

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 7, 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 Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Martin Moore, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Vice Chair  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; John Hudson, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Stacey Woody, Deputy Clerk to the Board, Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Lillian Govus, Communication and Public Engagement Director

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Newman proposed adding a discussion on the issue of the Swannanoa Library to the agenda. Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as published, with the addition of the Swannanoa Library item to be taken up after the Consent Agenda and before Public Comment, and to approve the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of February 20, 2024 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display

Commissioner Wells made a motion to give direction that the County Commission supports the exploration of options to continue and improve library services in the Swannanoa Valley and that the Commission supports the continuation of library services at the existing location as options for the future are developed and implemented.. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marie Kaplan, Lucy Bickers, Matt Barker, Justice Rogers, Sadie Simpson, Katie Hadden, Belle Girona, Allen Dye, Takira Rose, Shawn Wolff, Michael Hosford, John Carl Zeigler, Zoie Mull, Nina Tovish, Aaron Ernst, Ginny Roelant, a resident who didn't give her name, Courtney Constable, Gaylen Hutchinson, a resident who didn't give his name, and Jenny Barker expressed their support for the Swannanoa Library and asked the Commissioners to reconsider closing it.

Jim Holland expressed his opposition to the short-term rental zoning proposal.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Recovery Housing Program Grant – CDBG**

Victoria Reichard, Behavioral Health Manager, explained the Recovery Housing Program Grant and the Funding and Eligibility, Rural and National Objectives, Eligible Activities and the Proposed Application Schedule. She introduced Paul Lewman from Land of Sky who would be the Grant Administrator and discussed the Recovery Housing Program Citizen Participation Plan and asked the Commissioners to hold the Public Hearing and Adopt the Resolution to approve the plan.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:11 p.m. There was no public comment and the hearing closed at 6:12 p.m.

Commissioner Wells moved to adopt the Resolution to Approve the Recovery Housing Program Citizen Participation plan, Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Presentation of Plaque to Clerk to the Board**

Chairman Newman asked Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board, to come to the front and presented him with a plaque in appreciation for his service to the Board of Commissioners.

- **Appointment of Interim Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Newman announced that Clerk Lamar Joyner was leaving, and Commissioners appointed Deputy Clerk Stacey Woody as Interim Clerk to the Board.

- **Approval of Single Prime Contract for the A-B Tech Enka Campus Vacant Building Demolition**

Ronnie Lunsford, General Services Facilities/Project Manager, gave a summary of the approved project to demolish the vacant building on the Enka Campus of AB Tech. The project includes: Hazardous Materials Abatement/Recycling, Proper Disconnection of All Utilities, Building Demolition, Recycling Efforts to Maximize Landfill Divergence, Disposal of Materials in Authorized Locations, and the Re-Grading and Filling of the Property to Proper Slopes and Compaction.

Bids were received and D.H. Griffin was the lowest bidder. Demolition is expected to take 180 days from the notice to proceed.

Commissioner Moore moved to adopt the Resolution to approve executing the contract with D.H. Griffin, Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Wells moved to **appoint Kyle Guie** to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

After discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold off on appointments for the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee and revisit appointment to this board at the April 2, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Wells moved to **reappoint Nancy Waldrop** to the **Buncombe County Planning Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

## **REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

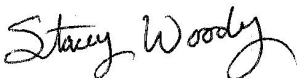
The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 19 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *March 19 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Sloan moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) to hear real property negotiation matters, Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Edwards moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



STACEY WOODY, INTERIM CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS