

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’  
BRIEFING OF MAY 3, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 3, 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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:05 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 (low category-coded green). There has been a slight uptick but comparatively the infection rate of COVID, cases, and hospitalizations continue to remain low. Vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability, and at-home tests, with the test-to-treat initiative, are made available for the public.

**Land Conservation Goal.** Commissioners Sloan, Wells, and Newman expressed their support for the goal of the County to help initiate the conservation of 20% of the county’s total acres by 2030. The current status toward the goal and the estimated funding needed to complete the goal was shared.

**Employee Compensation Study.** Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the overview of the multi-year project with details of the timeline and key aspects of the study. The recommendation to adopt the compensation policy/salary plan will align County employees with current market.

**Open Discussion:** Commissioner Beach-Ferrara shared the Early Childhood Education & Development Committee’s endorsement for the proposal for COVID Recovery Funding that will be taken up during the regular meeting and Chairman Newman did the same for the Affordable Housing Subcommittee’s endorsement for the proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS