

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 3, 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 Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Michael Mace, General Services Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; 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 and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of July 13, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 15, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 20, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Resolution of Intent to Accept Bid for the Sale of Surplus County Property
 - Resolution
 - Map
- Resolution Appointing Review Officers
 - Resolution
- Approval of Construction Contract with J. Bartholomew Construction, LLC for the Montford North Star Academy Retaining Wall Repair Project
- Approval of State Lottery Application Project–Asheville City Schools Subject Design Fees
 - Application
- Budget Amendment for START Expansion
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton stated that funds are being spent on the homeless and drug addicts and not on hard working tax payers.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Vaya Health Board**

Larry Hill, Vaya Chief Financial Officer, provided an update and shared a video of the work being done. Vaya is a public managed care organization that manages Medicaid, federal, state and local funding for services and supports related to mental health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disabilities in our 22-county area.

- **Strategic Plan Dashboard**

Matt Baker and Burnett Walz, Strategy & Innovation, updated the Board on the dashboard for the Buncombe County 2025 Strategic Plan. The external facing dashboard shows the progress of our Strategic Plan. A brief video explanation on how to navigate the dashboard was provided.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of COVID Strategies**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, reviewed Governor Cooper's latest COVID strategies and Executive Orders for vaccinations and masks. He explained that the County is considering requiring vaccinations or weekly testing for all employees. Wearing a mask indoors will also be requirement under the policy with the increased infection rate and

hospitalizations. The policy is under the purview of the County Manager and Human Resources but will be brought back to the Board at the August 17th meeting for understanding.

- **Approval of Annual Tax Collection Settlement**

Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, provided to the Board of Commissioners, an annual settlement of property tax collected in the previous fiscal year. She gave a summary of the net tax levy, collections, unpaid property taxes, and uncollectible taxes.

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

- **Approval of Order of Collection to Tax Collector for 2021 Tax Year**

Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, requested that the Board adopt the order of collection to grant her the authority to collect taxes for 2021.

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve adoption of the order of collection. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing Inter-local Agreement with Town of Woodfin Homeowner Grant Program**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the board for the Town of Woodfin approved funding for this program and desires to join the County and the City of Asheville in offering such grants to eligible applicants to assist with the basic life necessities and welfare needs.

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

- **Resolution Authorizing Funding for Homeward Bound Permanent Supportive Housing Expansion**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, explained the resolution and the time sensitivity for the purchase of the property. The request includes property acquisition, renovation and operation costs for permanent supportive housing expansion. The project includes acquiring the Days Inn located at 201 Tunnel Road, renovating it into 85 affordable housing efficiency units to serve people currently experiencing chronic homelessness, and adding supportive services.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Vaccine Distribution Hub and State Carry Forward**

John Hudson, Budget Analyst, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for COVID Vaccination Program Carry Forward**

John Hudson, Budget Analyst, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Shannon Watkins** to the **Historic Resources Commission**. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Angela Garner** (managed care organization designee) and **Martin Moore** (at-large) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint the individuals below to the **Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**. Commissioner Wells and Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motions passed 7-0.

Virginia Ward	Rich Lee	Christopher Link	Kevan Frazier
Ron Dumas	Robin Merrell	Sara Nichols	Chris Joyell
Nancy Waldrop	Iliana Hernandez	Damon Hearne	Kit Cramer
Kareen Boncales	Brandon Bryant	Andrea Golden	Debbie Lane
Megan O'Connor Robinson	Karl Koon	Robert Thomas	Alan David Hall
Jennifer Caldwell Billstrom	Dede Styles	Bruce Snelson	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *August 17 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 17 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Edwards 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. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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

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

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS