

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 19, 2021, 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
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

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; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Corinne Duncan; Elections Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman requested a moment of silence to honor United States Capitol Police Officer, Brian Sicknick, who lost his life in the line of duty during the insurrection at the Capitol and all those who protected our democracy on January 6, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and add **Emergency Paid Sick Leave to Presentations**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of January 5, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January 5, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Budget Amendment for Library Infrastructure Project
 - Ordinances
- Budget Amendment for Center for Tech & Civic Life Grant
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Levy requested that the County invest in sidewalks and bike trails around new development projects.

Katie Button stated that the 30% capacity requirement for businesses is not fair.

Don Yelton expressed his displeasure for the public comment process due to the meeting being closed to the public.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Land of Sky Regional Council**

Nathan Ramsey, Mountain Area Workforce Development Board Director, updated the Board on the status of the Land of Sky Regional Council financials, activities and accomplishments.

- **Board of Equalization and Review**

Debbie Lane, Board Chair, provided an update to the commissioners on the status of board, past year accomplishments, and year 2021 goals and challenges.

- **Financial Quarterly Report**

Don Warn, Finance Director, presented the FY21 Second Quarter Report with an update on revenues and expenditures. He stated that everything was trending really well.

- **Emergency Paid Sick Leave**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the data for the temporary policy recommendation to extend Emergency Sick Leave and COVID Quarantine Leave Policy. The Board will consider the recommendation at a required public hearing at the February 2, 2021 regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **COVID-19 Discussion**

Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director, explained the unified vaccination effort will bring all emergency services partners together in the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) to include Buncombe Emergency Services, Buncombe County Schools, All Buncombe County Fire Departments, Asheville Fire & Rescue, NC Forestry Service, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, Buncombe County Public Health, A-B Tech and Buncombe County Rescue Squad. The unified effort will expand capacity, leverage partnerships, and develop long range future planning for potential regional coordination.

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Intergovernmental Agreement for 911 Consolidation**

Brooke Hazlett, 911 Division Manager, outlined the benefits of the 911 consolidation. Eliminating calls that must be transferred, under the current process, can save valuable time during emergency situations. The consolidation will lead to more consistent and effective service delivery and better data sharing between agencies and responders in the field..

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for 911 Consolidation with the Town of Black Mountain. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the waiver of the twelve month probationary period for property interest in the job for one former Black Mountain employee. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for 911 Consolidation with the Town of Montreat. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for CARES Funding for Low-Income Energy Assistance**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- **Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board**

Chairman Newman and the Board agreed to allow the county manager to appoint a staff person to serve as a representative for this board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 26 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting (Public Hearing) at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 2 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *February 2 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS