

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 1, 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; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, removal of the **Buncombe County Hotel Occupancy Tax Policy** from **New Business**, and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of May 18, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of May 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of JCPC FY2021-2022 Certification & Annual Plan
 - Funding Summary & Plan
 - Certification
 - More Information
- Resolution Reinstating Certain Policies Suspended Due to COVID-19
 - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Funding
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Fulton questioned the proper way to engage the Board and asked if they supported Critical Race Theory.
Don Yelton stated that rich people be supported and appreciated for their contributions.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Elder Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation to Jennifer Teague and Laurie Dotson from Health and Human Services.

- **Pride Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation to Merry Michalsen from Human Resources.

- **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**

Leslie Anderson, Wendy Wieber, Brandy Bowman, and Mistie Reising-Cogbill, from the committee, provided details of the work of the board. Grant results, funding amounts, pre-k analysis, and barriers were some of the topics that were explained.

- **Strategic Partnership Grants Committee**

Doug Clarke, Chair; Kate Burger, Vice Chair; and Kevin McAbee, Secretary, detailed the background, grant cycle, and current activities of the committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Public Hearing on Recommended Budget and Economic Development Public Hearings - FY2022**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, gave a detailed overview of the FY2022 Budget and explained how the Strategic Plan is supported through deliberate funding.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:23 p.m.

David Greenson questioned the property tax increase and stated that appraisal system is broken.

Vickie Meath, Just Economics, expressed support for more and better public transportation.

Keely Knopp, Library Board, expressed support for more library staffing and funding.

The hearing was closed at 6:32 p.m.

No action was taken and the Board decided to conduct the vote at the June 15th regular meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, provided an update of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and the request for proposals process.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Approving the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of North Carolina & Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation**

Michael Frue, Senior County Attorney, explained to the Board on the latest information concerning the opioid settlement. The settlement funds in NC will be distributed in the following fashion: 80% to local governments, 15% to the state, and 5% to the county incentive fund.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Emergency Rental Assistance - Round 2**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- ~~**Buncombe County Hotel Occupancy Tax Policy**~~

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Al Whitesides, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Brandy Bowman, Glenda Weinert, Rich Johnston, and Wendy Wieber** to the **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Rebecca Strimer, Anne Carpenter, and Kimberly Robinson** to the **Strategic Partnership Grants Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to reappoint **Jay Richardson** (at-large), **William Hathaway** (at-large), **Jim Oliver** (business owner/CEO), and appoint **Lindsey Rhoden** (Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce appointment) to the **Economic Development Coalition**. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Kay Galvin** to the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *June 15 @ 1 p.m. - Commissioners' Special Meeting (Board interviews) at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 15 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 15 @ 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 7:08 p.m.