

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 4, 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
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Mike Fryar, Commissioner, passed away on February 2, 2020.

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; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning 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 passing of Commissioner Mike Fryar. The Commissioners provided memories of his service to people of Buncombe County and their relationships. Commissioner Belcher led a prayer on behalf of his passing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of January 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Plan with Expansion
 - Funding Plan
 - More Information
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Ordering the Advertising of Delinquent Real Estate Property Tax Liens
 - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for One-time Increase of the Methodist Home Grant for "Raise the Age"
 - Ordinance
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Revenue
 - Ordinance

PRESENTATIONS

- **Financial Quarterly Report**

Don Warn, Finance Director, presented the second quarter report with an update on revenues and expenditures. He stated that everything was trending in the right direction and that the transfer station was doing very well.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Resolution Authorizing to Refund Overpayment of Excise Taxes - Reed Law Firm**

Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney, explained the process of the refunding the excise taxes and stated that the deed was properly recorded.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:28 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:29 p.m.

Vice Chair Pressley moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Limited Obligation Bonds**

Don Warn, Finance Director, stated the County intends to issue the bonds in an amount not to exceed \$212 million to fund approximately \$15 million of County capital projects and \$24 million of public school capital projects while taking advantage of the low interest rate by issuing refinancing bonds of approximately \$172.5 million.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:33 p.m.

Don Yelton stated the question of how do you save money and pay debt services.

Jerry Rice suggested that the County find a way to reduce the debt funds and use the “pay as you go” model.

Katherine stated that the bridge in Candler needed to be completed.

The hearing was closed at 5:38 p.m.

Chairman Newman stated that bridge project in Candler is scheduled to be addressed soon at a future meeting.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Suttle Rezoning Request**

Joshua Freeman, Planning Manager, presented the request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive plan and was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. The area would move from R-1 Residential to CS-Commercial Service at the address of 1900 US Highway 70 and consist of a total acreage of 1.7.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:46 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:46 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to adopt the plan consistency statement. Chairman Newman seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Mission Rezoning Request**

Joshua Freeman, Planning Manager, stated that the rezoning of four parcels of land (222.5 acres) and was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. The area would move from R-3/ R-LD/ OU to CR- Conference Center/Resort District in the area of 323 High Top Mountain Road, Holcombe Cove Road and Propst Road.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:52 p.m.

Jerry Rice stated that there was no city sewer and traffic would be an issue.

Derrick Allen, Attorney for the applicant, provided details of the proposed project for the location and stated that there was no opposition.

Don Yelton suggested that sewer and traffic issues needed to be addressed for the project.

The hearing was closed at 6:01 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to adopt the plan consistency statement. Chairman Newman seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the rezoning request. Chairman Newman seconded the motion and it passed 6-0

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

Jake Quinn, Board of Elections Chairman, thanked Joyce Kanavel for serving as Interim Director and welcomed Corrine Duncan as the new Director of Elections.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Stuart Cowles** to the **Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Committee (District 2)**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to appoint the following individuals to the **Strategic Partnership Grants Committee**. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 5-1. (NOES-Beach-Ferrara)

District 1
Elizabeth Ward
Paul Tax
Davidson Jones

District 2
Kevin McAbee
Anne Carpenter
Douglas Clarke

District 3
Chuck Rosenblum
Rebecca Strimer
Kate Burger

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Scott McLean, Sarah Hutcheson** and **Rodney Embler** to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several people came to the meeting to weigh in on the idea of Buncombe County becoming a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary county. The following individuals (as well as others who didn't state their names) spoke in favor of the idea.

Tracey DeBruhl	Freemont Brown	Tom Benson	Michael Cline
Bernard Harmon	Sandra Ingle	Jeremy Jones	Katherine
Curt Deliance	Michael Morgan	Jason Brunscy	Mike
Michael Collinery	Vick Davidson	Gabe Black	Greg Farmer
Jackson Hensley	Don Yelton	Bill Tomberlin	Jerry Rice
Jeremiah	William Lyons	Darryl Parson	
AJ Foxx	Roger Edwards	Dennis Gibson	

The following individuals (as well as others who didn't state their names) spoke against the idea.

Amy Benedict
Rich Johnston
Tom Decort
Sarah Orum
Natalie Howell

Matthew Putnam suggested that the Board address health benefits and vote on the changes.

Hanna Honeycutt questioned the County's health risk assessment and stated that employees don't feel comfortable coming forward to express their concerns.

Wiley Westall spoke of the work Commissioner Fryar was doing to assist individuals financially with their property taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *February 18 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 18 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS