

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 17, 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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of October 3, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of October 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Settlements Report
 - More Information
- Approval of MedTrust Franchise Agreement - 1st Reading
 - Resolution
 - Agreement
 - More Information
- Approval of Design Contract with McMillan Pazdan Smith (MPS) Architecture for Asheville High School Auditorium Renovation
 - Contract
- Approval of Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Construction Contract with Vannoy Construction for A-B Tech FY22 Capital Plan Maintenance Projects
 - Contract
- Budget Amendment for FY23 Recreation Services Master Plan Scope Expansion
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Legeay and Marsha Fretwell expressed their support for a resolution for single payer insurance and modified healthcare system.

Dede Styles stated concerns with the public comment structure water issues due to construction development and climate change.

Jessica Coffield expressed support for and provided information about Asheville Sister Cities.

GOOD NEWS

- **NC APA Marvin Collins Awards for Comprehensive Plan & Community Engagement**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, explained that the County received two distinct awards from the North Carolina American Planning Association (NC APA) for the new comprehensive plan.

1. Best overall plan through the advancement of the science and art of planning
2. Public engagement through recognizing the exceptional efforts that support meaningful engagement and creating a greater awareness of planning related issues within a community.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Board of Equalization & Review**

Miriam McKinney, Chairperson, provided an update to the Commissioners on the board purpose, activities, and provided appeals data.

- **Sheriff Update on Crime Data & Current Priorities**

Sheriff Quentin Miller presented NC State Bureau of Investigation crime data statistics for the County over the last ten years and informed the Board of local strategies being used to reduce crime.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Adoption of Open Space Bond Passive Recreation Lands Criteria**

Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Project Manager, provided an update with a presentation on the Open Space Bond Passive Recreation Lands Criteria process. The Open Space Bond allocates \$30 million to Conservation, Greenways, and Passive Recreation Lands projects. The criteria were developed by staff, the Passive Recreation Lands Subcommittee, Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee, and the public for evaluating Passive Recreation Lands project proposals.

Vice Chair Wells moved to adopt the Open Space Bond Passive Recreation Lands funding evaluation criteria. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Details for School Consolidation Feasibility Study**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, explained that the North Carolina General Assembly has passed legislation that mandates the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger. The school systems voted to designate Buncombe County Government as the lead entity for the study. The County would coordinate the project, with collaboration from the school systems, and contract with a 3rd party firm for the study.

Commissioner Moore moved to accept the role of lead entity to manage the School Consolidation Feasibility Study project and direct staff to solicit a firm to complete the study. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for FY23 Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Stream Restoration Grant Award**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for FY23 Vehicle Budget Carryforwards**

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.

- **Budget Amendment for Woodfin Greenway, Silverline Park, Whitewater Wave & Riverside Park (Grant Awards & Budget Reallocation)**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Shay Brown** to the **Civic Center Commission**. Vice Chair Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Jenny Bowen** to the **Historic Resources Commission**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Carol Steen (At-large/Workforce & Inclusive Hiring** and **Abhishek Biswas (Executive/Advance Manufacturing)** to the **Economic Development Coalition**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commission Edwards moved to reappoint **Carla Barnard** to the **County Board of Adjustment**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commission Moore moved to appoint **Craig Allen (regular)** and **David Weinstein (alternate)** to the **County Board of Adjustment**. Vice Chair Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *November 7 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *November 7 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *November 16 @ 8:30 a.m. - Joint City/County National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Work Session at Harrah's Cherokee Center, 87 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS