

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 7, 2023, 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  
Martin Moore, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Vice Chair  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Parker Sloan, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; John Hudson, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of February 21, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 21, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Approval of Construction Contract with AstroTurf Corporation for the Asheville High School Track Replacement
  - Contract
- Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for Solar - Buncombe County Schools
  - Memorandum of Understanding
- Budget Amendment for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Program
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dede Styles stated concerns with water issues due to construction development and climate change.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **START Program Success & Certification**

Rebecca Smith, Health & Human Services, recognized the program, staff, and participants for the work contributing to its success.

- **Special Recognition for County Employees**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara congratulated Commissioner Al Whitesides and Sheriff Quentin Miller for receiving the John Lewis Award from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association and County Manager Avril Pinder (Community History Maker Award) and Community Development Specialist Leonard Jones (Community Leader Award) for receiving awards from Asheville Black Wallstreet.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Agriculture Awareness Day Proclamation**

Vice Chair Wells read and presented the proclamation to Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director, and Jackie Gillespie, Buncombe County Women of Farm Bureau. They accepted the proclamation and expressed their gratitude.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Mount Carmel Rezoning Request- ZPH2022-00040**

Shannon Capezzali, Planning, presented the rezoning request, stated that the request was consistent with the comprehensive land use plan and was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. The property would move from R-1 (Residential) to R-3 (Residential) at the address of 31 Mount Carmel Place in Asheville. The total acreage of the one parcel property is 1.1.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:26 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:27 p.m.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution Approving the Financing of Improvements to the Asheville Regional Airport with the Proceeds of Tax-Exempt Bonds to be Issued by the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, stated that the Airport Authority, is considering undertaking a plan of finance under which it will issue revenue bonds and approval does not, in any way, make Buncombe County responsible or liable for the bonds. It is just a requirement under the federal tax laws under the TEFRA Act.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Resolution Approving the Agreement for Additional Opioid Settlement Funds and Authorizing Staff to Execute the Settlement Paperwork**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that NCDOJ recently announced five new opioid settlements with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Allergan, and Teva. The County's anticipated share of these new funds is \$12,949,951.47.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Approval of Additional Research Capacity for Community Reparations Commission**

Matt Baker, Strategy & Innovation, explained the request to increase capacity to support the Community Reparations Commission through a time-limited contract employee allowing existing staff the ability to dedicate their time to reparations research.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve authorization of the County Manager to increase capacity to support the Community Reparations Commission through a time-limited contract employee. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Purchase of 111 Victoria Road Property**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment. Dirk Wilmoth, A-B Tech shared the vision for the property.

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

- **Budget Amendment for NCEM Stream Restoration & Stabilization Grant Award**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Affordable Housing Feasibility Study - Phase II**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment. Matt Cable, Planning, explained the phase process for Development Finance Initiative (DFI) and the need to select up the three (3) sites to move to Phase II of the feasibility study project.

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

Chairman Newman moved to approve the site selections of Coxe Avenue, Valley Street, and Erwin Hills Road. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Richard Needleman** to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Bryan Moffitt** to the **Downtown Commission**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 21 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *March 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS