

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 7, 2020, 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, Commissioner
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Mike Mace, General Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning 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 for the 3,500 Fort Bragg soldiers deployed to the Middle East and all those serving the Country.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Pressley motioned to move **Closed Session** before **Public Hearing**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of December 17, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Courthouse, Detention Center and 200 College St. Exterior Remediation
 - Contract
- Budget Amendment for Sheriff's Grants Fund & Contributions
 - Ordinance

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Wanda Skillington Greene, Amanda Louise Stone, Jon Creighton and Joe Wiseman as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 18 CVS 4206. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters. No action was taken.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Fernwood Rezoning Request**

Joshua Freeman, Planning Manager, presented the request, stated that the request was to rezone 6.36 acres divided into six parcels that is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan and was denied 6-1 by the Planning Board. The area (currently a mobile home park) would move from R-3 Residential to CS-Commercial Service at unaddressed property off Charlotte Highway (1 and 2 Fernwood Drive).

The applicant and owner expressed their thanks to Commissioners for consideration of the rezoning. They stated that they had addressed the current residents' concerns and had offered them a relocation assistance program.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:55 p.m.

Sherry Barrett lives close to the property and explained that traffic is already an issue.

John Fort has lived in the mobile home park for 31 years and stated that he doesn't want to move.

Don Yelton explained that the mobile home park is in a flood zone and experts could help minimize flooding.

Dr. John Kelly expressed his concern of using the bridge to get in and out of his neighborhood because of the

traffic that project would cause.

Jerry Rice asked the Commissioners to do the right thing for the residents and deny the rezoning.

Mark Morris owns an adjacent property and stated that there would be challenges, such as flooding, but thought that package was fair.

Renee Hensley lives in the mobile home park and said that it doesn't flood much. She also stated that finding somewhere to move is not easy.

Rose Anderson lives behind the mobile home park and states that affordable housing is not affordable for the residents that would need to relocate.

The hearing was closed at 6:16 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the inconsistency statement. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution to deny the rezoning request. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Catholic Charities Request**

Avril Pinder, County Manger, stated that the request letter and executive order had been received for the Catholic Charities to relocate people with families in the County.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the request. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Governor's Crime Commission Grant**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the grant award of \$1,182,877.63 that requires a twenty percent match. The grant requires continued service for nine contract positions.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Claudia Jimenez** and **Nora Scheff** to the **Women's Commission**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board agreed to interview applicants for Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Board on January 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton asked where in the County is there not any traffic problems and questioned how the County spends the money.

Jerry Rice questioned the revaluation of property in the County and stated that property taxes don't decrease for the citizens.

Andrew Selwyn suggested the review the spending process of occupancy taxes and stated that we all want affordable housing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara announced that the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee will have a Community Outreach meeting at 3:30 on January 9, 2020 at Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center, 285 Livingston St.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.