

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 7, 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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Sloan motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, add the **Resources for Vaccinations to New Business**, and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of August 3, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 18, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of Settlements Report
  - Report
- Approval of State Lottery Project Applications – Buncombe County Schools – Multiple Applications for Repaving Projects
  - Applications
- Resolution Establishing an Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee
  - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 2 Deployment Reimbursement - May 2020 Flooding
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for State Lottery Application Project – Asheville City Schools Subject Design Fees
  - Ordinance
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Adjustments for Growth
  - Ordinances
- Budget Amendment for Interlocal Funding - Homeowner Grants
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for School Health Liaison
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue Hurricane Isaias Reimbursement
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Conservation Easements
  - Ordinances
  - More Information

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Yelton talked about his professional qualifications as it relates to serving on a County board/commission.

## **GOOD NEWS**

Chairman Newman acknowledged and congratulated Commissioner Beach-Ferrara for receiving the “Outstanding Commissioner” award from NCACC for her work on the opioid settlement.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Givens Estates and Givens Highlands Farms**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, confirmed that there was no conflict of interest with Vice Chair Whitesides, serving on the Givens Communities Board and explained the purpose of the public hearing. The proceeds of the requested bonds will be used to refinance and finance the Projects, which are located in the County, and the Board is one of the appropriate governing bodies to approve the use of tax-exempt bonds to refinance and finance the Projects.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:29 p.m.

Don Yelton questioned the liability of the public/private partnership.

The hearing was closed at 5:31 p.m.

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

- **Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, provided background about the program and stated that the County must have a Board of Commissioners' adopted citizen participation plan. The plan provides citizens access to information and participation in all project stages. This is the first of two public hearings required as part of the CDBG-NR application. The Board of Commissioners will consider the application at a second public hearing to be scheduled at a later date.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:41 p.m.

Don Yelton questioned the viability of the project.

The hearing was closed at 5:44 p.m.

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

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Permitting and Inspections Update - Bob Haynes**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced Bob as the new Permitting and Inspections Director, and he provided an update of some of the new processes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resources for Vaccinations**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, requested that the County continue the NC COVID \$100 incentive program and budget \$100,000 for the program, if the State program expires.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the continuation of the NC COVID \$100 incentive program and budget \$100,000 for the program, if the State program expires, and for staff to research incentives for 12-17 year olds. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Health Insurance Update**

Larry Reece, USI Senior Vice President, highlighted changes to the health plan that included increased out-of-pocket maximums and deductibles, and the replacement of PPCN with the Plan Member Advocate program and Autoimmune Support program.

Chairman Newman moved approve the health plan as presented. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Prequalification of Bidders for Construction or Repair Projects Policy**

Ron Venturella, Finance, explained the need to occasionally prequalify bidders when a project is outside of normal construction. Prequalification ensures potential bidders meet certain standards before being allowed to submit proposals or participate in actual solicitation processes. The County, currently, does not have a policy and the policy will assist in providing equity and inclusion.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the resolution to adopt the policy. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for DWI Taskforce Grant FY2022**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for FY2021 Budget Carryforwards**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Joel Mazelis** (alternate) to

the **County Board of Adjustment**.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to reappoint **Greg Phillips** (regular), and **Damien Vacaflor** (alternate) to the **County Board of Adjustment**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Greg Zornes** and **Suzanne Booth** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to reappoint **Bennett Lincoff** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Caryl Richardson, Judy McDonough,** and **Susan Schiemer** to the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to appoint **Meg Jamison, Lena Hansen, Maggie Ullman** and **Jamie Ager** to the **Environmental & Energy Stewardship Subcommittee**. Chairman Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wells moved to appoint **Steve Duckett** and **Anne Grier** to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 21 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *September 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Sloan 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 Sloan moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara 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 8:05 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS