

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 16, 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
Anthony Penland, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Mike Mace, General Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman requested a moment of silence for prayer, peace, healing and justice in our country and community after the murder of George Floyd.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Penland inquired about a conflict of interest for voting on the fire district budget and Attorney Heather Hockaday confirmed that there is not a conflict.

Commissioner Whitesides 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 June 2, 2020 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 2, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- State Lottery Application Project - Estes Elementary
 - Application
- Asheville City Schools Capital Plan Projects
- AB Tech Capital Plan Maintenance Projects
- Contract Award for the Detention Center Comprehensive Facility Plan to CGL Companies
 - Proposal
- ART Leicester Highway Transit Extension Funding for FY 2021
- JCPC FY 2020-2021 Certification & Annual Plan
 - Certification
 - Annual Plan
- Budget Amendment for Avery's Creek Elementary & Candler Elementary Re-Roofing Projects
 - Ordinance

GOOD NEWS

- **Governor's Award for Volunteer Service**

Lynn Smith, Executive Assistant, acknowledged the ten community members that were chosen to receive the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for their work within the Buncombe County community.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority – Annual Report**

Lew Bleiweis, Executive Director, gave his presentation that provided an overview of the strategic plan and long-term vision of the state of the airport. The PowerPoint included highlights of the past year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Economic Development Public Hearings - FY2021 Budget**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, and Tim Love, Business Officer, explained the economic development grants and economic development projects from the FY2021 Budget. The grants included new appropriations and pre-existing budgeted funds. Each of the preexisting economic development projects have previously been approved by the board in a public hearing and are supported by economic development agreements (EDA).

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m.

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

No action is needed by the Board following the public hearing.

- **FY2021 Recommended Budget**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, gave an overview of the FY2021 Budget and explained specific details of the presentation.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Gene Freeman expressed support to fund Asheville City Schools' budget request.

Jacob Blair requested that the County fund the Health department more and the Sheriff department less.

Pearl Foster requested action to defund the Sheriff department.

Ruth O'Donnell supported the funding of the library.

Tim Flora stated that the Board was out of touch and questioned some of the Board decisions.

Don Yelton questioned where the County funds are spent.

Max requested action to defund the Sheriff department and change the disparity of people and schools.

Michael Whitmire expressed support for changing the criminal justice system and postponement of budget adoption.

Ian Quinn requested action to defund the Sheriff department and the jail.

Tyler Vandrilla requested that the County fund the Health department more and the Sheriff department less.

Veronica Coit requested action to defund the Sheriff department and abolish the TDA.

Voice messages were played and emails were read with comments about the budget.

The hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

The Board discussed waiting to adopt the budget at a later special meeting and funding the public schools initial budget request. They also thanked the staff for all the work that was put into developing the budget.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the FY2021 Budget Ordinance and to fully fund the schools budget request (Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools) from fund balance. Commissioner Penland seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the FY2020 Capital Projects Ordinance. Commissioner Penland seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for Coronavirus Relief Fund Grants**

John Hudson, Budget Department, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Solid Waste Indirect Cost & Capital**

John Hudson, Budget Department, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Fleet Services Complex**

Mike Mace, General Services Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Comprehensive Facilities Assessment**

Mike Mace, General Services Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Resolution of the City of Asheville & Buncombe County to Remove Confederate Monuments & Establish a Jointly Appointed Task Force**

Commissioner Edwards explained the background and reasons for bringing forth the resolution, including justice for everyone. She stated that we can't know justice if there is no equity and mentioned the recent murders of several black people. (George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Rashard Brooks)

After the reading of the resolution by Commissioner Edwards and listening to public comment voice messages and emails, the Board expressed some thoughts and opinions about how the resolution affects them. (Comments are attached to packet)

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 4-3. (NOES-Belcher, Penland, Pressley)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read the public comments that were sent in electronically. (Comments are attached to packet)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *July 21 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *July 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS