

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING OF JULY 21, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 21, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3 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; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

Staff Updates:

General Fund Balance Policy Update. Don Warn, Finance Director, provided a couple of changes to the policy for the use of excess funds. Information from other counties was used to help craft the changes and the updated policy will be presented at the August 4, 2020 Regular meeting.

I-26 Aesthetics. Julie Mayfield, Asheville City Council, and Ted Figura, Chair of Aesthetics Committee, explained the different elements of improving Interstate 26 in the area. The investment will include decisions made by the TDA, City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

Tax Collection Update. Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, informed the Board of the status of collections that included the Town of Weaverville partnering with the County to collect their taxes. Staff will work with the citizens in the mist of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Property Revaluation Presentation. Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, gave an overview of the reappraisal process and the impact that COVID-19 has had on residential and commercial property values. The reappraisal schedule was outlined at the end of the presentation.

Draft Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health and Safety Crisis. DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Frank Castelblanco, HHS Board Chair; Zo Mpofu, HHS and Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, gave background about the resolution and the draft resolution was read. Information on public health outcomes, opportunities for equity, criminal justice reform and reparations was shared.

COVID-19 Discussion. Dr. Mullendore, Interim Public Health Director, and Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer, provided information of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community testing, long-term care facility testing and schools were discussed.

Open Discussion:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS