

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 21, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 21, 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 (absent)

**Staff present:** Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Melissa Moore, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Stacey Woody, Interim Clerk to the Board, Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays
  - Resolution
- Paratransit Rate FY 25
- Budget Amendment - Fund 327 - JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) 2023
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment - Fund 100 - Aging Summit
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment - Fund 327 - MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Grant FY2024
  - Ordinance
- Pre-Construction services contract with Vannoy Construction for the FY 24 Courthouse Renovation Project
- Design Contract with Davis Civil Solutions for the FY 24 Countywide Paving Project
- Construction Manager at Risk Contract for the Asheville High School Main Building Water & Sewer Project
  - Contract

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Buffy Fowler** spoke in support of school nurses; she is worried about not having a nurse in the Charter Schools anymore.

### **GOOD NEWS**

- **Victoria Espinoza Recognized as 2024 North Carolina APCO Telecommunicator of the Year**

Alex McKnight, Business Administrator for Public Safety Communications explained that Victoria Espinoza, of Buncombe County Public Safety Communications, was honored as the 2024 North Carolina APCO Telecommunicator of the Year. This award recognizes Victoria's exceptional dedication and outstanding performance in handling emergency calls, which have significantly contributed to the safety and well-being of our community. Commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation for Victoria's hard work and dedication.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Wells read and presented the proclamation to Steve Ensley of The Buncombe County Chapter of The Concerned Bikers Association of North Carolina / ABATE (American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education). The proclamation was accepted, and Steve spoke about the significance of motorcycle awareness and his appreciation to the Commissioners for the proclamation.

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Sloan read and presented the proclamation to Thomas Robinson, Administrative Support Associate for Buncombe County Public Libraries. The proclamation was accepted, and gratitude was expressed.

- **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation to An Truong, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) and National Certified Counselor (NCC) for the Employee Assistance Network. The proclamation was accepted, and gratitude was expressed.

- **Planning Board**

Planning Director Nate Pennington introduced Nancy Waldrop, Chair of the Planning Board, who provided an update to the Commissioners on the board purpose and members, activities and accomplishments, and map amendment highlights. Commissioners asked questions and expressed their appreciation to the Board for their hard work.

- **FY2025 Budget Message**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, presented a detailed overview of the FY25 Recommended Budget to the Board. A public hearing for the budget will be held at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and budget adoption will follow or will be considered at a later meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Solid Waste Franchise Agreement - Second Reading**

Dane Pedersen, Solid Waste Director, provided a timeline for the Solid Waste Franchise contract including the status of the negotiation, subscriber rates, and specific transition deadlines. Solid Waste Staff recommend approval of the Solid Waste Franchise Contract with FCC Environmental, LLC. The approval will make the agreement effective, and the services will begin on January 1, 2025.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the recommended franchise agreement with FCC. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment - Fund 100 - Permits - Demolition of Two Structures**

Bob Haynes, Permits and Inspections Director, explained that in December 2021, the owners of two properties located in Barnardsville failed to comply with orders for repair and were issued condemnation orders for the properties. The owners failed to comply with the condemnation orders to repair or demolish the structures and the County is now court ordered to repair or demolish the structures.

Bob provided a site analysis and evidentiary photos. He explained that the budget amendment will increase the budgeted revenues and expenditures for Permits and Inspections by \$83,851 to complete the demolition of two condemned structures but no new funding is required.

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

- **Budget Amendments - Funds 343 and 224 Affordable Housing Services Program Allocations and GO Bond Project Commitments for FY25**

Jonathon Jones, Lead Community Development Analyst and Chloe Donohoe, Affordable Housing Bond Project Manager, explained Affordable Housing Goals and Objectives, the impact of the Affordable Housing Committee recommendations, and the FY25 Funding recommendations. They discussed the cost and impact of Emergency Repair Grants, Tenant Based Rental Assistance Grants, Construction Grants, Downpayment Assistance Loans, and Construction to Downpayment Assistance Loans. They presented their FY25 Affordable Housing General Obligation (GO) Bond recommendations, including a recommendation to approve the budget amendment, establish Affordable Housing Services Program FY25 as a project, and establish new Affordable Housing GO Bond projects. Commissioners express their thanks to staff and the Commissioners serving on the Affordable Housing Committee.

Commissioner Sloan moved to adopt the budget amendment, establish the Affordable Housing Program FY25 as a project and establish new Affordable Housing GO Bond projects. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Open Space Bond Allocations**

Jill Carter, Open Space Bond Manager, explained the Budget Amendment to allocate Open Space Bond funds for two priority County-led projects: Ferry Road Open Space, and Deaverview Mountain. She discussed the requests and gave a synopsis of both projects including cost estimates and funding needs, and requested the Commissioners approve the budget amendment to allocate Open Space Bond Funding for the Deaverview Mountain and Ferry Road Open Space projects.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the budget amendment to allocate Open Space Bond Funding for Deaverview Mountain and Ferry Road Open Space projects. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Edwards moved to **reappoint Jay Richardson, Carol Steen, Greg Lowe** to the **Economic Development Coalition**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Newman moved to **appoint Kasee Metcalf** to the **Health and Human Services Board**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to **reappoint Carl Ricker, Jr.** to the **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *June 4 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 4 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

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STACEY WOODY, INTERIM CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS