

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 3, 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  
Anthony Penland, 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; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Josh O'Conner, Recreation Services 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 granted a moment of silence for the families and communities in central Tennessee that were affected by the tornado last week.

- **Commissioner Fryar Recognition**

Vice Chair Pressley presented a plaque to the wife and family of the late Commissioner Mike Fryar recognizing his service as a commissioner and to the people of Buncombe County.

- **Swear In of New Commission Member**

Jerry Vebaun, Mayor of Woodfin, performed the swearing-in ceremony for new Commissioner, Anthony Penland.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Newman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with language added to the **Request to Waive Occupancy Tax Penalty - Beaucatcher Motel** (which has been included in the agenda document) and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of February 18, 2020 Pre-Meeting Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
- Non-Profit Donation to Benefit Children Entering Foster Care
  - More Information
- Tax Collection Report
- Request to Waive Occupancy Tax Penalty - Beaucatcher Motel
  - More Information
- Resolution Granting Easement to Duke Energy Progress, LLC
  - Resolution
  - Easement
    - Exhibit A
- Budget Amendment for Homeland Security Training for USAR
  - Ordinance
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Solid Waste Capital Fund - Project Closures
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Special Projects Fund - Project Closures
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Public School Capital Needs Fund - Project Closures
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Public School ADM Capital Fund - Project Closures
  - Ordinance

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Dr. Mullendore, Physician Director, and Fletcher Love, Preparedness & Security Officer, provided an update on the coronavirus (COVID-19). The County will conduct a weekly information session for the citizens of Buncombe County.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Resolution for the Issuance of the 2020 Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) for County and Public School Capital Projects**

Don Warn, Finance Director, stated that a public hearing was held at the Board meeting on February 4, 2020 regarding this agenda item and explained the subsequent resolution. Adopting the resolution, will approve the financing of projects and refinancing of the identified debt issued. The next steps include receiving the County's credit ratings and selling of bonds.

Don Yelton suggested that \$20 million go to existing debt or help tax payers.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) & Budget Amendment**

Brooke Hazlett, Emergency Services 911 Manager, presented the PowerPoint, provided some history of the intergovernmental agreement and explained the two previous addendums. The amendment will allow for the County to be reimbursed for funds that have already been paid and make the City of Asheville a secondary PSAP.

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

Commissioner Penland moved to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Comprehensive Plan**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, provided background for some reasons to move forward with developing a comprehensive plan. The plan would help guide growth, address community needs and identify goals by developing objectives and strategies for Buncombe County. This vision could assist in response to the changing conditions and potential threats to the community. No funding is required at this point, only approval to move forward with the release for the request for proposal.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the release for the request for proposal. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board agreed to allow more time to consider the applicants for the County Board of Adjustment.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton reminded the Board of the oath that they took to become a commissioner and that they should listen to people who elected them.

Jerry Rice questioned the impact and effectiveness of having a comprehensive plan.

Sharon Summerall expressed her excitement for having a comprehensive plan.

Robert Hardy stated that it's not affordable to live here and that city and county governments are interwoven.

Dawn Chavez expressed support for a comprehensive plan and suggested making sustainability a part of the plan.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 17 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *March 17 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear a legal matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

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

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

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS