

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 21, 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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Budget Amendment for Vaya Health Grant
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Grant - FY2022
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen McDonald voiced her dissatisfaction with the Board extending the COVID mask mandate.

Kay Olsen stated that she opposed the COVID mask mandate.

Tamara Parker stated that the Board was not listening to the people.

Zen Honeycutt opposes the COVID vaccination.

Bill Reed expressed his appreciation for the Board.

Tom Kirchgasser questioned the need for masks when the vaccination is available.

C. Reed opposed the COVID mask mandate.

Laurie Timmerman talked about the side effects of the COVID vaccination.

Don Yelton stated the Board would not listen to the people

PRESENTATIONS

- **Proclamation of Hispanic & Latino Month**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara presented and read the proclamation in Spanish and English.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **One Buncombe - American Rescue Plan**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Matt Raker, Mountain BizWorks Executive Director, explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to authorize \$500,000 in economic development appropriations for small business job retainage grant program to assist those individuals who have suffered substantial financial damages due to the pandemic. The County will partner with Mountain BizWorks to administer the program, which features grants up to \$5,000 for eligible small businesses.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:11 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:12 p.m.

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

- **FY 2023 Annual Section 5311 Administrative and Capital Grant Application**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, provided background about the application process and the County role in providing the transportation service through Mountain Mobility.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:16 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:17 p.m.

Commissioner Pressley moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Application with the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division for Grant Years FY 2023 – FY 2027, for Federal Transportation Assistance. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wells moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Chairperson to Execute an Application for FY 2023 Public Transportation Program Funding, Enter Into Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and to Provide the Necessary Certifications and Grant Documents. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Emergency Paid Sick Leave**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained that the policy change would provide salary continuation for employees who are either sick due to COVID-19 or are required to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:21 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:22 p.m.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the policy change as presented. Commissioner Sloan seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of Order Extending Requirements for Face Coverings in Public Spaces**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, stated that the data trends supported extending the order.

Commissioner Sloan moved to extend requirements for face coverings in public spaces. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

- **Ferry Road Property Analysis and Site Planning – Phase 1**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Kim Williams, Equinox, detailed the Board on the site plan options and scenarios for the Phase 1 Review of the Ferry Road property. The Board considered the plans and provided feedback on preferences that they hope to see in future detailed plans.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to authorize staff to proceed with the remaining phases of the contract. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Replacing the Substance Abuse Policy for Mountain Mobility with the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System**

William High, Planning, explained the purpose of the resolution.

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

- **Resolution Approving Revisions to the System Safety Plan for Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's Community Transportation System**

William High, Planning, explained the purpose of the resolution.

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

- **Resolution Amending the Title VI Plan and Authorizing the Chairperson to: Sign the Title VI Plan Review and Approval Document, Execute a Title VI Nondiscrimination Agreement, and Execute Necessary U.S. DOT Title VI Assurances for Mountain Mobility**

William High, Planning, explained the purpose of the resolution.

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

- **Budget Amendment for State Lottery Application Project –Buncombe County Schools Repaving**

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.

- **Budget Amendment for Family Justice Center Grants**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, and Paulina Mendez, Justice Services, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the budget amendment to establish the GCC grant budget of \$1,132,510. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the budget amendment to establish a \$96,905 transfer of County funds from appropriated fund balance to the GCC Grant. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Natasha Adwaters** (non-profit) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 24 @ 12 p.m. - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Public Input Session for Buncombe County District 1, Zoom meeting.*
- *September 27 @ 4 p.m. - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Public Input Session for Buncombe County District 2/3, Zoom meeting.*
- *September 28 @ 6 p.m. - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Public Input Session for Buncombe County District 2/3, Zoom meeting.*
- *October 5 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 5 @ 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 7:34 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS