about real things and not just politics.

Gary Roberts expressed his concerns with the landfill odors that affects his adjacent farm and the health of nearby citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 17 @ 8:30 a.m. - Strategic Planning Workshop (Commissioners & Department Heads) at First Baptist Church, 5 Oak Street, 3rd Floor Dining Room in Downtown Asheville.*
- *September 17 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Edwards moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear a legal matter and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear an economic development matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS