

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

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 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:

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner  
Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Brownie Newman, Chairman, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; John Hudson, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Ashley Featherstone, Air Quality Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **INVOCATION**

Vice Chair Edwards requested a moment of silence for the areas and people affected by Hurricane Fiona and Ian.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of September 20, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 20, 2022 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of Architectural Services Contract Amendment with Creech & Associates for the 40 Coxe Interior Renovation

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ben Williamson and Nina Tovish expressed their concerns about the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and support for hospitality service workers.

### **GOOD NEWS**

- **Clean Air Excellence Award**

Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director, explained that the award was for the Buncombe County Flexible Work Policy that reduced miles driven for commuting by County employees by 4.1 million miles, reducing fuel consumption by 169,473 gallons annually.

- **Dr. Sarah Morrow Health Department of the Year - Large County**

Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, stated that the award is given to two health departments (based on the county's population size: less than 59,999 and greater than 59,999) for outstanding programs and efforts. The County was recognized for the following:

- Building on history of integrating equity through other service outreach, Community Health Assessment, and staff trainings
- Establishing equity as part of the Incident Command System (ICS) operational structure of the COVID-19 response
- Integrating equity into COVID-19 vaccine outreach and at-home test kit distribution initiative
- Creating Mobile Team with focus on 3 domains of equity: historically marginalized populations, low-income areas, and rural communities

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **National Manufacturing Week & Manufacturing Day Proclamation**

Commissioner Sloan read and presented the proclamation. Clarke Duncan, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board and some area employers.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Avril Pinder, County Manager, recognized Rachel Edens, Chief Equity and Human Rights Officer, and Leonard Jones, Communications & Public Engagement, for their presentation of the Racial Equity Action Plan at the International City Managers Association conference.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment to Establish Six Conservation Easement Projects**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for FY23 Opioid Settlement Funds Financial Plan**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for FY23 A-B Tech Stormwater Projects**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment & Award Contract for FY20 A-B Tech Enka Site Technology Commercialization Center (TCC) Roof Replacement**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment and Ronnie Lunsford, General Services, provided details of the project.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to award the contract as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Vice Chair Edwards moved to appoint, by general consensus of receiving the most votes, **Hunter Goosman** to the **Mountain Community Capital Fund Operating Committee**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *October 18 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 18 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS