

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2022 AT 5 P.M.**

---

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 21, 2022, 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, 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; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Dan Keister, Internal Audit Director; Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of June 7, 2022 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department - Jeffrey Eaton
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department - Bryan Styles
- Approval of Attenuation Light for Leicester Volunteer Fire Department
  - Reimbursement Agreement
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for FY21 Broadband Projects Budget Increase
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Subtitle D Vertical Expansion Project - Solid Waste
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment to Reimburse 911 Fund for Disallowed Expenditures
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for START Expansion - Budget Redistribution
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Enka Recreation Destination Technical Correction
  - Ordinance

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Ellen Frost and Wanda Skillington Greene as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 19 CVS 5208. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Yelton expressed concern for funding of consent agenda items and other County business projects.  
Melanie Allen thanked the Board for budgeting the Buncombe County Schools salary study.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **2022 NACo Achievement Awards**

Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director, recognized the Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) staff for their achievement for winning National Association of Counties Achievement (NACo) Awards for its Let's Talk engagement platform and its WRES 100.7FM's Tapped In radio program.

## PRESENTATIONS

- **Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation. Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, and Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director, accepted the proclamation and expressed concern for gun violence.

- **Economic Development Coalition**

Clark Duncan, Executive Director, provided details about the public-private partnership of Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Activities and accomplishments were highlighted during the presentation.

- **Tourism Development Authority**

Vic Isley, President & CEO at Explore Asheville, summarized the details of the authority's purpose and work. Some information and data from their recent community survey was summarized.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Pack Square Visioning Update**

Katherine Calhoun Cutshall, Library, provided an update revising process of Pack Square. The RFP was posted to secure a consultant to facilitate a community visioning process. An inter-organizational team of 12 members of Buncombe County and City of Asheville staff assisted in the selection of the McAdams firm as the top-ranked applicant. McAdams will facilitate a collaborative engagement process.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Continuation of 911 Center Crisis Pay**

Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director, explained the staffing challenges in the 911 Center and the County has been utilizing multiple strategies to fill as many vacant shifts as possible. One of the strategies that the County has been using is to pay staff double time for any overtime shifts to encourage staff to pick up additional shifts.

Commissioner Wells moved to extend double-time pay for overtime shifts worked by 911 communications staff through September 30th, 2022. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **FY2023 Budget Adoption**

In accordance with GS §14-234.3, Commissioner Sloan moved to recuse Commissioner Whitesides from voting on the \$450,000 grant due to the conflict of interest of being a member of the Asheville-Buncombe County Economic Development Coalition. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the \$450,000 grant to the Asheville-Buncombe County Economic Development Coalition. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

In accordance with GS §14-234.3, Commissioner Sloan moved to recuse Vice Chair Edwards from voting on the \$45,000 grant due to the conflict of interest of being a member of the Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the \$45,000 grant to the Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

John Hudson, Budget Director, reviewed the process, explained the recommended budget changes since June 7th Board meeting and provided highlights of the budget. The Board settled on removing the liquid resources >\$5,000 cap for the Homeowner Grant Policy. Commissioner Wells suggested that the program is intended for persons with assets below \$60,000, and the application should state as such. After much discussion on removing the >\$5,000 cap, the Board settled on approving the Homeowner Grant Policy plan for FY23 as presented with the exceptions that the liquid asset limit will be \$60,000 rather than \$5,000 and the applicant will not be required to provide proof of assets.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the FY2023 Annual Funds Ordinance and associated fee schedules and Position classification and compensation plan. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wells moved to adopt the capital project funds ordinance. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Internal Audit Plan**

Dan Keister, Internal Audit Director, reviewed the risk assessment and audit plan development that provides key audit governance for the County, which was explained in detail during the June 7<sup>th</sup> Briefing.

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the of Internal Audit Charter, Audit Committee Charter, Audit Committee Bylaws, & FY 2023 Internal Audit Plan. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for NC PRO Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Grant Adjustment**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for LOBS 2022 A & B Debt Issuance and Refunding Across Multiple Funds**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement #87 Compliance**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Funding Request - Chosen Summer Camp**

Chairman Newman detailed the request for funding to support the 2022 Chosen PODS Summer Camp. The camp will provide these campers between the ages of 6 -14 a safe environment, with educational activities, structured programs, field trips, and weekly fun outings.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to approve \$50,000 in ARPA funds to support the camp. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Robby Russell** to the **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority**.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Joseph Barwick** and **Jason Walls** to the **AB Tech Community College Board of Trustees**.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *July 19 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *July 19 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara 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) hear real property negotiation matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.