

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 21, 2020, 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; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships 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 acknowledged the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and his fight for Civil Rights. He requested a moment of silence for all the men and women that fought for freedom and equality.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to remove **Nonprofit Donation to Benefit Children in Foster Care** from the **Consent Agenda**, move **Resolution Acknowledging the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's Intention to Conduct a Regional Transit Feasibility Study** after the **Consent Agenda**, add **National Radon Action Month Proclamation** to **Presentations**, and approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of January 7, 2020 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Inter-local Agreement with City for RFP for Blue Horizons Services
  - Resolution
  - Agreement
- ~~Nonprofit Donation to Benefit Children in Foster Care~~
  - ~~More Information~~
- Resolution Acknowledging the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's Intention to Conduct a Regional Transit Feasibility Study
  - Resolution
- **Resolution Acknowledging the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's Intention to Conduct a Regional Transit Feasibility Study**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, provided details and answered some Board questions. He explained that the request for qualifications will be taken to establish a complete study. The study will take look at the operating efficiency of the area transit agencies and will not cost the County any funds (there is an annual membership fee).

Don Yelton asked how much it will totally cost to complete the study.

Commissioner Belcher requested a map of the service area for the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the resolution to conduct the study. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **Present Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award to Retired Major Randy Smart**

Commissioner Belcher welcomed retired Sheriff Van Duncan to assist in presenting the award to retired Major Randy Smart. Major Smart briefly reflected on his 24 years of service and showed appreciation to those who supported him.

## PRESENTATIONS

- **National Radon Action Month Proclamation**

Chairman Newman read the proclamation and Commissioner Fryar made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced and welcomed the newly hired Emergency Medical Services Director, Van Taylor.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for Woodfin Greenway Project**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained that the budget amendment and stated that it didn't require any new County funds.

Don Yelton suggested that the County will have to increase funding in the future.

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

- **Budget Amendment for START Program Expansion**

Rebecca Smith, Human & Health Services, explained that Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START) program has helped children and families in the community and with the expansion, can help twice as many people.

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

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Dr. John Baley** to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Al Whitesides** and **William Hathaway** to the **Economic Development Coalition**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Robert Pressley** to the **Metropolitan Sewerage District Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The following individuals were appointed the **Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Board**.

District 1

**Sam Mason**  
**Derek Turno**  
**Dusty Allison**

District 2

**Ann Babcock**  
**Carol Peterson**

District 3

**Lena Richards**  
**Teresa Williams**  
**Ally Howell**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Emory Underwood, Ron Marcello, Mary Standard, Marilyn Servancy, Sheridan Hill expressed their displeasure with Black Mountain, Montreat and Biltmore Forest moving elections to a different schedule, thus not having an election this year.

Hanna Honeycutt and Matthew Puck stated their concern with the changes to the County's health insurance and its affordability.

Andrew Selwyn stated that the occupancy tax is not helping the community and the taxes should be spent on affordable housing.

Jerry Rice is concerned that the Parks, Greenways & Recreation Advisory Board will develop projects that will burden tax payers.

Don Yelton provided advice to the citizens of Black Mountain, Montreat and Biltmore Forest to avoid the changes to the election schedule. He also questioned the transportation study and its cost.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 28 @ 1 p.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 4 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 4 @ 4 p.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 4 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS