

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 16, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 16, 2019, 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, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Amanda Edwards, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman spoke of celebrating the 4th of July and the blessings for living in the United States.

Avril Pinder, County Manager, welcomed Sybil Tate as a new Assistant County Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of June 18, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays
- [Road Petition: John Kraus Way](#) *REQUEST WITHDRAWN*
 - [Resolution](#)
- Road Petition: Overlook Road Extension
 - Resolution
- Commissioners' Property Tax Release Report
 - Report
 - More Information
- CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Contract and Engagement Letter
 - Audit Contract
 - Engagement Letter
- Classification Grade Revision

PRESENTATIONS

- **Breastfeeding Proclamation**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara read the proclamation and presented it to Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director. Mr. Blevins stated that his department supports this initiative and that this is a community program.

- **2019 City Gate Award - WC Rescue Ministries**

Michael Woods, Executive Director of WC Rescue Ministries, spoke about the Abba's House project that started three years ago and serves Buncombe County by helping to re-unify moms with their children.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Designation of Voting Delegate to NCACC**

Commissioner Belcher motioned to nominate Chairman Newman as the voting delegate. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Commercial Donation to Benefit New Mothers**

Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; announced that Motif Medical offered to donate 100 breast pumps to the department to be distributed to mothers in the community.

Commissioner Belcher motioned to accept the donation. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Update on HB370 and Local Impact**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara explained and gave context to the letters supporting the veto of House Bill 370 that mandates ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) detainees. Commissioners Beach-Ferrara, Whitesides, Edwards and Newman signed the letters that were sent to state leaders.

Commissioner Belcher was concerned with the letters suggesting that the entire Board was in support because of the use of letterhead with all the commissioners' names. Other Commissioners questioned whether this was upholding the law of Buncombe County and North Carolina.

Commissioner Whitesides stated that they have right to express their opinions and that the bill is not a law yet. He also stated that citizens are not given due process with this bill.

Sheriff Miller explained that the previous sheriff did not support this bill and this was not breaking the constitution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton stated that he does not look at people races and morals are out the window as it relates to ICE detainees.

Mary Standard, Montreat resident, stated that they have lost the right to vote because the change to even numbered-year elections.

Michael Hardy reminded us of the needle exchange program (25th Anniversary) and suggested that the County look at the use of solar panels on new construction.

Monica Pace asked for help with overdose awareness and Opioid Awareness Day.

Jerry Rice questioned the County following policies and stated that we need leaders and not followers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *July 29 @ 1 p.m. - Strategic Planning Workshop (Commissioners), Location TBD*
- *July 30 @ 8:30 a.m. - Strategic Planning Workshop (Department Heads), Location TBD*
- *July 30 @ 1 p.m. - Strategic Planning Workshop (Commissioners & Department Heads), Location TBD*
- *August 6 @ 12 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, 1st Floor Conference Room in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 6 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.