

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

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 5, 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:

Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Martin Moore, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Vice Chair  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Brownie Newman, Chairman, and Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner, were absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; John Hudson, Budget Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

Vice Chair Wells provided recognition to the Labor Day holiday.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- Approval of August 15, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes - Closed Session
- Approval of August 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Approval of Governor's Highway Safety Program - DWI Task Force Year IV
  - Resolution
  - Agreement of Conditions
- Budget Amendment for FY2023 Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Grant Award
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment to Establish Two Conservation Easements
  - Ordinance
  - More Information

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jen Hampton, Ben Williamson, Andrew Paul, Emmaleigh Argonauta, Nina Tovish, and Diane Finn stated their support for affordable housing and using the TDA LIFT Fund to invest in projects for affordable housing.

Sharon Alexander requested that the County take ownership of old landfill in the Fairview area.

Ronald Gates expressed views on reading material in schools.

Michael Reardon expressed views on reading material in schools and support for funding for shelter beds.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **MANNA FoodBank Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation. Claire Neal, MANNA, accepted the proclamation and expressed gratitude.

- **Early Childhood Education Committee**

Commissioner Moore and Carol Steen, committee members, provided an update to the Commissioners on the past year events, upcoming projects, and thanked the support staff for their support.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Introduction of Lead for NC Fellow – Eva Davis**

DK Wesley introduced and welcomed Eva Davis to the Buncombe County team.

- **Fall Respiratory Virus Preparation**

Ellis Matheson, Public Health Director, provided information on the Fall Respiratory Virus preparation that brings influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. Prepare to protect yourself and your families from these viruses with prevention and treatment measures by staying up to date with vaccines, seeking testing and treatment when needed, and practicing basic protective measures like hand washing, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and staying home when sick. There is currently a slight increase in COVID cases, and hospitalizations over the last few weeks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Approval of COVID Recovery Funding & Interlocal Agreement**

Tyler Henry, Strategic Partnerships, shared an update for COVID Recovery Funding proposed final awards and an interlocal agreement with Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC), a joint committee of the City and County that acts as an advisory body, to undertake a project to expand low-barrier shelter. The Interlocal Agreement, between Buncombe County and The City of Asheville, will expand the availability of emergency shelter beds and establish the terms for the funding.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the changes to COVID Recovery Funding awards as listed:

- Reduce COVID Contingency by \$1,013,116
- Reduce Broadband by \$1,500,000
- Increase Ferry Road by \$2,264,716
- Establish new projects:
  - HIAC Shelter Support \$875,000
  - Housing/Shelter \$3,800,000

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement between Buncombe County and The City of Asheville Expanding the Availability of Emergency Shelter Beds. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Budget Amendment for FY2023 Budget Carryforwards**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendments.

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

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Vice Chair Wells moved to reappoint **Daniel Frayne** to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commission Edwards moved to reappoint **Greg Zornes** and **Suzanne Booth** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Vice Chair Wells moved to appoint **DeWayne McAfee** to the **African American Heritage Commission**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 19 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *September 19 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting 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 and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) to consider matters regarding the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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

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

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS