

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

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 5, 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 Pike, Tax Collector; Jim Blanton, Library 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

Commissioner Sloan motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of August 31, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 7, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 21, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of September 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of Library Fine Write Off
- Approval of Design Services Contract for Advanced Planning for Forward Facing Buildings
- Amended Resolution Establishing an Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee
 - Resolution
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Supplemental Chafee (LINKS) Funding
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

TJ Finger, Kristie Bivins, and members from the Asheville Shield Football Club voiced their displeasure with not being able to use the County Sports Park soccer fields.

Don Yelton expressed his concern with the make-up of the Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee.

Everrett Patillo expressed dissatisfaction with homelessness appearance and County school board voting process.

Mike Dehelm opposed not using small, local solar companies for County projects.

Gloria Michael stated that she opposed the COVID mask mandate for kids in school.

Martha Hubert stated that she does not like how things are going and opposed the COVID mask mandate.

Janet Jones expressed dissatisfaction with the County school board voting process.

Laurie Timmerman expressed concern with the County school board voting process and the COVID mask mandate.

GOOD NEWS

- **Library Story Time Wins Best of WNC Award**

Jim Blanton, Library Director, provided details of the award and expressed his appreciation for the Library's Youth Services team.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) Overview & Update**

Angie Ledford, EMS, introduced John Boyle, FEMA Federal Coordinator Officer, and Terrel Perry, Small Business Administration (SBA). They explained their agencies' services and answered specific questions from the Board members. Detailed instructions were provided in order to access services and contact FEMA or the SBA.

- **Tourism Development Authority**

Vic Isley, President & CEO at Explore Asheville, summarized the details of the authority's work. Purpose and benefits, community projects, and a listening tour were some of the topics that were explained. "Travel provides potential for prosperity."

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, provided background about the program and stated that the County must have a Board of Commissioners' adopted citizen participation plan. The plan provides citizens access to information and participation in all project stages. This is the second of two public hearings required as part of the CDBG-NR application. The application process, funding, eligibility, proposed activity, and proposed budget were explained.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Don Yelton questioned the viability of the project and stated that sweat equity would help.

The hearing was closed at 6:53 p.m.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Interlocal Agreements for Round 2 of Solar Projects**

Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability, presented an update on the progress of additional solar projects that are intended to be put out to bid on County, Town of Black Mountain, and UNCA facilities. The County must enter into interlocal agreements with these agencies and the budgets of the respective agencies have been approved.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the UNCA Interlocal Agreement resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the Black Mountain Interlocal Agreement resolution as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Election of the County School Board**

Chairman Newman explained the resolution and provided background information. Proposed legislation would restrict the ability of citizens in Buncombe County to vote for all the candidates running for the Buncombe County Board of Education and the resolution opposes the legislation. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded members of our legislative local delegation, leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Office of the Governor.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to have **Meg Jamison** and **Maggie Ullman** serve 1-year terms, and **Lena Hansen** and **Jamie Ager** serve 2-year terms of the **Environmental & Energy Stewardship Subcommittee**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **HP Patel** (hotel over 100 rooms) to the **Tourism Development Authority**. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Sagar Patel** (hotel under 100 rooms) to the **Tourism Development Authority**.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Chaka-Khan Gordon, Alena Klimas, Shannon Hallowell, Susy Chandler, Jennifer Floyd, Deb Myers**, and reappoint **Ariel Shumaker-Hammond**, and **Anya Robyak** to the **Women's Commission**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Caroline Levi, Daniel Beerman, Susan Schiemer** and **Meg White** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Michael Horvath** (business private sector), to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Kristina White** to the **Asheville Board of Adjustment**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *October 19 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 19 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters on Buncombe County vs. Joseph Wiseman, et al. 18 CVS 4206 with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS