

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 16, 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

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner (absent)

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; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rachael Sawyer, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Stacey Woody, Interim Clerk to the Board, Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to add to the Consent Agenda approval for the Commission Chair to a letter of support for AdventHealth's Certificate of Need for the new acute care medical facility in Northern Buncombe County.

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the inclusion of the letter of support item and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of March 19, 2024 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of April 2, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Budget Amendment for Fund 327 - Fairview Park Development Grant
 - Ordinance
- Design Contract with CPL Architects for the Renovation of 35 Woodfin Non-Warranty Deed
- Child Abuse Awareness Month
 - Proclamation
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
 - Proclamation

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Stiles of the Teamsters Union expressed his opposition to the contract with FCC.

Matt Allen of the Land of Sky Association of Realtors expressed the association's opposition to banning or limiting Short Term Rentals and announced upcoming Fair Housing events.

Anna Alsobrook of MountainTrue, expressed support for the plastics proclamation and regulating plastics.

Julie Nelson expressed her opposition to banning Short Term Rentals.

Peter Thorwarth expressed his concern about an intersection in Leicester where New Leicester Highway meets Mount Carmel and is in support of crosswalks due to safety issues with the number of pedestrians walking from apartments in the area. He would also like J-Brake use to be restricted on Leicester Highway.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Line Worker Appreciation Day Proclamation**

Commissioner Edwards read and presented the proclamation to Jennifer Bennett, Government & Community Relations Manager, who was joined by Keitha Sherrill, Area Operations Director, and Line workers Orville Arwood and Jansen Gossett from Duke Energy. The proclamation was accepted, and appreciation was expressed to line workers.

- **Telecommunicator Week Proclamation**

Commissioner Moore read and presented the proclamation to Derrick Ruble, Buncombe County Public Safety Communications Director, Michael Salley, Public Safety Communications Operations Manager-Fire/Medical, and Shaina Harris, Assistant Telecommunicator Supervisor. The proclamation was accepted, and gratitude was expressed to the Telecommunicator staff.

- **Less Plastic Buncombe Month Proclamation**

Chairman Newman read and presented the proclamation to Ken Brame of the Sierra Club. The proclamation was accepted, and Ken thanked the Commissioners for recognizing the importance of reducing plastics in our community.

- **Fair Housing**

Matt Cable and Nancy Williams of Planning and Development presented an update to the Commissioners on Fair Housing in Buncombe County and explained the National Fair Housing Act. Contact information was provided for residents who feel they have experienced housing discrimination, and they gave an update on the Buncombe County Fair Housing Plan. Commissioner Sloan read the Fair Housing Month Proclamation and presented it to Matt Cable. The proclamation was accepted, and the Commissioners expressed gratitude to the Planning and Development staff.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Language Access Plan Update**

Rocio Quintero, Communications & Public Engagement, introduced the team and explained that Buncombe County was one of nine local governments selected to partner with community-based organizations through the Building Integrated Communities Language Access Collaborative. Through a combination of virtual workshop exchanges, in-person summits, and technical assistance, Buncombe County worked with Poder Emma to build capacity to communicate with residents in community languages.

As part of the Collaborative, the team learned about promising practices from immigrant and language access leaders and practitioners, conducted an internal assessment and collected community data, designed a language access plan for the County, and is initiating implementation of recommendations from that plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approving Resolutions to Authorize the Issuance of General Obligation and Limited Obligation Bonds and Related Matters**

Melissa Moore, Finance Director, explained the General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) and the Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBS) resolutions. She requested the Commissioners approve the Resolution for Issuance of 2024 Limited Obligation Bonds in amount not to exceed \$81.5 million and the Resolution for Issuance of 2024 General Obligation Bonds in amount not to exceed \$17 million.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the resolution for the issuance of 2024 General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$17 million. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the resolution for issuance of 2024 Limited Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$81.5 million. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Wells moved to **appoint Paul Dettmann** to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Wells moved to **reappoint Tony Reid, Bryan Dover, Peter Cook, Anna Davis, Steve Newman, Richard Sluder, Joey Moore** and **Samantha Cole** to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Moore moved to **appoint Ellen Morrissey** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to **appoint Parker Sloan** to the **Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (former HIAC)**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *April 23 @ 9 a.m. - Commissioners' Budget Work Session at 200 College Street, 1st Floor Conference Room, in downtown Asheville.*
- *May 7 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *May 7 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Moore moved to go into closed session pursuant to GS §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 to discuss a proposed settlement of a claim identified as NCIC 22-37889; pursuant to GS § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The Board 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. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.