

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING OF AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 18, 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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:03 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:

Strategic Partnership Grant Committee Update. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, introduced committee members Douglas Clarke, Paul Tax, Kate Burger and Rebecca Strimer to provide the update. A review of the process and highlights were provided. The Commissioners gave feedback to the committee that will be useful for the next grant cycle.

2020 Solar Financing. Mason Scott, Finance, briefly detailed the financing steps and provided the current status of the process. The Board was informed of the funding options that will be considered for the project.

BOC Meeting Schedule. Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, asked the Board to consider altering the meeting schedule in December. The change would establish the first Monday in December as the first meeting date and key date for several commission duties: oath of office for newly elected officials; selection of vice-chair; and examination of bonds.

Public Comment Update. Lamar Joyner, Board Clerk, lead a discussion about different options for changing the public comment session during the regular meetings, in response to these meetings being closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A live call-in option was explained that the Board expressed interest.

COVID-19 Discussion. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, and Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County has sadly had 53 deaths related to the virus. Public schools opening is a major concern for the community and limiting the spread of the virus.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS