

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 16, 2024, 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:

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Vice Chair
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Brownie Newman, Chairman, was absent from the meeting.

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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of January 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Appointing Review Officers
 - Resolution
- Resolution Amending the Mountain Mobility Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy
 - Resolution
 - Policy
- Approval of Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments - 2nd Reading
 - Ordinance
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for State Lottery Projects for BCS - NBHS Softball Field Construction Upgrades
 - Ordinance

PRESENTATIONS

- **Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Moore read and presented the proclamation to Paulina Mendez from Justice Services. The proclamation was accepted and appreciation was expressed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Consideration of Board of Elections Director Compensation**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the Board of Elections recommendation for the Director of Elections to receive an additional salary increase (inclusive of the 2023 COLA) moving her annual compensation to \$115,000 per year. Research was conducted on similarly situated Counties for support of the proposed salary in compliance of the NC Gen. Statute § 163-35.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the resolution approving the Director of the Buncombe County Board of Elections salary of \$115,000 (inclusive of the COLA). Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sheriff's Office Downtown Initiative**

Sheriff Quentin Miller reviewed the request for funds to cover the cost of providing a higher level of law enforcement presence and engagement in the Downtown Business District. The Sheriff's Office has been asked to get involved to help abate the problems that are being experienced by the Downtown Business District community. The Board engaged in discussion to understand the commitment proposed by the Sheriff's office.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the funding cost of the Downtown Initiative. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Presentation and Audit Contract Amendment**

Mason Scott, Finance, presented that the contract amendment is an extension through January 15, 2024, to allow for any additional administrative processes needed to close the audit. This contract amendment does not change the contract amount. Tim Lyons, Maudlin & Jenkins, present the audit results to the Board based on audit opinion, trends, and compliance.

Commissioner Wells moved to accept the audit as presented and approve the final contract amendment for the fiscal year 2023 external audit. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Public Health Infrastructure - Local Workforce Development Funding**

John Hudson, Budget Director, and Ellis Matheson, Public Health Director, explained the budget amendment with information on the scope of work and the strategies for the local workforce development funding.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Artie Miller** to the **Library Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Christopher Fink** the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**. Vice Chair Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Commissioner Al Whitesides** to the **Metropolitan Sewerage District**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

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:

- *February 6 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 6 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS