

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 6, 2021, 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  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Pressley motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of March 16, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department
  - David Bishop
  - Todd Ernst
  - Dale DenOuden
  - Bobby Anders
  - Robin Hempel
- Request to Waive Occupancy Tax Penalty - The Lion & The Rose (Carolina Dreamin' Inc.)
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Sheriff Grants/Contributions
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Visit NC Farms App
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Moose Wilshire Stream Restoration/Hart Currie Preservation
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for VW Settlement Grant
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Avital Li expressed her support for land conservation funding and its importance to the community and our food supply.

Bob Machen, Deana Gasperson, Eva Steward, Grant Millin, John Grant, John Hoerner, Karen Hoerner, and Ronald Gates expressed opposition for the non-discrimination ordinance due to lack of transparency, effects on small business owners and personal freedoms.

Don Yelton expressed his issues with how the removal of the Vance Monument is being handled.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation to Drew Shelfer and Leslie Savarese of Health and Human Services.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Systems Logistics Corporation**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Stefano Vitale, Systems Logistics Corporation (SLC), explained the plan for the company to expand its existing facility in Arden, invest \$3 million in capital expenditures, and create 47 new jobs averaging \$32.17 per hour. In accordance with the Economic Development Policy, SLC is eligible for a one-time incentive of \$100,000.00 based on capital investment and job creation targets.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:59 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the resolution for approval of the incentive and the economic development agreement. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **COVID PTO Extension**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that this amendment to the Personnel Ordinance will allow employees awarded COVID Paid Time Off to use this leave by June 30, 2022.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:02 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the ordinance amendment. Commissioner Sloan seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Asheville City Schools DPI Facility Report**

Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent - Auxiliary Services, provided an update to the Board on the facility needs survey report and answered questions related to closing the Asheville Primary School and student displacement. No action was needed or taken on the agenda item.

- **Vance Monument Cost Share Authorizat on & Budget Amendment**

DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager, reviewed the timeline of the consideration regarding the removal, relocation or repurposing of the Vance Monument. The City of Asheville decided to move forward with the removal and demolition of the Vance Monument. The visioning effort for future repurposing of the site is estimated to cost up to \$70K. Accordingly, and in line with the Board's intent to partner on this effort, this is a request to share the cost of and provide for the visioning effort in the form of a reimbursement to the City of Asheville at an amount not to exceed \$35,000 (50% of the total estimated cost of the visioning effort).

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to authorize the County Manager to execute a cost-share arrangement and approve the budget amendment to appropriate \$35K from the General Fund to fund balance. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution of the for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners Authorizing Continuing Contracts for Construction of Certain Security Upgrades of Buncombe County School Facilities**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, and John Henning, Buncombe County Schools, provided an overview of the contracts that will continue the funding for school security projects that will not be completed in any one fiscal year. The approval of the resolution does not mean the County is ceding its role in controlling the funding of any larger projects. If projects are paid for out of Article 39, Lottery Funds, or General County appropriations, such projects still have to come before this Board through the appropriate channels to be approved/funded.

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

- **Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Administration**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained that in order to administer the Local Fiscal Recovery funds effectively, the County is requesting three administrative positions (Strategic Partnership Business Officers) to sit in the Strategic Partnerships department.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to approve the three positions. Commissioner Sloan seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance Prohibiting Discrimination in Employment and Public Accommodations**

Commissioners Beach-Ferrara and Sloan provided an update and timeline of the process for the consideration of the ordinance. The Commissioners continued the discussion on the subject and the ordinance is scheduled to be presented at the April 20, 2021 regular meeting. No action was taken on this agenda item.

- **Public Attendance at Commissioner Meetings**

The Board weighed the staff's consideration of the process of allowing public attendance at Commissioner meetings. Commissioner Pressley moved to allow only public comments in-person and virtually starting during the first regular meeting on May 4, 2021 and to allow only public comments in-person starting during the first regular meeting on June 1, 2021 all with consideration of public health guidance. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- **Early Childhood Education and Development Committee**

Commissioner Wells moved ratify and affirm the appointment date and initial term of the Early Childhood Committee member as indicated below. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
• Leslie Anderson	4/2/2019	6/30/2022

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Eric Robinson** (community member) to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Samantha Cole** (economic development) to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Sloan moved to appoint **Sherree Turcott** (District 1), **Brandon Mays** (District 2), and **Lee Ann Smith** (District 3) to the **Library Board**. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *April 20 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 20 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 22 @ 1:30 p.m. - Commissioners' Budget Work Session at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Sloan moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) to hear contract or lease matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the previously mentioned contract or lease matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.