

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 17, 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, Commissioner
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Jim Blanton, Library Director; Mike Mace, General Services Director; Jerry Vehaun, Emergency Services Director; Josh O'Conner, Recreation Services Director; 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 in attendance to reflect on what the end of the year and holiday time means to each person and their families.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of December 3, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 3, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Hall Fletcher Elementary School Renovations
 - Contract Bids

PRESENTATIONS

- **47 Years of Service Recognition - Jerry Vehaun**

Chairman Newman read a statement in appreciation after a personalized video for Jerry Vehaun was presented. Commissioner Whitesides acknowledged that Mr. Vehaun was given the Order of the Long Leaf Pines Award by NC Governor Roy Cooper.

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, Amanda Louise Stone, Jon Creighton and Joe Wiseman as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 18 CVS 4206 and the County of Buncombe vs. Ellen M. Frost and Wanda Skillington Greene as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 19 CVS 5208. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Legal Update**

Attorney Ron Payne provided the Board with an update on the legal process involving Wanda Greene, Ellen Frost, Jon Creighton and Joe Wiseman. In a statement from Jon Creighton, Former Commissioner Bill Stanley received improper benefits from Joe Wiseman. Mr. Stanley's wife sent a letter (representing Bill Stanley) accepting recourse for any future actions taken by the County.

Chairman Newman moved to rename the William H. Stanley Center back to its original name of 35 Woodfin Street. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **ADA Voting System Replacement - Express Vote**

Joyce Kanavel, Interim Board of Elections Director, explained that new voting equipment had been tested and approved. The ExpressVote machines will be used to replace the old Automark equipment.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the ExpressVote purchase as the new voting machine replacement. Commissioner Fryar seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **RADTIP Connector Donation & Interlocal Agreement**

Josh O'Conner, Recreation Services Director, explained that the one mile greenway segment is between Asheville and Woodfin and previously presented at the pre-meeting.

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

- **East Asheville Library Project & Budget Amendment**

Jim Blanton, Library Director reviewed the project and timeline for the new construction of East Asheville Library. Mr. Blanton expressed that libraries need to be inspiring to attract patrons.

The commissioners discussed the alternate additions included in the construction plans and expressed their enthusiasm for the project.

Don Yelton requested the information on how much each library cost.

Jerry Rice stated that people with money and influence use libraries and questioned the project cost.

Karl Katterjohn expressed his support for the project.

Cathy Bussy expressed her support for the project and stated that people without money use libraries.

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

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

- **Boards and Commissions Policy**

Lamar Joyner, Clerk to Board, explained the modifications to the policy made by the Board and Senior Staff Attorney Michael Frue.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the policy but requested that the first sentence of 5.6 be changed to read: No applicant will be considered for appointment to a board, commission, committee or authority where he or she has a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with a person employed by such board, committee, or authority. Commissioner Belcher seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton talked about appearance of conflict of interest amongst members of boards and committees. He also requested the information on how much each library cost.

Jerry Rice stated that the Board needs to make policies that prevent corruption and save money for citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 7 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *January 7 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear a legal matter for the National Prescription Opioid Litigation Northern District of Ohio #: 17 MD 2804 and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear an economic development matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Belcher seconded and

the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS