

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

---

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara 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 March 2, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Resolution Confirming that All Buncombe County Departments are Authorized to Participate in the North Carolina Local Government Debt Setoff Program
  - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Dogwood Health Trust Census Grants Savings
  - Ordinances
- Budget Amendment for School Capital Needs Fund Reinstate Project: Roofing Projects FY2016
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Adult Drug Court Grant Update
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tina White, Allison Scott, Ken Brame, Judy Mattox, and Kim Roney expressed support for the non-discrimination ordinance agenda item.

Grant Millin expressed concerns and asked some questions about the non-discrimination ordinance agenda item.

Pepi Acedo, Lara Lustig, and Jensen Gelfond expressed support for not closing the Asheville Primary School.

Pam Knies expressed concerns about the administration process of the COVID-19 vaccination.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **Certified Election Officials**

Corinne M. Duncan, Elections Director, congratulated Bria Bailey and Kevin Roberts of Election Services for earning the official title of NC Certified Elections Administrator.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Agriculture Awareness Day**

Jackie Gillespie, Chair of Buncombe County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, highlighted and requested support for the local agriculture community.

- **WNC Regional Air Quality Board**

Joel Storrow, Board Chair, and Ashley Featherstone, Air Quality Director, provided an update to the commissioners on the work being accomplished by the agency.

- **Asheville City Schools DPI Facility Report**

Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent - Auxiliary Services, presented the facility needs survey report that contained data and information about student population/capacity, renovations/additions, and furnishings/equipment.

The Board had many questions related to closing the Asheville Primary School and looked to gather more information before acknowledging certification of the report.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Biltmore Farms Rezoning Request**

Nathan Pennington, Planning Director, presented the request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive plan and was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. The property would move from R-3 Residential to EMP-Employment to include a portion of the 100 acre parcel at the unaddressed location east of Brevard Road, Asheville. The total acreage of the portion of property is 11.57.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:47 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adopt the plan consistency statement. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Wells seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, provided an update of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The estimated Buncombe County fund allocation is over \$51 million that is aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the pandemic. The funds can be used broadly for various projects and needs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Contract and Engagement Letter**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained the request to extend the original three year contract for one year for CLA to conduct the audit services.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the contract and authorize the Chair to sign the contract and engagement letter. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) Model**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Ordinance Prohibiting Discrimination in Employment and Public Accommodations**

Commissioners Beach-Ferrara and Sloan led the discussion of this agenda item. They explained the reasons and purpose behind the development of the ordinance. Commissioner Sloan asked that the enforcement of the ordinance include more extensive penalties. The ordinance is scheduled to be presented at the April 6, 2021 regular meeting.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Robert Tomasulo, Marsha Safian, Peggy Franc** and **Anne Minks** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Stoney Blevins** (health director), **Sylvia Clement** (juvenile chief court counselor), **Celeste Ordiway** (mental health director), **Suzanne Avett** (HHS), and **Susan Dotson-Smith** (district court judge) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Bryan Dover** (private sector employer), **Peter Cook** (private sector employer), **Corie Hackney** (private sector employer), **Christopher McGlashan** (labor organization), **Tony Reid** (vocational rehabilitation), and **Rodney Embler** (education-title III) to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Tim Love** (BC staff), **Rachael Nygaard** (BC staff), and **Jeffrey Kaplan** (community stakeholder) to the **Mountain Community Capital Fund Operating Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **William Taylor** and **Nancy Waldrop** to the **Planning Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee**

Chairman Newman moved ratify and affirm the appointment dates and initial terms of each of the Early Childhood Committee members as indicated below. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
• Al Whitesides	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Jasmine Beach-Ferrara	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Robert Pressley	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Brandy Bowman	9/1/2020	6/30/2021
• Chavaun Letman	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Glenda Weinert	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Jane Hatley	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Kidada Wynn	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Kit Cramer	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Mistie Reising-Cogbill	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Philip Belcher	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Rich Johnston	4/2/2019	6/30/2021
• Susan Mims	4/2/2019	6/30/2022
• Wendy Wieber	9/1/2020	6/30/2021

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 30 @ 10 a.m. - Commissioners' Budget Work Session at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 6 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 6 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

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

---

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

---

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS