

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 2, 2024, 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 Vice Chair called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Vice Chair
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; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Melissa Moore, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of December 5, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Budget Amendment for Soil & Water Conservation District Education Programs FY24 Grant Award
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Marascala attended his Board of Commissioners' meeting and expressed support for the Board.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Waste Pro Residential Service Fee Increase**

Chip Gingles, Waste Pro, explained the rate increase per subscriber for 2023. The rate has been \$22.55 per month and the calculated fee increase establishes a new standard rate of \$23.66 per month per subscriber, effective January 1, 2024. Tipping fees will increase for all haulers from \$47.75 to \$52.00 per ton, and rates at the landfill will increase from \$43.75 to \$45.00 per ton. Based on discussions and data review this tipping fee increase will result in an increase of \$0.41 per month to collection fees per month per subscriber.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Program Close Out**

Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director provided details of the program close out. The County received \$900K in funds through the CDBG Coronavirus Program in August 2021. Mortgage and/or utility assistance was provided to 206 unique households in the amount of \$495,781. The grant period ended June 2023 with a balance of \$404,212 unencumbered and the Board is required close out the grant by taking action after a public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments**

Dane Pedersen, Solid Waste Director, explained that in preparation for the upcoming waste collection services Request for Proposals (RFP), the Solid Waste Director and County Legal recommend amending Chapter 62 of the Buncombe County Code of Ordinances, which includes local Solid Waste Management regulations. Staff recommends updating the ordinance before the RFP is released to ensure consistency.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 62 of the Buncombe County Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Consideration of Board of Elections Director Compensation**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, and Jake Quinn, Board of Elections Chairman, explained the Board of Elections recommendation for the Director of Elections to receive an additional salary increase (inclusive of the 2023 COLA) moving her annual compensation to \$115,000 per year. Staff stated that research conducted of similarly situated Counties, supports that the current salary complies with the NC Gen. Statute § 163-35.

The Board decided not to take action and requested more information be provided by the staff.

- **Resolution to Join North Carolina CLASS Investment Pool**

Mason Scott, Finance, explained the investment pool and informed the Board of the County's investment policy and history. NC CLASS Investment Pool prioritizes safety, liquidity, and competitive returns on investments, balanced with legal compliance, convenience, and flexibility. Participation in NC CLASS does not prevent a local government for joining one or multiple other local government investment pools. Recommendation was given to adopt the resolution and approve agreement to join NC Class Investment Pool at next regular Board meeting.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the resolution and interlocal joinder agreement to join the North Carolina CLASS Investment Pool. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for State Lottery Projects for BCS - North Buncombe High School Softball Field Upgrades Design**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Wells moved to appoint **Joey Moore** to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Vice Chair Sloan moved to appoint **Celesta Gorman** the **Historic Resources Commission**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

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:

- *January 16 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *January 16 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Wells moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS