

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 31, 2021 AT 10 A.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in special session on August 31, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 10 a.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; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and acknowledged the passing of firefighter Garrett Presnell of Black Mountain Fire Department.

- **Tropical Storm Fred Response**

Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director, explained the flooding and emergency response due to Tropical Storm Fred on August 17th. They answered 170 calls to 911, saved over 80 people, and assisted the rescue team in Haywood County.

- **Tropical Storm Fred Emergency Assistance Needs**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, stated that staff conducted windshield damage assessment and proposed addressing neighborhood access for removal of storm debris in key locations. EMS, Planning, Building Inspections, and Agriculture & Land Resources staff will be consulted during the evaluation of each location.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment for the allocation of up to \$500,000 to address emergency impacts from Tropical Storm Fred. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **ARPA / Local Recovery Fund Discussion**

Rachel Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, explained the American Rescue Plan Act/Local Recovery Fund with an overview of the process. The overview included information about the request for proposals (141), consideration of initial awards (\$11,309,495). Next steps were discussed along with the associated timeline. The Commissioners discussed the process of hearing proposals from applicants and the community.

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to move forward with the process of allocating the first half of \$50.7 million funds for approved proposals. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Closed Session**

Commissioner Pressley moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters and the pending trial in the matter of The Estate of Lila Marie Pickering, through personal representative, Gregory S. McIntyre v. Buncombe County DSS (18 CVS 3971; Buncombe County Superior Court) with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS