

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2022 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 4, 2022, 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 (virtually)
Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Jennifer Barnette, Budget 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 Pressley motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of December 3, 2021 Special Minutes
- Approval of December 7, 2021 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 21, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Meeting Schedule - 2022
- Appointment to Broad River Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Fire Relief Fund Board
 - More Information
- Appointments to Leicester Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Fire Relief Fund Board
 - More Information
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department - Nicholas Baxevanis
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department - Allan Endaya
- Resolution Approving Addition to State Highway System (State Road 3684, Walk Off Way)
 - Resolution
 - More Information
- Tax Collection Report
- Budget Amendment for Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Grant
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - NC GCC
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for State Lottery Project Award – AC Reynolds (Stadium Lighting Design)
 - Ordinance
 - More Information

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Syence expressed her disapproval of the face covering requirement and vaccinations for the COVID-19 pandemic.

GOOD NEWS

- **Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, recognized the county budget staff for their achievement for receiving the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for a 26th consecutive year. The award is reflective of July 01, 2021 (FY2022) adopted budget.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Buncombe County 230th Anniversary Proclamation**

A few photos were displayed and Commissioner Wells read the proclamation commemorating Buncombe County's 230th Anniversary.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of Board of Commissioner Districts and Structure**

Chairman Newman explained that the Board seeks an opinion from independent counsel on available options for electoral districts and residency. The law firm of PoynerSpruill has been asked to provide these services.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the engagement letters with continuous status updates. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Consent to Hire Dan Keister as Internal Audit Director**

Kendra Ferguson, Chair of Internal Audit Committee, explained the process for the finalists that were interviewed by the Audit Committee, the County Manager, and invited to meet with the County Manager's Management Advisory Group. Each finalist was also asked to provide a presentation to the Audit Sub-Committee. The Internal Audit Committee nominated Dan Keister.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to provide consent to hire Dan Keister as Internal Audit Director. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Register of Deeds Excise Stamp Tax**

John Hudson, Budget, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program**

John Hudson, Budget, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Face Covering Requirement**

Chairman Newman explained that the current local order requiring face coverings in most indoor public settings in Buncombe County is set to expire on January 5, 2022, with Governor Cooper's statewide order set to expire on the same date.

Chairman Newman moved to extend the face covering order requirement to February 16, 2022. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Jeanna Restivo**, **Terry Rafinski**, and **Barbara Butcher** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0

Commissioner Wells moved to appoint **Charles Hubbard** to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to appoint **Mollie Rose** (at-large) and **Cici Weston** (public representation for family of at-risk youth) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *January 18 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *January 18 @ 12 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.