

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 1, 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; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Tim Love, Business Officer; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman shared an invocation written by Rev. Amy Freedman about the Labor Day Holiday weekend.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Penland motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and add **Tourism Development Authority, Civic Center Commission** and **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee** to **Board Appointments**.

Commissioner Beach Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of July 27, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 28, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 13, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 18, 2020 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution to Approve the Bonding of County Officials
 - Resolution
- Resolution Setting Regular Meeting Schedule
 - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Soil Conservation EWP Grant for Guthrie Project
 - Ordinance
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Register of Deeds Automation Fund Additional Hardware
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton suggested that the meetings should be open to the public and questioned the COVID-19 data numbers that have been reported.

Commissioner Whitesides read his statement: "I want to have this statement put in the minutes to clear up any misunderstanding of my remarks during the discussion on reparations in the August 4, 2020 meeting. I have never considered myself a racist. For over 60 years, I have fought for equality and inclusion for everyone, not only in this community, but also Atlanta, GA and Durham, NC.

To be a racist is a choice. My point may have been misconstrued when I used myself as an example to say that anyone *could* be a racist if that is the unfortunate choice he or she makes. My actions and dedication to racial equality and justice for all proves that I am not a racist and have never been chosen to be one."

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to excuse Commissioner Beach-Ferrara from the remainder of the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Limited Obligation Bonds for County Solar Projects**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained the financing process for the countywide solar projects for an approximate

amount of \$10.5 million with a 15 year final maturity. The breakout of solar projects by governmental unit are \$2.44 million for Buncombe County, 2.19 million for Asheville City School, \$4.52 million for Buncombe County School and \$1.11 million for AB Tech.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:41 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:42 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Schedule of Values for 2021 Reappraisal**

Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, requested the Board to approve of the schedule of values and previewed the dates for the final steps. He also explained the appeals process and offered to have individuals come to his office for an explanation of the schedule of values process.

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

- **Budget Amendment for CARES & HAVA Grants**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Public Health COVID-19 Nurse Team Funding**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Public School ADM Capital Projects Fund Approved Lottery Project for Asheville Primary School**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Brenda Durden** to the **Tourism Development Authority**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Shay Brown** to the **Civic Center Commission**.

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Wendy Weiber** (retiree position) and **Brandy Bowman** (community position) to the **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 15 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *September 15 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.