

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
BRIEFING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in special session on November 5, 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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Tim Love, Inter-governmental Affairs; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Mike Mace, General Services Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Peyton O'Conner, Parks & Recreation Director; Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:08 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:**

**COVID-19 Discussion.** Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends. Saunders stated that there has been 4,443 cases, with a positive test rate of 4% in the County and stressed the importance of following the safety guidance. A new metric data chart was presented that will help provide guidance for recommendations to the Board.

**SJC Community Safety Initiative.** Aisha Shepherd, Community Engagement, shared information to the Board surrounding the need for the safety initiative. A grant of \$1.75 million will help implement strategies to reduce the jail population, address disparities and increase community engagement.

**Family Leave Policy.** Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, provided updated information and a staff recommendation to the Board. The commissioners discussed their different views on the number of weeks associated with leave and the details of family and parental leave. A public hearing will take place at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting to amend the personnel ordinance.

**CIP Project Update.** The Board was updated and received information on Capital Improvement projects in the areas of Solid Waste, Parks & Recreation, Economic Development, Information Technology, Sustainability, and General Services.

**Avadim Grant of Easement to MSD.** Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained the request for the easement with the Town of Black Mountain and Metropolitan Sewerage District. The easement will appear on the consent agenda of the November 17<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting.

**Update on Pratt & Whitney Announcement.** Tim Love, Inter-governmental Affairs, provided an update of the economic development project to the Board. The information included scope of project, location, current terms, project impacts, partnerships and next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS