

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

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 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 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; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning 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 November 21, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department – James Holderman
- Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Ownership of Retired K9 “Boris” to His Handler, Corporal Dustin Siske
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Resolution Approving Addition to State Highway System – SR-2829 McGee Circle
 - Resolution
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Donation for One Book, One Buncombe Initiative – Library
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Brady and Geoffrey Barton expressed their support for the **Approval of Affordable Housing Services Program Revisions** agenda item .

Gina Elrod requested financial assistance in repairing the Big Ivy Community Center swimming pool.

Lisa Landis talked about corruption and conspiracy within the County.

Grant Millin expressed his support for the semi-quincentennial for the Country.

Rita Sneider-Cotter expressed support for the County's Family Justice Center.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Financial Quarterly Report - FY23 Fourth Quarter**

Melissa Moore, Finance Director, presented the FY23 Fourth Quarter Report with an update on revenues, expenditures, capital projects, investments, and debt.

- **Financial Quarterly Report - FY24 First Quarter**

Melissa Moore, Finance Director, presented the FY24 First Quarter Report with an update on revenues, expenditures, capital projects, and investments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Biltmore Farms – Frederick Law Olmsted Way Rezoning Request - ZPH2023-00027**

Gillian Phillips, Planning, presented the rezoning request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive land use plan and was approved (4-1) by the Planning Board. The property would move from R-3 and R-LD (Residential), NS (Neighborhood Service) and CS (Commercial Service) to EMP (Employment) at 176 E Frederick Law Olmsted Way and an unaddressed parcel on Brevard Road in Candler. The total acreage of the two parcel property is 764.52. Biltmore Farms Attorney, Robert Oast, provided more details of the rezoning.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:56 p.m.

The following individuals spoke against the rezoning because of the potential affiliation to a military manufacturer:

Claire Clark	Sonja Bozic	Claire Hanahan	Wiley Green
Cody Cogdell	Safa Alam	Gizelle	Sebastin Collette
Yasmin Dajani	Rebekah Moskowitz	Talis Montero	Dillon Walker
Meredith Jones	Rachael Bliss	Taylor Mason	Grace Henson
Cortne Roche'	Lisa Alport	Alex Severa	Kit Crabtree
Ken Jones	Mimi Healy	Arie	Grant
Melody Shank	George Perkins	Oliver	
Anne Craig	Cassandra Dayton	Grace Bearing	

Clark Duncan expressed his support of local economic development and the need for successful growth planning.

The hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Selection of Vice Chair**

Vice Chair Wells nominated and moved to elect Commissioner Sloan as vice chair. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of Affordable Housing Services Program Revisions**

Jonathon Jones, Planning, explained the revised Affordable Housing Services Program (AHSP) Description, Requirements, and Guidelines in advance of the release of the request for proposals associated with potential FY2025 funds. Program purpose and goals, offerings, and preferred projects were detailed to the Board.

Vice Chair Sloan moved to approve adoption of the revised Affordable Housing Services Program Description, Requirements, and Guidelines for FY2025 funds with addition of the following text modification under the **Updated Loan Agreement Requirements**:

Must May apply for property tax exemption with Buncombe County regarding property associated with the project prior to completion (where the applicant is eligible to seek property tax exemption)

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Regarding Annual Examination of Bonds**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the Board of Commissioners is directed to carefully examine bonds of the Tax Collector, Finance Director, Register of Deeds, and Sheriff officers on the first Monday in December of every year to determine whether the security has been impaired, or for any cause to become insufficient to cover the amount of money or property or to secure the faithful performance of the duties of the office.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Enka Recreation Destination TPDF Fund**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the budget amendment as presented and accept the grant award.

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for DWI Taskforce Grant – FY2024**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded

and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for DOJ Accreditation Grant – Sheriff's Office**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the budget amendment as presented and the addition of one grant position. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Commissioners' 2024 Meeting Schedule**

The Board discussed the proposed meeting schedule and decided to change the March 5th meeting to Thursday, March 7th to accommodate the Presidential Primary Election.

Chairman Newman moved to approve meeting schedule with the change of moving the March 5th meeting to Thursday, March 7th. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Beach -Ferrara moved to appoint **Stephanie Bostic** (Community At-Large) to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Daniel Beerman** and **Susan Schiemer** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Whitesides 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:

- *January 2 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *January 2 @ 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) (5) hear real property negotiation matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS