

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 1, 2019, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5:56 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  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Trisha Burnett, Internal Audit Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence to appreciate the mountains and the beautiful community during the last days of summer.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Belcher motioned to move **Residential Waste Collection Discussion** under **Presentations**, remove **Task Order 20-3 with SCS Engineers, P.C. in the Amount of \$10,600** from **Consent Agenda** and approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- ~~Task Order 20-03 with SCS Engineers, P.C. in the Amount of \$19,600~~

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Manufacturing Week and Day Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation to Clark Duncan, Executive Director of the Economic Development Coalition. Mr. Duncan introduced some of the partners and thanked the Board for helping establish jobs and growing wages.

- **Residential Waste Collection Discussion**

Buncombe County residents came out to voice their concerns with the Waste Pro contract that begins on January 1, 2020.

Vickie O'Shields stated that she would cancel her service due to the inability to transfer the cart.

Candace expressed safety concerns and the service not being completely thought out.

John Hoffman stated that he thought the plan was conducive for an urban city and not an urban forest area.

Ron Edwards said that the carts were too big to transfer.

Don Yelton expressed concerns with the carts and looks for the County to take leadership.

John Hogan and Jerry Rice had concerns with the carts and their location for safety reasons.

Michael McGee expressed his concerns with the pick-up consistency for trash and recycling.

Dane Pedersen, Solid Waste Director, addressed some of the concerns and provided information related to the collection service. He stated that a physician note for individuals with physical limitations can be provided to have cart transfer assistance. Mr. Pedersen also spoke of issues with using trash bags and safety concerns for both the customers and the collection workers.

Chip Gingles, Waste Pro, stated that they are here to serve and work with Buncombe County.

The Board thanked Mr. Pedersen and Waste Pro for their work developing the contract but looked for solutions to some of the issues stated by the residents.

Avril Pinder, County Manager, stated that we have addressed these issues but the solutions were not acceptable to the Board and residents. Ms. Pinder asked for Board guidance and time to look at new solutions.

- **Financial Quarterly Report**

Don Warn, Finance Director, informed that the auditors were on site conducting this year's audit. His presentation also noted that the County's current financial status was a 96% budget to actual with healthy revenue and fund balances.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **Affordable Housing Recognition - Planning & Development**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, provided details to their affordable housing initiatives that were recognized nationwide. Mr. Pennington has been invited and will present at a symposium for the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution Authorizing 2020 Census Partnership**

Tim Love, Business Officer, introduced Dr. Debbie Reese, Federal Census Bureau, who provided details and the importance of the census. The goal is to have a complete and accurate census with as much participation as possible. Census mailings start in March that will lead to the Census Day on April 1 with the County's endorsement.

Commissioner Belcher moved to accept the resolution as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Mariel Olsen, Darlene Azarmi, and Carmen Ybarra** to the **Women's Commission**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Yelton stated that he appreciated the budget presentation and provide his solutions to the Waste Pro discussion.

Jerry Rice expressed his concerns for how County funds are spent and the amount of money being spent in different areas.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *October 15 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 15 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear a legal matter related to Irene Warren Kent, Administratrix of the Estate of Michelle Quantele Smiley vs. Van Duncan, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Buncombe and Western Surety, et al., U.S. District court file #: 1:18 CV 322 with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the previous mentioned legal matter. No action was taken.

Commissioner Belcher moved to go back into open session. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS