

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 6, 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 Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

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

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; John Hudson, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; 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 6-0.

- Approval of January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Ordering the Advertising of Delinquent Real Estate Property Tax Liens
 - Resolution
- Resolution Approving Jury Commission Compensation
 - Resolution
- Approval of Architectural & Engineering Additional Services Contract Amendment for ADW Architects for a new EMS East Base on County-Owned Property
- Approval of Vannoy Construction Manager at Risk Contract for the Asheville High School Auditorium Renovations
 - Contract
- Approval of MB Haynes Single Prime Contract for Electric Upgrades at the Buncombe County Courthouse
 - Contract
- Approval of Providence Construction Group Single Prime Contract for Enka Sports Park Restroom Facility
 - Contract
- Budget Amendment for USAR Task Force 2 Reimbursement - Vermont Deployment
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for USAR Appropriation - FY24 Grant Award
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Program Close Out**

Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director provided details of the program close out. The County received \$900K in funds through the CDBG Coronavirus Program in August 2021. Mortgage and/or utility assistance was provided to 206 unique households in the amount of \$495,781. The grant period ended June 2023 with a balance of \$404,212 unencumbered and the Board is required to close out the grant by taking action after a public hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:14 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the closing out of the program. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment for Conservation Easements - Parham-Fortner & Lake Eden**

John Hudson, Budget Director, and Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Manager, explained the budget amendment with information on the easement purchase costs for two conservation easement projects.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Appropriation Request from 911 Operations Fund Balance**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Brenton Faircloth** to the **Asheville Planning & Zoning Commission**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Moore moved to reappoint **Cici Weston** (Public-representing At-Risk Juveniles) and **Natasha Adwaters** (United Way/non-profit) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to reappoint **Keith Thomson** the **Jury Commission**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Ellis Matheson** (Public Health Director) to the **Vaya Health Regional Board**. Commissioner Wells 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 20 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 20 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for Buncombe County and City of Asheville v. HCA Healthcare et al: USDC WDNC file# 1:22-cv 147 and Buncombe County v. Team Health Holdings et al: USDC EDTN file# 3:22-cv 00420, NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) hear real property negotiation 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 Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

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 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS