

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 16, 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; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning 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 remember the life and service to the community of former Weaverville Mayor, Mary "Bett" Stroud.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of January 26, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 2, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department
 - Sherri Hines
- Resolution Establishing & Ratifying the Buncombe County Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - Resolution
 - More Information
 - Membership
- Budget Amendment for Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 2 Reimbursement - Hurricane Dorian
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Methodist Home for Children Update
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for FY2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for COVID Vaccination Program - Nurse Team
 - Ordinance
 - More information
- Safety & Justice Challenge Grant - Budget Correction
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Bridgers expressed displeasure with noise produced by the Jacob Holms and Haakon plants and requested that the noise ordinance be changed.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) Board**

Tom Hartye, General Manager of MSD, detailed the history and background of the Metropolitan Sewerage District. An explanation of some recent and future projects was provided.

- **Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission**

Demp Bradford, President, provided an update to the commissioners on the past year events, upcoming events, and the challenges of scheduling events due to COVID-19.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, updated the Board on the Vance Monument Joint Task Force activities and information about recommendations for local reparations.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Gift Card Policy**

Ron Venturella and Mason Scott, both from Finance, detailed the necessity for the policy update is due to reorganization of departments and programs that use gift cards as a method of service delivery. The Gift Card Policy currently prevents some of these programs from using gift cards to continue provision of existing services.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the resolution and policy with additional efforts to disclose the person(s)/position(s) managing the purchase of gift cards. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Safety & Justice Challenge Grant Renewal**

Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, explained that the County has been awarded a second round of funding in the amount of \$1.75 million, which will start April 1st, 2021 and run through March 31st, 2023. The grant will continue the efforts of the original grant to safely reduce the county's jail population.

Chairman Newman moved to accept the grant. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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

Chairman Newman moved to approve one new and extend nine grant-funded positions, as long as grant funding is available. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Jennifer Bubenik** and **Brenton Faircloth** to the **Asheville Planning & Zoning Board**.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Michael Holgate** and **Mark Morris** to the **Board of Equalization & Review**.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Ken Kahn** (Erwin School District), **Timothy Collins** (Asheville City School District), and **Cindy Visnich-Weeks** (At Large) to the **Planning Board**.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Commissioner Amanda Edwards** to the **Local Emergency Planning Committee**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 2 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *March 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 6:30 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS