

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF MARCH 2, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 2, 2021, 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
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; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Raphael Baptista, Performance Management Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:07 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/Vaccine Update. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer and Dr. Bill Hathaway, Mission Health, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccine prioritization rollout, and metric data (1 category coded red). Total vaccine administered to date is 56,521 and the new Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine will be available soon. Hospitalizations are trending downward and the NC Emergency Order #195 is in effect February 26 – March 26.

BOC Budget Retreat Education Follow-up. Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, and Sam Riiddle, Budget, explained information about the local school systems in the areas of locally paid staff, local supplemental pay, and per pupil expenditures. County staff will request detailed data from the school systems to present during the budget process.

Strategic Plan Update. Rafael Baptista, Performance Management Director, provided an update on the status of the strategic plan. The four Community Focus Areas and the three Foundational Focus Areas make up the essential parts of the plan. The presentation reminded the Board of steps leading up to the current date and the future areas of focus.

Non-discrimination Ordinance. Commissioners Jasmine Beach-Ferrara and Parker Sloan introduced information for the consideration of this ordinance that will have values that center around equity and inclusion. More details will presented to the Board at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS