

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 5, 2021, 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
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

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; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; 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 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, US Rep-GA, and all others who fought for Civil Rights.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of December 7, 2020 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution to Approve Naming of Creek - Bacoate Branch
 - More Information
- Commissioners' Meeting Calendar - 2021
- Tax Collection Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton expressed his displeasure for the public comment process due to the meeting being closed to the public.

Paul Schulman stated his disapproval and concerns with the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

Rachael Bliss spoke about the evils of war, racism, and economic poverty.

Cynthia Heil questioned the transparency and disapproved of the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

David Greeson supported the Bacoate Branch Creek and Dogwood Trust Community Paramedic program.

Ken Jones stated his disapproval and concerns with the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

Leita Cash asked the Board to reconsider removing the Vance Monument.

Lara Lustig questioned the closing of the Asheville Primary Pre-K.

Elsa Enstrom questioned the transparency and disapproved of the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

Shifra Ahlers questioned the closing of the Asheville Primary Pre-K.

Autumn Pittman stated that rezoning is unsustainable and new approach is needed.

Linda Wolf supported the Bacoate Branch Creek and Dogwood Trust Community Paramedic program.

Shelby Pope stated that the 30% capacity requirement is hurting small businesses.

Victoria Estes stated her disapproval and concerns with the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

Carson Cordell stated that the 30% capacity requirement is hurting small businesses.

Melody Shank questioned the transparency and the process for economic development projects.

Michelle Drake stated that the 30% capacity requirement is hurting small businesses.

Paul Roger Erlich stated his disapproval and concerns with the Pratt & Whitney economic development project.

Amy McCarthy stated that the 30% capacity requirement for businesses is not a good thing.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Ellen Frost and Wanda Skillington Greene as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 19 CVS 5208. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Sloan moved to go back into open session. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, briefed the Board on the McMahan lawsuit settlement and Commissioner Beach-Ferrara issued an apology to the family. The settlement was in the amount \$167,500 with no Board action required.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for DWT Grant Amendment**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director, highlighted the Community Paramedic program and shared some the program's successes.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the grant funded position. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Grant Award for CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus)**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Phillip Hardin, Human Health Services, explained that program service is to assist local governments to prepare, prevent, or respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The County will administer this grant program to distribute housing assistance payments for residents of Buncombe County and the assistance can include emergency rent/mortgage and utility payments on behalf of individuals who have experienced income loss as a result of COVID and rent/mortgage payments focused on eviction/foreclosure prevention.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Solid Waste Fund Debt Service**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- **Board & Commission Assignments for Commissioners**

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to appoint the commissioners to corresponding boards as indicated below in the table. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

A-B Tech Joint Advisory Committee	Al Whitesides Terri Wells
Affordable Housing Subcommittee	Brownie Newman Amanda Edwards Parker Sloan
Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission	Amanda Edwards
Audit Committee	Al Whitesides Robert Pressley
Early Childhood Education & Development Committee	Jasmine Beach-Ferrara Robert Pressley Al Whitesides
Economic Development Coalition	Al Whitesides
Blue Horizons Community Council (fka-Energy Innovation Task Force)	Brownie Newman
Health & Human Services Board	Amanda Edwards
Justice Resource Advisory Council	Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
Land of Sky Regional Council	Terri Wells
Land of Sky (RPO) TAC Board	Parker Sloan
French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) TAC	Brownie Newman Parker Sloan Amanda Edwards (alternate)
MSD Board	Robert Pressley Al Whitesides
Riverfront Redevelopment Commission (City Board)	Parker Sloan
School Capital Fund Commission	Brownie Newman Terri Wells
Tourism Development Authority	Robert Pressley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 19 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *January 19 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS