

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
BRIEFING OF MARCH 1, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 1, 2022, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 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, Vice Chair  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

**Review the Board's Agenda.**

**Staff Updates:**

**COVID-19/Vaccine Update.** Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccination update, and metric data (1 category coded red). The infection rate of COVID, cases, and hospitalizations continue to remain low. Vaccine impact was detailed, and vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability.

**National Forest Plan Input.** Will Harlin, Friends of Big Ivy, updated the Board on the current National Forest plan of logging some areas of the Pisgah Forest/Craggy Mountain region. Residents of area oppose the logging and request the Board support their position by send an objection letter to the National Forest.

**Land Conservation Program Update.** Commissioner Wells and Ariel Zijp, Agriculture & Land Resources, provided an update to the Board on the status of the land conservation projects in the County.

**Community Reparations Commission Selection Process.** Rachel Edens, Chief Equity and Human Rights, provided an update on the City of Asheville's Community Reparations Commission selection process. An overview, selection tools and materials, candidate appointments, and the timeline were discussed.

**ARPA Economic Development Appropriation.** Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, explained the staff recommended program changes to maintain compliance with American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Funding. The request for a public hearing is to authorize \$1,250,000 in economic development appropriations was presented to the Board. The appropriation is for \$1,250,000 to Mountain BizWorks for the Mountain Community Capital Fund (MCCF). This project is intended to create and retain jobs in response to substantial negative economic impacts from the pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS