

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 13, 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; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships 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, move the **Budget Amendment for AHS New Classroom Replacement Building - Construction** from **Consent Agenda** to **New Business**, and the remainder of the agenda. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of June 15, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department
 - Todd Ernst
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of Addendum to Collection Agreement for the Town of Black Mountain
 - Agreement
- Approval of A-B Tech Workforce Training Center Design Contract
- Resolution to Adopt the Buncombe Madison Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Resolution
- Resolution Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funds
 - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Technical Correction to July 1, 2021 Capital Funds Ordinance
 - Ordinance
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Transportation Grant Closures
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for DWI Treatment Court 2022 Grant
 - Resolution
 - Agreement
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton requested that the moment of silence be added back to the meetings and questioned County spending.

James Fulton questioned the County budget process and transparency.

Roy Harris stated that the Board was doing a great job and expressed concern for gentrification of his neighborhood.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Health Insurance Update**

Larry Reece, USI Senior Vice President, provided a plan financial performance update and analyzed the benefits comparison. Some of the proposed plan details include health improvement incentives, a musculoskeletal program, discontinuing a condition care program, and autoimmune support.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **East Fork Pottery Economic Development Agreement**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Alex Matisse, East Fork Pottery Co-founder, explained the plan for the company to invest \$2.38 million in capital expenditures and create 50 new jobs averaging \$22.46 per hour. In accordance with the Economic Development Policy, East Fork Pottery, LLC is eligible for a one-time incentive of \$40,000.00 based on capital investment and job creation targets.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Philip Cooper and April Brown expressed support for the company and shared anecdotes.

The hearing was closed at 6:19 p.m.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the resolution for approval of the incentive and the economic development agreement. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the resolution authorizing participation in the NC Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant Program. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NCACC Voting Delegate**

Chairman Newman moved to appoint Commissioner Terri Wells as the NCACC voting delegate. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for AHS New Classroom Replacement Building - Construction**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Resolution Delegating Authority to the County Manager to Lease County Property for Terms of Less Than One Year**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that some County programs and services are best addressed with short-term commitments and without long term obligations for either party.

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

- **Resolution Recognizing Asheville Area Arts Council as the Designated Arts Agency for Buncombe County**

Katie Cornell, Executive Director of Asheville Area Arts Council, explained that the designation will enable AAAC to be eligible to apply for, receive, and re-grant state and federal arts funding in Buncombe County.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Selecting a Professional Consulting Firm to Assist in the Development and Production of a Comprehensive Plan for Buncombe County**

Gillian Phillips, Planning, and Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, stated that County staff reviewed the responses to the RFP and found that Clarion Associates, LLC was the most qualified respondent, with a total budget of \$446,129 and will be funded with appropriated fund balance..

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

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

- **Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Inter-Local Agreement Between the City of Asheville to Establish a Homeowner Grant Program**

Phillip Hardin, Social Services, explained the assistance program that will provide financial help with increasing housing costs. Based on public input and regulations for existing HHS programs, staff is providing an additional option for the Homeowner Grant Program. The new option increases the required number of years of residency from 1 to 5 years, changes the total grant cap to \$250/year, and allows for support to homeowners for other housing costs beyond taxes.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the resolution as presented and raise the total grant cap in the inter-local agreement to \$300. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Mark Taft** (parent) and **Linda McDaniel** (at-large) to the **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to appoint **Allison Blake** (business owner/CEO), **Andy Nadeau** (at-large), and **Robby Russell** (at-large) to the **Economic Development Coalition**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Eric Watts** (community based organization serving veterans) to the **Mountain**

Area Workforce Development. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Maui Vang** (community stakeholder) to the **Mountain Community Capital Fund Operating Committee**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *July 15 @ 9 a.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting (Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Interviews) at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *July 20 @ 9 a.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting (Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Interviews) at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 3 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 3 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Pressley moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for Purdue Pharma L.P., et al; U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York #19-23649.

Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

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

Commissioner Sloan moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS