

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2021 AT 5 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 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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Sloan motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda.

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of June 1, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of June 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Resolution Amending the Asset Capitalization Threshold for Intangible Assets
  - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Project Development Financing (PDF) Woodfin
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Emergency Storm Water Repair
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Register of Deeds Excise Stamp Tax
  - Ordinance

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **NACO Awards/Performance Management Training Update**

Rafael Baptista, Performance Management Director, explained that the County was honored with three NACO Awards and County Staff received Lean Six Sigma Certification.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carl Solesby voiced his displeasure with work of the Planning Department.

Grant Millin raised questions about the Racial Equity Action Plan.

Michael Stratton and Elizabeth McDavid asked the Board to pause on closing Oakley Library.

Nina Tovish expressed concerns for the increased property taxes and the process of providing relief.

Don Yelton stated that agenda gave too much consideration to the small percentage of the black population.

James Fulton questioned the Racial Equity Action Plan process and stated that the Board reach out to conservatives.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Economic Development Coalition**

Clark Duncan, Executive Director, provided details about the public-private partnership of Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Activities and accomplishments were highlighted during the presentation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Buncombe County Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) Adoption**

DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Leonard Jones, Community Development Specialist; and Chris Bubenik, Recreation Services Planner, explained the events that proceeded the development of the plan and reviewed some details of the plan. Over the last sixteen months, the Equity & Inclusion Workgroup has worked to develop the draft plan. With additional Commission guidance, months long organizational and community input, and a feedback campaign, the final plan is being presented to the Commission for final consideration and approval.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve adoption of the Racial Equity Action Plan. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **FY2022 Budget Adoption**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, reviewed the process and provided highlights of the budget. Some the commissioners expressed their thoughts about the budget and thanked the staff for the informative process.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adopt the annual funds ordinance. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Pressley moved to adopt the capital project funds ordinance. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Establishing an Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee**

Chairman Newman reminded the Board of the previous discussion on this topic and read the resolution. The Commissioners discussed having others members serve as an alternate or during another term.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the resolution as presented. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to initially appoint Commissioners Wells, Sloan, and Newman as members of the subcommittee. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Comprehensive Facility Study**

Rachael Nilson, CPL, gave an update of the comprehensive facilities study, explaining the background, building/department assessments, space needs analysis key drivers, and the capital planning project timeline. CPL presented an update to the Board on three past occasions and since then, additional feedback was received from citizens regarding the options presented for the libraries. As a result, the libraries (with the exception of Pack Library) have been removed from the final presentation. Further public outreach will be conducted to gather additional feedback and staff will present these findings to the Board. Next steps and deliverables were presented to conclude the presentation.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the comprehensive facility study with no consideration of all libraries, including Pack Library. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Adoption of Buncombe/Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Angela Ledford, Emergency Services, explained that the first Buncombe/Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in July of 2021 and the five year update has been completed and has received FEMA approval pending Board of Commissioners adoption. The plan is designed to mitigate or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve adoption of the 2021 plan as presented. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Sales Tax Revenue Passthrough**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for State Lottery Application Project - Security Hardware Upfit for Buncombe County Schools**

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.

- **Budget Amendment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Justice Support Grant**

Sarah Gayton, Sheriff's Office, informed the Board that NC DHHS has awarded the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office & Detention Center a \$700,000 grant. The grant will support the continuance and expansion of services offered to persons judicially involved and with substance use disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives are to divert individuals from arrest and detainment, address untreated substance use, and increase access to care for those in the judicial systems of Pretrial, Child Support Court, and Probation.

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

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

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the grant funded position. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **NCACC Voting Delegate**

Chairman Newman discussed appointing a voting delegate for the NCACC 114th Annual Conference. The Board decided to make the appointment at a later date. No action was taken.

- **Rescission of Local State of Emergency**

Angela Ledford, Emergency Services, explained the recommendation to rescind the Local State of Emergency that the Board declare in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic is not over and there are continued efforts to increase vaccination rates to slow spread of the virus, there is no longer a need for day-to-day operations of the Emergency Operations Center.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the rescission of Local State of Emergency. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Himanshu Karvir** to the **Asheville Buncombe Technical CC Board of Trustees**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Trudy Logan** (youth) to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *July 13 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *July 13 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to 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 7-0.

## **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.

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

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.