

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 19, 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; Mike Mace, General Services Director; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director; Peyton O'Conner, Recreation Services Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of October 5, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of October 5, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of October 5, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of State Lottery Project Application – Buncombe County Schools – Application for AC Reynolds Stadium Lighting
 - Application
- Approval of Architectural & Engineering Services Contract for Renovations to the Health and Human Services Building Located at 40 Coxe
- Resolution Authorizing the Interlocal Agreement with the Buncombe County Board of Education for the Maintenance and Operation of the Pool Located at T.C. Roberson High School
 - Resolution
 - Agreement
- Resolution Authorizing the Interlocal Agreement with City of Asheville for the Regional Air Quality Agency
 - Resolution
 - Agreement
- Budget Amendment for Visit NC Farms App Expansion Funding
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton questioned the Board's equal representation of the entire County.

Corey McVay, Althea Bennett, Sarah Duffer, Judy Mattox, and Everett Pittillo expressed their support for the feasibility study on solar panels on educational facilities.

Teresa Rhinehart stated that seniors were not safe and questioned the Boards' priorities.

Gloria Michael and Makena James expressed that they opposed the COVID mask mandate.

GOOD NEWS

- **Buncombe County Honored with ICMA Certificate of Distinction in Performance Management**

Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director, provided details of the honor and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Performance Management team.

- **Recipient of the 2021 Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society - Commissioner Al Whitesides**

Chairman Newman and the commissioners recognized Commissioner Whitesides' achievement.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Buncombe County Sports Park Update**

Peyton O'Conner, Recreation Services Director, explained the current agreement for the maintenance of competition quality soccer fields at the Buncombe County Sports Park. In the interest of ensuring equity and a level playing field for local athletic groups, Buncombe County Recreation Services is seeking to release a Request for Proposals that would allow qualified nonprofit entities to submit proposals for the operation of the athletic fields at Buncombe County Sports Park.

TJ Finger, Andrew Zetterholm, Robert Role, Jennifer Mobley, Bryan Tompkins, and Kristie Bivins, expressed their frustration with the managing of County Sports Park soccer fields.

Lisa May provided her support for ABYSA's management of the County Sports Park soccer fields.

- **Financial Quarterly Report - FY21 Fourth Quarter**

Don Warn, Finance Director, presented the FY21 Fourth Quarter Report with an update on revenues and expenditures.

- **Financial Quarterly Report - FY22 First Quarter**

Don Warn, Finance Director, presented the FY22 First Quarter Report with an update on revenues and expenditures.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Resolutions Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment of Excise Taxes in the Amounts of \$176.00 and \$680.00 to the Reed Law Firm**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the Reed law firm mistakenly recorded two deeds in Buncombe County, twice. As a result, it paid two excise tax payments to Buncombe County in the amounts of \$176.00 and \$680.00 in error.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:45 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, updated the Board on the upcoming elections in Woodfin and Weaverville and the activities of the Comprehensive Plan.

Debra Clark Jones, TEQuity, LLC President, provided an information session on the City of Asheville's Community Reparations Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for Family Justice Center Grant Funding - DOJ Office of Violence Against Women Grant FY2022**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Sloan moved to accept the grant as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Eight Conservation Easement Projects**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment and Ariel Zipp, Farmland Preservation Program Manager, detailed the projects.

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

- **Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee Resolutions**

Chairman Newman introduced and summarized the resolutions on the use of clean vehicles and solar panels on educational facilities. Maggie Ullman expressed support for the feasibility study on solar panels for educational facilities and the use of clean vehicles. Son Kim discussed the effects of climate change.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the resolution for the feasibility study on solar panels for educational facilities as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the resolution on the use clean vehicles as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Carol McCrory** (alternate) to the **County Board of Adjustment**.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Angel Redmond** (at-large), to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Pressley moved to appoint **Debbie Lane** (Equalization & Review Board), **Miriam McKinney** (Equalization & Review Board), and **Brenda Mills** (Equity & Inclusion) to the **Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *November 2 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *November 2 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Whitesides 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. Commissioner Sloan 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 Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS