

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 18, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 18, 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
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Parker Sloan, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda.

Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of May 4, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- A-B Tech Enka TCC Roof Replacement
- Approval of Addendum to Collection Agreement for the Town of Weaverville
 - Agreement
- Resolution Granting Easement to Education & Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas Inc. DBA ERC Broadband
 - Resolution
 - Easement
 - Plat
- Approval of Rate Adjustment for Purchased Transportation Services Provided under the Transportation Agreement between Buncombe County and the City of Asheville
- Approval to Suspend Rural General Public Fares through June 30, 2022
- Approval of ART Leicester Highway Transit Extension Funding for FY 2022
- Approval of State Lottery Application Project –Buncombe County Schools Security Hardware
 - Application
- Budget Amendment for COPS Grant Interfund Transfer
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for COVID Response - State Library Mini Grant
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for JCPC Additional Funding
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for DWI Taskforce Grant FY2021 - Update
 - Ordinances

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Solesbee questioned the permitting process and its inconsistencies.

Don Yelton questioned racism and the teaching of Critical Race Theory.

Kristen Molina objected to giving Pratt & Whitney an extra \$5 million.

Rachael Bliss objected to giving Pratt & Whitney an extra \$5 million and the company's business interests.

Victoria Estes opposes Pratt & Whitney presence in the County and the company's business interests.

Grant Millin expressed support for Pratt & Whitney presence and questioned the McArthur grant funding.

James Fulton opposes the non-discrimination ordinance and questioned the work of the Board.

Joe Scotto expressed support for the Black Mountain Library remaining in its current state.

Ken Jones objected to funding Pratt & Whitney and the company's business interests.

Melody Shank objected to giving Pratt & Whitney an extra \$5 million and the company's business interests.

GOOD NEWS

Commissioner Edwards was selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Hunt Institute Fellows for Education.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority - Annual Report**

Low Bleiweis, Executive Director, provided an overview of the year in review that highlighted some the projects at the airport, the air service growth, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Foster Care Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation to Lizzi Shimer and Amy Huntsman from Health and Human Services.

- **County Manager's FY22 Recommended Budget**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, gave a detailed overview of the FY2022 Budget and explained how the Strategic Plan is supported through deliberate funding. A public hearing for the budget will be held at the June 1st meeting and budget adoption will follow or will be considered at a later meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Smokey Park Rezoning Request**

Shannon Capezzali, Planning, presented the zoning request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive plan and was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. The property would move from NS Neighborhood Services and R-1 Residential to CS Commercial Service at the address of 1952 Smokey Park Highway and three unaddressed parcels. The total acreage of the property is 4.16 acres.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:09 p.m.

Attorney Robert Oast, representing the applicant, explained the use of property and the requested rezoning.

The hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, acknowledged Emergency Medical Services Week (May 16-22) and introduced a County video about the budget and the impact of COVID-19.

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, provided an update of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The update focused on the County's process, survey results, US Treasury guidance, request for proposals, and the spending plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Letter of Support for Refugee Resettlement Program**

Jesse Boeckermann, Western Region Director of the Catholic Charities Dioceses, and Bedrija Jazic, Director of Refugee & Immigrant Services of Lutheran Services Carolinas, explained the proposal to open a Refugee Resettlement Reception and Placement program in the County and requested letters of support.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the County to provide letters of support for the Refugee Resettlement program. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Project Closures**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for A-B Tech Workforce Training Center**

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 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Adjustments**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget ordinance and amendments.

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the budget ordinance and amendments as presented. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Bill Newman** to the **Asheville Board of Adjustment**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Shanon Martin** (Buncombe County Schools) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Steve Newman** (private sector employer) to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Savannah Lamb** to the **Health & Human Services**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *June 1 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 1 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) to hear contract or lease matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session.

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the previously mentioned legal matters and contract or lease matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Pressley moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS