

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF AUGUST 4, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 4, 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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Stacey Woody, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:01 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:

Multi-modal update and sidewalk maintenance agreement. Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, explained the consideration for changes to developing and maintaining sidewalks in reference to the complete street policy. Comprehensive planning can connect sidewalks in areas of the County that have gaps.

I-26 Aesthetics Fund. Chairman Newman inquired from fellow commissioners if they were interested in supporting the fund proposed by the City of Asheville. The fund will improve the infrastructure around Interstate 26 in the area. Some commissioners expressed concerns about where the funds will come from now and in the future.

Catawba Indian Nation Casino. Principle Chief Richard Sneed of the Eastern Cherokee Native Americans provided background for the opposition of the casino. He explained that the addition of this casino would affect their Cherokee Casino. Other area counties have supported the opposition to the casino’s proposed location.

Boards and Commissions. The Board discussed the process of appointing applicants to boards and commissions by identifying them into three categories: advisory, governance and quasi-judicial. The process could act as a guide for appointments by recommendations and interviews. The topic will be considered at the next regular meeting.

COVID-19 Discussion. Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced the newly hired Health Director, Stacie Saunders.

Dr. Mullendore, Physician Director, and Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community testing, contact tracing and data trends were discussed with the aid of the County dashboard. The Board was updated on proposed mitigation strategies and supportive of restrictions regarding alcoholic beverage sales for onsite consumption.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS