

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 4, 2023, 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 Vice Chair called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Brownie Newman, Chairman; and Amanda Edwards, Commissioner, were absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Mason Scott, Interim Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Derrick Ruble, Public Safety Communications Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Vice Chair Wells expressed gratitude to the fire department for their response to recent fire emergencies in the County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, add the **NC Child and Family Specialty Plan to New Business**, and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- Approval of March 21, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of March 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Resolution Authorizing Execution of Lease with the Buncombe County Board of Education
 - Resolution
 - Lease
- Approval of Cross Functional Line-Item Transfers Memo
 - Memo
- Approval of Design Services Contract with Domokur Architects for the Design of a Restroom Facility at the Enka Sports Park

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dede Styles stated concerns with water issues due to construction development and climate change.

Andrew Clark expressed support for programming for veterans (legislative goals).

PRESENTATIONS

- **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation**

Commissioner Sloan read and presented the proclamation to Derrick Ruble, Public Safety Communications Director. He accepted the proclamation and expressed his gratitude to the 911 staff and the Board.

- **National Public Health Week Proclamation**

Commissioner Moore read and presented the proclamation to Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director. The new Public Health Director, Dr. Ellis Matheson, was welcomed and introduced. The proclamation was accepted and gratitude was expressed to the Health & Human Services staff.

- **Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation to Rebecca Smith, Health & Human Services, and other guests. They accepted the proclamation and expressed their gratitude.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Asheville Primary School Property Update**

Robert Brown, General Services, updated the Board on the feasibility study for the Asheville Primary School

Property. The overview and timeline were provided for 4.77-acre site to determine the best use for the site that would accommodate Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County.

NEW BUSINESS

- **NC Child and Family Specialty Plan**

The Board heard and discussed the plan during the briefing meeting earlier in the afternoon. A draft letter was proposed that the Board would review before sending it to the NC Department of Health & Human Services.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to have staff draft the letter for Board review before sending it to the NC Department of Health & Human Services. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, explained the request to set a public hearing to adopt an ordinance authorizing a temporary moratorium. If the Board develops standards and mitigation methods for cryptocurrency mining, then a public hearing will be required.

Commissioner Sloan moved to set the public hearing for May 2, 2023 to consider an Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Approval of FY2023 Audit Contract**

Kendra Ferguson, Audit Committee Chair, explained the important process of the County audit and RFP process. The Audit Committee recommends the award of the FY2023 audit contract to Mauldin & Jenkins for \$185,000.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Project Closures (Multiple Funds)**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Whitesides moved to appoint **Meghan Rogers** to the **Downtown Commission**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *April 18 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 18 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 25 @ 8:30 a.m. - Commissioners' Budget Work Session at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Moore moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for Hyatt and Barrett v. Buncombe County Sheriff, et al, United States District Court for the Western District of NC file # 19-CV-250 and County of Buncombe vs. Greene, Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 22-CVS-2473 with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.