

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 19, 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; Melissa Moore, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of September 5, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Approval of Municipal Tax Collection Agreement Addendums
 - City of Asheville
 - Town of Black Mountain
 - Town of Montreat
 - Town of Weaverville
 - Town of Woodfin
- Approval of Architectural and Engineering Services Contract with ADW Architects for a Feasibility Planning Study for the Existing Asheville Primary School Site and the Development of a Temporary Mobile EMS West Base
- Approval of Architectural & Engineering Services Contract with Stewart Cooper Newell Architects for the Renovation of 40 McCormick Place into an EMS Regional Base
- Budget Amendment for ARPA COVID-19 Public Health Regional Workforce Award
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachael Bliss, and Susan Oehler read their International Day of Peace Proclamation.

Dede Styles stated concerns with the public comment structure water issues due to construction development and Nina Tovish, Linda Tatsapaugh, Judy Mattox, Ani Johnson, Ken Brame, Maureen Linneman, Lila Goodwin, Cindy Dwyer, Anna Alsobrook, Sarah Ogletree, Sarah Ray, Karim Olaechea, and Drew Ball expressed their support for the plastic bag and Styrofoam single take-out item.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Hispanic & Latino Heritage Month Proclamation**

Rocio Quintero, Communication & Public Engagement, and Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read the proclamations. Residents and staff accepted the proclamations and expressed thanks.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **FY 2025 Annual Section 5311 Grant Application**

William High, Planning & Development, explained that the County is a designated applicant/recipient of state and federal transportation funds made available through North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The County's Community Transportation System, Mountain Mobility, provides transportation to older adults, persons with disabilities, clients of human service agencies, members of the general public (outside of the City of Asheville), clients of Medicaid, and citizens of the City of Asheville eligible for ADA Complementary Paratransit. The funds help offset costs for related to providing Mountain Mobility services and programs.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:51 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:52 p.m.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to adopt the authorizing resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Appointing Melissa Moore as Finance Director**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the process for the search and hiring process. All finalists were interviewed by the Commissioners and by the County Manager. The finalists were also invited to meet with all Buncombe County Department Directors. Each finalist was also asked to provide a presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the resolution appointing Melissa Moore as Finance Director. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Economic Development Policy Revision**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, provided an overview of the current Economic Development Policy and explained the revision options. Several economic factors (e.g., inflation, housing costs, income) have significantly changed and our community has seen rising wages and rising costs of living. Additionally, staff proposed recommendations to the Equitable Hiring components of the program to increase participation and utilization of the program.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the recommended changes to the Economic Development Policy and to use the Area Median Household Income of Buncombe County for the wage schedule. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to directed staff to assess the policy for additional changes (phase 2) to meet Strategic Plan goals. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Bond Funding & COVID Recovery Funding Reallocation**

Tyler Henry, Strategic Partnerships, shared an update for COVID Recovery Funding reallocation and bond funding that was a part of a past project proposal.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the changes to COVID Recovery Funding awards as listed:

- Reduce "Recovery Starts at Home" by \$718,616
- Increase "Ferry Road Infrastructure" by \$718,616

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the budget amendment of the Bond Proceeds amount allocated to the Lakeshore Villas project by \$718,616. 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:

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

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS