

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 1, 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 Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Vice Chair
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; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Ashely Featherstone, Air Quality Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of July 18, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 18, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of July 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Clark expressed support for veterans.

Honor Moor, Bailey Stockwell, and Helen Hunt shared concerns about public safety issues, homelessness, and panhandling in downtown Asheville.

GOOD NEWS

- **National Association of Counties 2023 Achievement Award for Buncombe County NC Racial Equity Training Series**

Dr. Noreal Armstrong, Equity & Human Rights, recognized and congratulated staff on receiving the National Association of Counties (NaCo) 2023 Achievement Award for the Racial Equity Training Series.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Child Fatality Prevention Team/Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT) Annual Report**

Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Medical Director, explained and presented the annual report to the Board. The purpose of NC Child Fatality Prevention System and Community Child Protection Team was overviewed with detailed data and results.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced and welcomed Chloe Donohoe, Affordable Housing Bond Project Manager.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Annual Property Tax Settlement for Fiscal Year 2023 and Order of Collection to Tax Collector for the Current Fiscal Year**

Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, provided to the Board of Commissioners, an annual settlement of property tax collected in the previous fiscal year. She gave a summary of the net tax levy, collections, unpaid property taxes, and uncollectible taxes.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the fiscal year 2023 Annual Settlement and adopt the Order of Collection for fiscal year 2024. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Adoption of Open Space Bond Greenways Criteria**

Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Project Manager, provided an update presentation on the Open Space Bond process. Current greenway projects were explained that included criteria breakdown options for the approval. The Board's feedback on the criteria options from the previous briefing meeting was included in the criteria breakdown.

Vice Chair Wells moved to adopt Open Space Bond Greenways funding evaluation criteria. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Notes and Deeds of Trust Assignment to Mountain Housing Opportunities (MHO)**

Matt Card, Planning, explained that the Downpayment Assistance is a loan that helps qualified borrowers fund a downpayment for purchasing a home and these loans are fully deferred with no required monthly payments. The loans are repaid once the home sells or is refinanced. Presently, Buncombe County holds \$1,150,751 in DPA loans and the request seeks to transfer \$300,000 of County DPA loans to MHO.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the assignment of \$300,000 in Buncombe County held downpayment assistance notes and deeds of trust to Mountain Housing Opportunities, in order to expand the Buncombe County Capital Fund and allow for Mountain Housing Opportunities acquisition of additional US Treasury funds for downpayment assistance. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Ordinance Amending the Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinances**

Kevin Tipton, Fire Marshal, and Ashley Featherstone, Air Quality Director, explained that the update to the Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinances will align to the NC standards and help create a safer community. The update is based on changes to state law and recommendations from the Fire Chief's Consultant and the Fire Marshal is requesting certain amendments to the Buncombe County Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance in order to make the Ordinance consistent with State laws. The request includes new open burning regulations that authorize extinguishment authority.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the Ordinance Amending the Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinances. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Home and Community Care Block Grant**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Martha Zeigler** to the **Audit Committee**.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Ann Flynn** to the **Strategic Partnerships Grants Committee**.

Vice Chair Wells moved to appoint **Colleen Burnet** (Child Abuse Prevention Specialist) to the **Community Child Protection Team/Child Fatality Prevention Team**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Commissioners discussed the recent activities of the boards and commissioners that they serve on as members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *August 15 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 15 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Sloan moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.