

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 17, 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; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Commissioner Belcher led a prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and change the order of the items in **Presentations**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of November 5, 2020 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department
 - Larry Robertson
 - Laura Rice
 - Phillip Wolfe
- Avadim Grant of Easements to MSD
 - Resolution
 - MSD Easement
 - Black Mountain Easement
- Easement to Duke Energy Progress for Sports Park
 - Resolution
 - Easement
- Additional FY2021 Affordable Housing Services Program Allocation
- Budget Amendment for DWI Taskforce Grant FY2021 - Update
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyley Cross spoke about the unbearable noise in her neighborhood from the Jacob Holms plant.

Don Yelton praised the public financial dashboard and requested ridership numbers for the public transportation.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Recognition of Service to the Community - Mike Plemmons**

Chairman Newman read and presented a proclamation to Mike Plemmon's for his service to community. Vice Chair Pressley motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Recognition of Service to the Community - Gene Bell**

Senator Chuck Edwards provide words and presented a NC flag honoring Gene Bell for his service to the community. Gene Bell expressed appreciation for the County and thanked the community for its support.

- **In Recognition of Service to Buncombe County - Commissioner Anthony Penland**

Chairman Newman read a proclamation and presented a plaque from the rest of the Board recognizing Commissioner Penland’s service. Chairman Newman motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **In Recognition of Service to Buncombe County - Commissioner Joe Belcher**

Chairman Newman read a proclamation and presented a plaque from the rest of the Board recognizing Commissioner Belcher’s service. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Adoption Awareness Proclamation**

Commissioner Belcher read and presented the proclamation to Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director. Mr. Blevins stated the importance of adoption and thanked the adoption team. Commissioner Belcher motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Esposito Rezoning Request**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, presented the request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive plan and was denied by the Planning Board. The parcel would move from R-1 Residential to PS-Public Service of the three parcels at 40, 55 & 58 Parkway Lane, Arden. The proposal is for 12 units that is in a significant amount of flood plain. The total acreage is 8.72.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:59 p.m.

Bob Oast, Attorney for applicant, provided a further PowerPoint overview of the potential use of the property.

Applicant Brett Turner, Whitaker Investment Group, provided his background and his vision of potential vacation rentals for the property.

The hearing was closed at 6:09 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to adopt the plan consistency statement. Vice Chair Pressley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Penland moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **FY2022 Annual Section 5311 Administrative and Capital Grant Applications**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, stated that the grant will provide administration support and capital acquisition for public transportation system, Mountain Mobility, from state and federal transportation funds made available through North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:31 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:32 p.m.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Pratt & Whitney Economic Development Agreement**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Dan Field, Pratt & Whitney; Clarke Duncan, Economic Development Coalition; and John Gossett, A-B Tech, provided an overview of the economic development project that included financial breakdowns, timelines, and incentives. The Board discussed some pros and cons of the agreement.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

The following individuals spoke in favor of the agreement: Kevin Kimrey

The following individuals spoke against the agreement:

Kenneth Jones	Rachael Bliss	Erin Black	Elsa Enstrom
Susan Oehler	Jenny Andry	Brit	Laurie Timmermann
Paul Ehrlich	Gerald Werhan	David Pudlo	Andrew Rikard
Clare	Veronica Coit	Paul S	Matilda Bliss
Hanrahan	Victoria Estes	Miranda Norlin	Maya
Cynthia Heil	Melanie Noyes	Callaway Berry	

The hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

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

- **Family & Parental Leave Policy**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the collected data and provided the staff recommendation. The recommendation was to:

- Offer both Parental & Family Care Leave
- Benefit duration:
 - 8-weeks for parental care
 - 6-weeks for family care
- Compensation
 - 100% of pay
- Federal FMLA regulation - Combined leave provision
 - Approve same benefit to married couples

The Chairman opened the hearing at 8:59 p.m.

Vicki Meath stated that the policy was family-friendly and expressed the hardship of unpaid leave on employees.

Tina Sherman expressed gratitude for the policy consideration and stated that paid leave is essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebecca Chaplin stated that the policy is very beneficial and helpful for older individuals.

The hearing was closed at 9:08 p.m.

The Board deliberated on the policy and agreed to track the data each year for usage and effectiveness.

Commissioner Penland moved to approve the staff recommendation as presented. Vice Chair Pressley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Approving the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, and William High, Planning, explained that Federal Transit Agency (FTA) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) requires a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) that aligns with current state and federal regulations, and meet public transportation system needs.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Garry Whisnant** to the **WNC Regional Air Quality Board**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *November 19 @ 4:30 p.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting. (attend Vance Monument Task Force virtual meeting)*
- *December 7 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *December 7 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *December 10 @ 12 p.m. - Commissioners' Budget Retreat at A-B Tech Woodfin, 24 Canoe Lane, Asheville, NC 28804*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.