

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 6, 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; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; 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 the 210,000 people that died from COVID-19 and thanked the front-line workers.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Belcher motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and move **BCS - Enka Barn Project** to the beginning of **New Business**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of September 15, 2020 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Request to Waive Occupancy Tax Penalty - Holiday Inn Biltmore East
  - More Information
- Resolution Approving Revisions to the System Safety Plan for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System
  - Resolution
  - More Information
- Resolution Amending the Substance Abuse Policy for Mountain Mobility
  - Resolution
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for the Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Yelton stated that the technical issues be worked out for public comment, tax structure examined and requested the ridership numbers of the bus routes.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, and Heather Holsey, Strategic Partnerships Business Officer, explained that the grants of up to \$900,000 are available to local governments to prepare, prevent, or respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Nygaard stated the process was moved up to increase the chances of securing the grants. Phillip Hardin, Social Services, explained parts of the grant process for the non-entitlement communities.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:27 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:28 p.m.

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

- **Amendment to Personnel Ordinance - Vehicle Usage Policy**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained the amendment to the Vehicle Usage Policy, by inclusion of Distracted Driving provisions, in order to maintain negotiated policy rates. The County's policy needed to be updated with new language no later than 10/14/2020.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:42 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:43 p.m.

Commissioner Penland moved to amend the policy as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Maui Invitational**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced an advertising video for the college basketball tournament. Commissioner Edwards thanked staff that helped bring the Maui Invitational to Asheville.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **BCS - Enka Barn Project**

Mikayla Beysher, Kevin Franklin, and Allen Payne, all from Enka High School, explained the importance and the need for the barn project. The motivation to the Enka students was expressed and a request for \$15,000 of the \$75,000 project was made. The Board discussed the procedures for bringing out of cycle budget requests to the commission.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the \$15,000 from the general fund balance to Buncombe County Schools with the work verified for the barn. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Health Benefits**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the negotiated plan with USI Insurance Services that included several changes to the health benefit plan. The Health Risk Assessment program was highlighted during their presentation and a RFP was issued for benefits that included medical, dental, vision, basic supplemental life insurance, short-term disability insurance and other voluntary benefits.

Commissioner Penland moved to approve the plan and vendor changes as presented for dental and vision plans. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for JCPC Funding Plan**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for HHS CARES Additional Funding**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Public School ADM Capital Fund - School Safety and Montford Retaining Wall Projects**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Tini Shelow, Caroline Levi, Daniel Beerman, Susan Schiemer** and **Meg White** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Jeremy Bricker** (community position) and **Melisa Enclade** (community position) and appoint **Mikkel Patterson** (parks & recreation position) and **Tim Henderson** (public defender office position) to the **Civic Center Commission**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Mona Ellum** (engineer position) and **LeeAnne Tucker** (community

position) to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *October 20 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 20 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear economic development matters and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for Heaton v. Van Duncan etal (20 CVS 3247) and Hyatt & Barrett v. Quentin Miller etal (1:19 CV 250-Western District of NC) with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the previously mentioned economic development matters and legal matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS