

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 18, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 18, 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  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Vice Chair  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Mason Scott, Interim Finance Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Vice Chair Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of June 20, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 - Animals of the County Code of Ordinances
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Conservation Easements Budget Realignment
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephanie Phillips expressed support for National World Peace Day festivities and state her issues with government.

Andrew Clark expressed support for veterans and Women's Veterans Day.

Robert Stevenson shared concerns about noise around the Newfound Community Center and the noise ordinance.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Sloan read and presented the proclamation. Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director, and the staff accepted the proclamation was and expressed gratitude.

- **Economic Development Coalition**

Clark Duncan, Executive Director, provided details about the public-private partnership of Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Job growth, entrepreneurial development, community partnerships, and accomplishments were highlighted during the presentation.

- **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority - Annual Report**

Lew Bleiweis, Executive Director, provide an update of the past year's activities and highlighted the economic growth, passenger and flight data, and community impact.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Broadband Update**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, and Commissioner Wells shared the update that SkyRunner Internet received a GREAT Grant in Buncombe County and the award will provide high speed fiber internet to 500 unserved households by December 2026. Since 2020, Buncombe County has received three GREAT Grants impacting 2000+ unserved households.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Board Meeting Time/Schedule Change (Survey Results)**

Angelica Tyler, Communications & Public Engagement, shared and explained the survey results with the Board.

Commissioners briefly discussed the day/night meeting option and stated that they would keep the current meeting schedule with the possibility to revisit the change.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution Updating Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Standards**

Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability, explained that the Energy and Environment Subcommittee has proposed changes to the County's LEED building resolution and the changes would include Life-Cycle Cost Analysis for design alternatives that will apply to both new construction, as well as major equipment replacement to assist the Commission in the decision-making process.

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

- **Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement for Asheville Community Reparations Commission Audit**

Dr. Noreal Armstrong, Equity & Human Rights, explained that the agreement for the audit would include a contract price for deliverables in the amount of \$174,375 to be shared between the City of Asheville and the County on a 50% - 50% basis. The County will provide funding from its Reparations Project Fund.

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

- **Budget Amendment for FY23 to Replace Varsity Gym Bleachers & Lighting - Asheville High**

Heather Holsey, Budget, explained the budget amendment. Ronnie Lunsford, General Services, stated that the amendment is to reallocate \$410,000 from the auditorium project to the varsity gym project to allow all work on the gym to be completed in a timely manner.

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve budget amendment and recommend executing the Construction Manager at Risk contract with Vannoy Construction. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for State Lottery Projects for BCS - Multiple Schools Paving Projects**

Heather Holsey, Budget, explained the budget amendment.

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

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Moore moved to appoint **Brien Griffen** (Chief of Police/designee) and **Andy Bobowski** (At-Large), to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Chairman Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Wells moved to appoint **Mark Diaz** (Northwest) to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Taylor Cox** to the **Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to reappoint **Matt Kern** to the **A-B Tech Board of Trustees**. Chairman Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The Commissioners discussed the recent activities of the boards and commissioners that they serve on as members.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *August 1 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 1 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.