

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
BRIEFING OF JUNE 15, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 15, 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  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, 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; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

**Review the Board's Agenda.**

**Staff Updates:**

**COVID-19/Vaccine Update.** Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccination update, and metric data (no category coded red). Vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability. Outreach for vaccinations will continue to include planning with neighborhoods, schools, worksites, and recreation centers.

**Homeowner Grant Program.** Phillip Hardin, Social Services, and Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, explained the assistance program that will provide financial help for property tax increases. There are requirements that will qualify homeowners for participation in the program. Residents will be provided information for the program through community outreach.

**Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Selection Process.** Gillian Phillips, Planning, and Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, provided an overview of the process timeline. Applications have been reviewed and 30 applicants were recommended to the Board for consideration. The Board will conduct an interview process to appoint the committee at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Flexible Work Policy.** Rafael Baptista, Performance Management Director, and Heather Parkinson, Performance Management, explained that the policy's origin came about due to COVID-19 pandemic. The County responded to the pandemic by enacting an emergency telecommuting policy. The emergency policy is expected to end by June and move to a regular policy.

**Non-discrimination Ordinance Process.** Michael Frue, Senior County Attorney, and Lillian Govus, Communications, detailed the ordinance and the process that is set to go live on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The process will have online forms access with paper forms available when necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS