MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
September 8, 2026 – 5:30 PM

The Brevard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Copelof presiding.

Present – Mayor Maureen Copelof, Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Baker, and Council Members Gary Daniel, Pamela Holder, Lauren Wise and Dean Lytle

Staff Present – City Attorney Mack McKeller, City Manager Wilson Hooper, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Dean Luebbe, Assistant City Manager David Todd, Assistant to the City Manager Shawnee Cummings, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Human Resources Director Kelley Craig, Planning Director Paul Ray, Senior Planner Emily Brewer, Police Chief Christy Wentzell, Deputy Police Chief Alan Bonanno, Public Works Operations Manager Cliff Justus, Water Treatment Plant ORC Dennis Richardson, Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC Aaron Winans, and Community Center Director Tyree Griffin

Press – David Bradley, *Transylvania Times* and Jonathan Rich, *Brevard Beagle*

A. Welcome and Call to Order – Mayor Copelof called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

B. Invocation – Rev. Dr. Sharad Creaseman of Brevard College offered an invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Copelof led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Certification of Quorum – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

E. Approval of Agenda – Mr. Baker requested to combine Item L-2 Funding Plan for Cashiers Valley Road Sewer Extension and Item M-1 Menu of Options for Surplus Fund 82 Dollars as one Item M-1.

Mr. Hooper said he and Chief Wentzell would like to propose a modification regarding Item M-3 Automated License Plate Readers. Chief Wentzell explained that during the public input session several residents raised concerns about privacy, surveillance, the potential for the technology to expand beyond its original purpose, whether this type of technology belongs in a community the size of ours, and whether the benefit was worth the concern that it caused within the community. People also questioned whether the meeting was truly an opportunity to be heard, and whether showing up and speaking could actually make a difference. Of all the concerns voiced, the one that I heard most clearly was about trust—trust between the community and the Brevard Police Department. Without a doubt I believe the Police Department could effectively and responsibly operate this program but just because we can responsibly implement a tool does not necessarily mean we should implement it right now. Building trust within the community is more important to me than winning the approval of technology. The ALPR cameras were proposed as part of a larger Axon package, which also included new tasers and body-worn cameras for our officers. We will continue moving forward with the tasers and body-worn cameras, but not the ALPR portion proposed in the budget. If Brevard Police Department was ever to consider ALPR technology again, it would require a significant budget request that would come before Council. Any future consideration would be handled openly with the same commitment to public information and transparency we have maintained throughout our entire process. This is not a statement that we feel that ALPR technology is bad, ineffective, or without value. It is simply an acknowledgment that our community has expressed

significant concern, and at that point, listening carries greater value than moving forward with technology. Right now, I believe it is the best decision for the Brevard Police Department to listen. We asked for the community's voice, and they gave it to us, and it mattered. Therefore, I am respectfully withdrawing the Brevard Police Department's request to implement a proposed ALPR program and ask that the Council take no further action at this time.

Ms. Holder said she would like to see Item L-2 and Item M-1 remain as separate items.

Mayor Copelof asked for a motion regarding the proposal to modify the agenda by removing Item M-3 and combining Item L-2 and Item M-1. Mr. Baker so moved. Mr. Wise seconded the motion, and vote was 3 in favor; 2 opposed (Holder and Lytle). The motion carried.

F. Approval of Minutes

F-1. June 5, 2026 Specially-Called Budget Workshop – Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2026 Specially-Called Budget Workshop as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F-2. August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting – Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Certificates / Awards / Recognition

G-1. Proclamation No. 2026-21 Rise & Shine 30th Anniversary – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Rise & Shine Executive Director Maurice Jones.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2026-XX
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RISE & SHINE

WHEREAS, in response to public Ku, Klux, Klan (or KKK) rallies held in Brevard in 1988 and again in 1992, an interracial group gathered by social activist Fay Walker, began to meet monthly for dialogue around dismantling racism, racial justice and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, after this coalition called "Friends" hosted a series of talks entitled, "Racism: Everybody's Problem" at Bethel "A" Baptist Church, its pastor, Frederick Gordon suggested steps be taken to help underserved children and families, beginning with the youngest; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gordon and Fay Walker worked together diligently in collaboration with parents and community members to design an after school program built around individual attention and the encouragement of children and their families with its signature to be daily one-on-one tutoring; and

WHEREAS, the founders recruited teams of volunteer tutors and mentors from local churches and community-based organizations, and inaugurated The Rise & Shine After School Program in October of 1996, with a handful of students, called Scholars, in attendance; and

WHEREAS, in the following 30 years the program has been nurtured by countless devoted community volunteers and institutions and supported by local businesses and individuals to serve a capacity of 50 Scholars each year; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of enriching children, empowering parents, encouraging community and building the beloved community of racial justice and reconciliation has become the hallmark of Rise & Shine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, hereby honor the 30th Anniversary of Rise & Shine and ask our citizens to extend their appreciation for the exemplary work Rise & Shine continues to do in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Brevard, North Carolina to be affixed this, the 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor

G-2. Proclamation No. 2026-22 Constitution Week – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Sharon Powell and Nina Brown of the Waightstill Avery Chapter of the NSDAR.

PROCLAMATION N0. 2026-22
CONSTITUTION WEEK

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2026, marks the two 239th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Maureen Copelof by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as **"CONSTITUTION WEEK"** in the City of Brevard, and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor

H. Public Comments

Ashley Hart thanked Chief Wentzell and said the people appreciate the fact that you ended that. Thank you so much for standing up for the people and what the people wanted, because it's the people you have to make happy. Thank you guys all for participating in that properly. The people of Brevard do not want to be under surveillance, and I don't want them to be under surveillance either. It's Constitution Week September 17th through September 23rd—the signing of the Constitution was September 17, 1787. The United States Constitution begins with the most important three words—"We the People". Those words remind us that the Constitution belongs to the people. Our government derives its authority from the consent of the governed. Preserving liberty is not solely the responsibility of elected officials; it also is required for the people to be engaged and to understand the Constitution. We have a responsibility to pass these principles of liberty and self-government to future generations. Again, I praise you guys for holding a public forum for the people to speak. I live in Transylvania County; they did not provide us with that, and it really mattered. I want to thank you guys. It really opened my eyes up and I'm proud of you guys for making the right choice for the people that you represent. We the people are where it begins and we're also where it ends.

Robert Jazowski said fortunately our Sherriff [Chief] heard us and I truly appreciate that. There is nothing like a citizen being heard and having the engagement and having the action of actually following through. So, thank you, I truly appreciate it. I'm no fan of the cameras or the system behind it.

Rodney Locks said I am here to say vote no to using the Rosenwald funds for the extension of the sewer lines. It baffles me to realize that that's your only option. There's got to be some other funding source to fund the sewer line. But the City has not given you another option, and I know in most cases you have more than one option, and you have rejected those options before. I ask you to reject this option and find another option for extending the sewer line. When you get to M-3 [M-1], my top priority is using the money as seed money for the shelter and the bathrooms. There are lots of projects on there that are nice. One of the projects that's not on there is stormwater. Our other

big issue is stormwater, and I'd appreciate it if you would think about that and figure how to address the stormwater issue in Rosenwald.

Frankie Gordon said my home is located in Mickey Park, and my concern is the removal of the tannery. I would like to know has the City put in place a plan to remove/eliminate any creature that is located in that stack at the moment before it is torn down?

Heath Cartee said I had come to speak on the ALPR's but it looks like that's done, so thank you. I'm impressed. When I was in I wish I could have got a chance to work for someone like you. That's impressive. Thank you. And to anybody who voted along with what she said, thank you as well. Thank you for supporting the Roadless Rule; that helps where I currently work.

Abraham Stratton said our family moved here about three years ago and I serve as one of the pastors at Bethany Baptist Church. I serve alongside of Paul Whitt, who coached the Brevard High School basketball team for several years, so some of you may know him. Two things: first, I want to thank the Council for your work on the July 4th America 250 celebration. Our family really enjoyed that, and I am grateful especially for the public reading of the Declaration of Independence. As we heard earlier regarding the Constitution, I think having our citizenry more familiar with our founding documents is always a good thing. And so, I am grateful to each of you for your participation in that, and I would be an advocate for reading the Declaration of Independence every July 4th. The second thing is I wanted to let you all know that I pray for you on a regular basis, and our church prays for you. We actually prayed for you in our morning service this past Sunday. In the Bible, God tells his children to pray for their leaders, so I pray for you Mayor and our City Council members, I pray for our Sheriff and our other leaders. We are grateful for your work, and I know you sit in hard seats and make hard decisions, and so I pray for you to make decisions which are for the flourishing of our community and not for personal agendas, but for the good of our citizens. Thank you for the work that you do.

Sheila Mooney thanked the Mayor and Council members, and said I'd like to thank the young lady that reminded us of the statement in the Constitution "We the People". I'd like to thank the Chief for her statement about the importance of listening to said people. So, thank you for your service to the City of Brevard, and thank you to the whole City of Brevard. Thank you for acknowledging our beautiful Rosenwald Community. Thank you for understanding the value of our rich history, and because we trusted you, we voted for you, and we expect you to treat the Rosenwald Community with the same fairness, compassion, consideration, and the trust that we've put into you. Rosenwald is very important to us. As you heard about the Rise & Shine program; it's more than that. I was here in 1988, I was here in 1998, I was here in 1963, and that means something to us. So, please consider We the People of Rosenwald.

Harvey Sankey said I attended all of the Safety Committee meetings and the public meeting on September 1st that discussed the placing of three Axon cameras where crime data would be appropriate. The Safety Committee asked many questions which were answered by the Chief of Police, the City Attorney and the City Manager. I have attended many committee meetings over the past three years, and this request was among the most thoroughly researched by any committee. I want to thank that committee for the work they did on the research, and I want to thank everybody who participated in the committee, and also Chief Wentzell for the work that she did, the City Attorney for the work that he did, and also Wilson Hooper for the work that he did. I am a little disappointed in the outcome, but I appreciate what you've done and how you've handled it, and I hope we can continue on with a very good relationship with the Police Department in the future.

Doug Powell said I would like to commend the City Council on a couple of things this evening: first, taking your oath of office seriously, specifically a commitment to the First Amendment. As you know any legitimate government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed, and the First Amendment is an American citizen's

mechanism to voice their concern, displeasure, or agreement with a policy, ordinance or law that is being contemplated by you, our representatives. By you and your staff organizing the town hall meeting last week to present information to us, the citizens of Brevard and Transylvania County, regarding the Axon surveillance cameras, our five God-given freedoms of the First Amendment were on full display—1) our freedom of religion in voicing our rights of conscience as sovereign individuals; 2) our freedom of speech in openly expressing our views on a subject; 3) our freedom of the press with those of the media who were present, plus those who expressed their views on social media; 4) our freedom of assembly as we came together as a citizenry in the same place, and 5) perhaps our least remembered right to petition our government for redress of grievances. This is our right to freely express any complaints to those we have trusted to lead us. I would like to express thanks to Chief Wentzell for the thorough assessment of the Axon surveillance cameras from her department's point of view and the respectful listening to our concerns, and the decision tonight. And also, an appreciation of how City Staff made sure that everyone who felt compelled to speak was given that opportunity, including questions and answers. As the Mayor so eloquently reminded us a few moments ago in the Council's Constitution Week proclamation, lost rights may never be regained. That is why we need to guard our liberties with vigor and fervency, whether that be the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, or any of our other constitutional rights. What I gleaned from the town hall was overwhelming support of law enforcement, while still holding a legitimate distrust of third-party data collection companies and the possibility of other government agencies to access that data too. One thing that wasn't said in the meeting was Axon entered into a commercial partnership with Flock Safety on April 2, 2020, indicating their desire for those two companies to be fully integrated, and throwing around terms like vehicle fingerprint technology is not a giant leap to conclude that if our data is collected and stored, even if it is intended to be used only by local law enforcement, it is not a matter of if, but when another state or federal agency will come knocking. Lastly, how many government agencies and private corporations have been hacked, compromised or their data been breached. Our data being safe in the cloud is impossible to guarantee. So, thank you again for protecting our God-given rights under the Constitution this past week, and may you continue to hone your understanding of its original intent and meaning, as this is your constitutional duty as representatives of our dear city of Brevard. Happy Constitution Week.

Lane Herrlinger said Chief Wentzell, I really appreciate you. I fully support your decision, and listening to the people means so much to me. The first time I saw one of those cameras it felt like I had a girlfriend who cheated on me. I was so disappointed and my heart sunk. I really appreciate you listening to us and it makes me want to stand behind you, and support all of our elected officials because you all listened. That means more to us than you realize. So, thanks for ultimately doing the right thing.

I. Special Presentations – None.

J. Public Hearing(s)

J-1. Proposed Amendment to the City of Brevard Traffic Schedule to Add Stop Sign on Thomas St. at the Intersection with W. Main St. – Mr. Hooper explained that this amendment would replace the current yield sign with a stop sign so that vehicles coming down Thomas St. would be required to stop before entering W. Main St. There is the potential for vehicles coming at excessive speeds from both sides on W. Main St. and the Traffic Calming Work Team is considering possible traffic calming solutions that might work. In the meantime, the recommended steps to make the intersection safer is to add the stop sign and to trim back foliage that is encroaching into the right-of-way and obstructing sight lines.

At 6:14 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation:

Maurice Jones said I live right across the street, so I see that from my porch

every day. I don't believe that I've seen any issues there, but I will tell you that when you're coming down Thomas St. it is difficult to see towards your left and right. A stop sign there could help but in most cases, most cars have to stop just so they can see if a car is coming, because you have to kind of roll out into the street to look that way. But if you're going to do some cleanup, cutting back some of that brush, I believe that will definitely be something that will help with the line of sight coming through there. As of now I haven't seen much of an issue, but if you're driving through there, sometimes there is difficulty to see traffic coming. Having a stop sign there...will it make a big difference? I'm not sure, time will tell, but it's a good thing that you're taking the time going around the city of Brevard looking at issues like this, and I understand how long that takes. I want to say kudos, and I think that could make a big difference for those individuals traveling down Thomas and for those traveling up and down W. Main because it could be an issue there, but I haven't seen one over the past couple of years.

At 6:17 p.m. Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the ordinance amending the City of Brevard Traffic Schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-40
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE CITY OF BREVARD TRAFFIC SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, a public meeting was conducted on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, by Brevard City Council, and after review and consideration of the proposed amendments, it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Brevard that Section 66-5 of the Brevard City Code of Ordinances be amended as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1. The City of Brevard Traffic Schedule and Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as described below:

Section 2. Add West Main Street from Thomas Street to City of Brevard Traffic Schedule XI-A, Section 66-72 Stop Before Entering Certain Intersections.

Section 3. The City Clerk of the City of Brevard is hereby authorized and directed to revise and amend the official records and the Brevard Traffic Schedule to reflect the change as set forth herein.

Section 4. The City Manager of the City of Brevard is hereby authorized and directed to cause the appropriate signs to be installed and enforcement of the foregoing provisions to be implemented.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and in effect from and after the date of its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved on the 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor
Approved as to Form: s/ Mack McKeller, City Attorney

K. Consent and Information - Consent Agenda items are considered routine and are enacted by one motion. Mayor Copelof read aloud the items listed and asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

K-1. Resolution in Support of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-45
A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO RETAIN THE ROADLESS RULE IN PLACE

WHEREAS, since 2001, the federal Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule"), promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has protected nearly 45 million acres of America's wildest public lands from road building and development; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule is one of America's most important bipartisan conservation achievements and the result of record-breaking public support; and

WHEREAS, over 152,000 acres of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest's 1 million+ acres, including 7,100 acres in Transylvania County, have been designated as roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina's roadless areas provide irreplaceable benefits, including clean drinking water to local and downstream communities, crystal clear trout streams, support for local economies that depend on outdoor recreation and tourism dollars, iconic hiking trails, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's roadless areas contain headwaters for several important watersheds, contributing to the drinking water for over 2 million North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than $2.5 billion dollars in revenue is generated by recreational activities that depend on North Carolina's roadless areas, supporting nearly 13,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, in Western North Carolina, in particular, the Nantahala-Pisgah's notable climbing routes, whitewater paddling runs, and mountain bike trails bring an estimated $83.3 million in visitor spending and $31.7 million in resident spending to the region every year, supporting an estimated 1,018 full-time jobs, including dozens of local camps, outfitters, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's roadless areas are a haven for wildlife such as black bear, deer, wild turkey, grouse, and hundreds of bird species, as well as 25 endangered and threatened species and several sensitive species such as the eastern hellbender and the brook trout; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Forest Service data show that most wildfires start within 50 yards of a road, and the Roadless Rule thus provides a critical safeguard against wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule allows road construction and reconstruction in roadless areas when needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule allows the U.S. Forest Service to reduce wildfire fuel hazards through restoration projects in roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service has managed roadless areas in the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest responsibly and efficiently, to the benefit of all North Carolinians, and especially citizens of Brevard; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service now proposes to rescind the Roadless Rule, placing 143,972 acres of roadless areas in North Carolina at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1. The Brevard City Council recognizes and celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and acknowledges the importance of the rule's continued application in Western North Carolina.

Section 2. The Brevard City Council commends the U.S. Forest Service for its effective management of roadless areas in North Carolina pursuant to the Roadless Rule.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the U.S. Forest Service, the public, and the press.

Approved and adopted this 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor

K-2. Capital Project Amendment – Hillview/Mills Ave. Culvert Repair - $350,000

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-38
CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-22 MILLS AVENUE CULVERT REPAIR

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Brevard, North Carolina that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project ordinance is hereby amended:

Section 1: The budgeted expenditures and revenues listed under the ordinance 2025-22 will be increased by $350,000. As work has progressed on the project, two changes in scope have arisen involving active waterlines.

Change Order 1: the addition of a 6" valve on an active waterline that had to be relocated as part of the originally identified scope of work. Without adding this valve, it would have been necessary to turn water off to a significant number of households for up to 2 days. The city also did not have confidence that the existing old valves would hold to allow for completion of the work. This work will be an additional $20,519.20.

Change Order 2: the relocation of a 14" waterline that was indicated on the drawings and believed by the City to be in a different location than discovered. The city believed the 14" waterline would not conflict with installation of the new larger culvert. The actual location of the 14" waterline does create a direct conflict with the new larger culvert. Again, insertion valves are planned to be added, as it would be necessary to turn water off to an even greater significant number of households for up to 2 weeks. The city also does not have confidence that the existing old valves will hold to allow for completion of the work. This work will be an additional $234,319.60.

Section 2: In total, these change orders bring the expected expenditures on the project to a total of $1,462,199.56. The current project budget is $1,300,000. Due to project urgency, the City Manager used the authority under purchasing policy 2.10.C to approve the budget exceeding change orders.

Additionally, Assistant City Manager David Todd requests increasing the project amendment to $350,000 to account for potential complication that may arise.

The City has been in contact with our local FEMA representative and continues to have confidence that this entire project will be covered by FEMA.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Account Number	**Account Name**	**Budget Amount**
31-8540-5200	Mills Ave Culvert Repaid	$1,300,000
31-8540-5200	**Mills Ave Culvert Repair**	**$350,000**
	TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATION	**$1,650,000**

Section 4: The following revenues are anticipated to be available for project expenses:

Account Number	**Account Name**	**Budget Amount**
31-3760-0250	FEMA Reimbursement	$1,300,000
31-3760-0250	**FEMA Reimbursement**	**$350,000**
	TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE	**$1,650,000**

Section 5: The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the capital project fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the disclosure requirements of all the contractual agreements, if applicable.

Section 6: Funds may be advanced from the General Fund or from any Enterprise Fund as necessary for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests shall be made in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7: The Finance Director is directed to report, on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 and Section 4.
Section 8: The Finance Director is further instructed to include a detailed analysis of past and future revenues and expenses during each annual budget submission made to the Governing Board.

Section 9: Copies of this capital project shall be furnished to the City Clerk, Finance Director and City Manager for direction in carrying out this project.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, on this 8th day of September 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor
Approved as to Form: s/ Mack McKeller, City Attorney

K-3. Proclamation No. 2026-23 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

PROCLAMATION NO. 2026-23
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of September is designated as National Childhood Cancer Awareness

Month and serves as an outlet to honor the young lives taken too soon, and as a means to increase public awareness of this disease affecting children across the United States; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children with 1 in 264 children in the United States being diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is 8 years old, compared to 66 years for adults' cancer, and 1 out of 6 children with cancer in America do not survive five years; and

WHEREAS, 41 children per day or 15,550 children (age 0- 19) per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. Approximately 73% of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with 42% being classified as severe to life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe; and

WHEREAS, in the last 30 years only seven (7) new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding is critical to allow healthcare professionals to work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer; and

WHEREAS, many parents and family members feel terrified and are overwhelmed following a child's cancer diagnosis, therefore it is important to encourage additional non-profit organizations at the local and national level to assist children with cancer and their families in coping through educational, emotional and financial support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard hereby proclaim the month of September 2026 as **"Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"** in the City of Brevard and I encourage citizens, government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, the media, and other interested groups to increase awareness of what citizens can do to support the fight against childhood cancer.

Proclaimed this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor

K-4. Rosenwald Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2026

K-5. Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2026

K-6. Rosenwald Community Advisory Board Meeting Session Notes – July 16, 2026

K-7. Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2026

K-8. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2026

L. Unfinished Business

L-1. Proposed Amendment to the City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance Chapter 17; and the Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 – Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Regulations – David Todd recalled that Council held a public hearing on the proposed amendments at its last meeting on August 3, 2026. These amendments are required to bring the City into full compliance with our Wastewater Collection System permit, which requires that the City develop and implement an enforceable fats, oils and grease program.

Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to approve the amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance and Code or Ordinances as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-39
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 OF THE CITY OF BREVARD UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND CHAPTER 70 OF THE CITY OF BREVARD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND REGULATIONS FOR FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard's Wastewater Collection System is permitted through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, and the permit requires development and implementation of an educational and enforceable fats, oils, and grease (FOG) program; and

WHEREAS, text amendments are needed to both the City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance and the City of Brevard Code of Ordinances to bring the City into full compliance with the Wastewater Collection System permit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard Planning Board considered revisions to City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance Chapter 17 – Development Plan Regulations on June 23, 2026 and recommended in favor; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted on Monday, August 17, 2026, by the Brevard City Council, and, after hearing all persons wishing to comment, and upon review and consideration of the proposed amendments, it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Brevard that the Unified Development Ordinance and Code of Ordinances be amended as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

SECTION 01. The City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance and Code of Ordinances are hereby amended as depicted in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 02. As to any conflict between this Ordinance and any parts of existing ordinances, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

SECTION 03. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 04. This Ordinance shall be in full force and in effect from and after the date of its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved this the 8th day of September 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor
Approved as to Form: s/ Mack McKeller, City Attorney

L-2. Funding Plan for Cashiers Valley Road Sewer Extension – Combined with Item M-1.

M. New Business

M-1. Funding Plan for Cashiers Valley Road Sewer Extension / Menu of Options for Surplus Fund 82 (Rosenwald Fund) Dollars – Mr. Hooper referred to Staff's funding proposal for the Cashiers Valley Road Sewer Extension that was previously presented to Council, noting that it does include a $25,000 contribution from the Rosenwald Fund (Fund 82):

Fund # (Fund Name)	Contribution	Remaining usable balance
Fund 35 (W/S Capital Reserve)	$29,622	$50,000
Fund 82 (Rosenwald)	$25,000	$49,869
W/S Maintenance budget line 7400 (Capital Outlay)	$33,778	$366,222

Mr. Hooper then presented the following table of options for the $88,969 total available funds in Fund 82 for Council's consideration:

FUND 82			
Available balance as of 9/1/26			
$88,969			
#	Project Name	Amount	Description
1	Carolina Ave. traffic calming	$8,300	Four speed humps between Shipman Rd. and Silversteen Dr. Cost lower than anticipated because road width is narrower requiring only two bumps per installation rather than three like Probart
1a	Alt. Carolina Ave. traffic calming	$4,900	Two speed humps between Shipman Rd. and Silversteen Dr.
1b	Alt. Carolina Ave. traffic calming	$8,300	Two speed humps between Shipman Rd. and Silversteen Dr. One each on Washington and McMinn to deter evaders
2	Tax rebate program	$30,000	Staff estimate the funding would be sufficient for 40-50 rebates. Program guidelines endorsed by HR/F Comm. at August meeting.
3	S'steen Park shelter seed money	up to $88,000	Estimated project cost between $400k-$460k
4	HAC/Cashiers Valley Rd. sewer extension	$25,000-$88,000	See agenda item L.2. Would support the creation of 26 affordable homes in the neighborhood
5	Carver St. supplementary paving	$62,500	This would pave the sections of Carver St. not already scheduled for repaving with Powell Bill dollars.
6	Carver St. sidewalk enhancements design/engineering	$60,000	Engineered drawings for accesibility enhancements to Carver. St. sidewalk and Oakdale/Carver intersection improvements (see attached project description)

He noted that $89,000 isn't enough to do any significant infrastructure improvements on its own, so this is a mix of non-infrastructure projects and the early phases of potential infrastructure projects. The one exception to that would be the Cashiers Valley Rd. sewer extension.

Options 1 through 1b are permutations of the traffic calming project on Carolina Ave. When discussed in the spring, it was thought to be a $14,000 project, but when refining the numbers, it has been determined that it will be $8300 for the original proposal of four speed humps, and $4900 if only two speed humps were installed.

Option 2 is for a tax rebate program. Mayor Copelof informed Council that the City joined with The Haven, The Cove, Sharing House, and Pisgah Legal and put in an application to Dogwood Trust for $500,000 collaborative grant, which would be disbursed across those organizations. The City's portion is $60,000 ($30,000/year for the next 2 years) specifically for the tax rebate program. This collaborative application was one of 40 that was moved forward to the in-depth conversation phase, and that in-depth conversation was held with Dogwood this afternoon. They have indicated that they are planning to fund 30 of the 40 applications and they will announce awardees in mid-October. She said because it is looking promising I would ask Council to hold any funding of a tax rebate program in abeyance until we hear whether we get that grant.

Option 4 is the sewer extension for the HAC/Cashiers Valley Rd. housing project.

Option 5 – Mr. Hooper explained that currently only portions of Carver St. are scheduled to be paved in the next year and those are far enough down on the paving list that we need to get the quotes back before we know whether those sections will be done this year or will need to be delayed even further. If the pricing comes back as expected, segments of Carver should be paved in the year to come, but it would only be the sections that are most damaged. This option would add $62,500 from Fund 82 to supplement Powell Bill funds to fund the entire stretch of Carver St. from Oaklawn to the City parking lot.

Option 6 – This is a proposal to use a portion of the Fund 82 balance to fund the design and engineering of a larger capital improvement project to Carver St. and its intersection with Oakdale. Key elements of this project include:

- Sidewalk improvements – widen and upgrade the Carver St. sidewalk from Oaklawn to Oakdale to make it ADA accessible
- Pedestrian safety – improve the Carver St./Oakdale intersection with proper crosswalks and accessibility ramps
- Narrowing Carver St. by approximately one foot to provide additional space for the sidewalk
- Creating a continuous pedestrian connection by completing the approximately 100-foot missing section between Oakdale St. and MCJCCC

Mr. Todd added that there are currently some utility poles obstructing the sidewalk which will require obtaining permanent encroachment easements from property owners to route the sidewalk around the poles. In addition, there are numerous driveways along Carver St. which would require ramp and slope adjustments, requiring permanent easements and temporary construction easements.

The estimated construction cost is $600,000-$750,000. The proposed Fund 82 expenditure would cover only the design and engineering, not construction. A separate funding source would need to be identified for construction. This proposal would spend Fund 82 money now to develop bid-ready plans for this, while allowing the City to pursue construction funding later. While the project would be Powell Bill eligible, funding it entirely through Powell Bill would consume roughly three years of Powell Bill funds, delaying street paving elsewhere in the city.

Mr. Todd noted that ideally, sidewalk work should be completed before paving Carver Street. Paving first would require newly paved areas to be torn up for sidewalk construction, resulting in patches in the new asphalt.

Mr. Hooper added that none of these options are time sensitive except for Option 5. Staff would need to know soon if Council wishes to go ahead with that option because we are waiting for bids and want to be able to act on those bids as soon as they come back so we can reserve our spot and get that paving started as soon as possible in the spring. It would be helpful to know what the scope of that contract is going to be. If Council is leaning toward any of the others, it is less important and you can take another few weeks to decide.

During questions/comments from Council, Mr. Lytle said he believes that these funds should be used for visible infrastructure projects in the Rosenwald Community, and since there is another fund specifically earmarked for sewer, he thinks those are the funds that should be used to fund the Cashiers Valley Rd. sewer extension. He said he would advocate for Carolina Ave. traffic calming and Option #5, which would be two complete and visible projects done with these funds.

Mr. Daniel said he would prefer Option 1b for Carolina Ave. traffic calming. He was unsure why the tax rebate program was listed as an option as it is not related to infrastructure and wouldn't be limited to Rosenwald residents. He was not in favor of using the funds as seed money for the Silversteen Park shelter. He said the HAC Cashiers Valley sewer extension is a priority whether it comes from this fund or the Water/Sewer Fund. My priority is going to be housing.

Mr. Baker said it is absurd that Duke Energy is allowed to put poles in the middle of sidewalks and I would like us to talk with them about helping out with moving those poles. He asked if any part of the construction in Option 6 could be done in phases and said that sidewalk enhancement is a high priority for me. He said I understand it is not visible nor is it going to be a completed project, but we do need to plan for it, and we don't have the money to plan for it right now. He reminded everyone that the HAC sewer extension is connected to a grant that we've applied for, and if we get that grant not only would it build 26 homes in Rosenwald, but the grant also included $1M for home repair for existing homes. He said his preference would be to move forward with

one of the traffic calming measures at $8300, the Carver St. sidewalk enhancements at $60,000, and the remaining $20,669 for the HAC sewer extension.

Ms. Holder said I would like to hear from residents about what they want. I would also like to hear options about what we can do about the sewer extension. If this money were not here, how would you address that problem? This can't be the only option because Rosenwald's money has not always been there, and we have other sewer projects that are complete, so I would like to see other options. Silversteen Park was promised a restroom and a shelter years ago, and if there is seed money there it may be easier to find more money and people to invest in the project. She asked how the roads and sidewalks are paid for now and how did they get to be the worst in the city before it was addressed even now? We've already given $11,000 to the soccer field from this fund so we're chipping at it bit by bit and there still won't be a shelter or a restroom, so I would like to see what the other options are. It's a small budget and I feel like there can be other options to address these other problems and get back to the promise that was made years ago. When another community came and needed speed bumps, it seems it happened expeditiously, so why are we having to go into this fund to get speed bumps. Before we move forward with this...not make a decision tonight...I would like to get comments from our constituents to find out what everybody wants and lets be in agreement with this.

Mr. Wise said the top two things that I hear about, and I think most of City Council hears about is affordable housing and sidewalks and streets. There is no housing in our community, and all over the city—Carver may be one of the worst; it's not the only worst one—we have issues. And Rosenwald is lucky because it's the only neighborhood that has a discreet fund right now that we made a promise to use for these exact projects. I want to honor that promise and use this for those kind of infrastructure projects. The HAC housing to me is critical because housing is the #1 thing we hear about—it is homeownership and it could provide $1M for home repair targeted in Rosenwald, which is an opportunity I think we cannot pass up. I don't see how we don't move forward with Carver St. if we have the opportunity to fix it. I feel that is really critical for us. I would be in favor of the Carver St. sidewalks. I am very apprehensive about paving Carver and then having to tear it back up. During the budget retreat we did make a promise to deal with Carolina Avenue.

Ms. Holder said that I feel like the HAC sewer extension project was already decided upon before the Rosenwald money came up, so I'm trying to understand why we're trying to put it in there. I would like to see Rosenwald taken out of those options.

Mr. Lytle said $25,000 on an $88,000 budget is a large percentage, but $25,000 from a $2.5M budget is a small percentage. If all we need is $25,000, I'm not sure why it needs to come out of anywhere other than the Water/Sewer fund balance. I just want to say affordable housing, obviously, but remember anyone, including folks that don't live in Transylvania County can take advantage of the housing that is going up in Rosenwald. The housing will happen whether or not $25,000 is taken out of this fund, so let's put in infrastructure projects that are visible. $60,000 for engineer drawings, I know they're necessary, but I think if we supplement the Powell Bill work that's already being done we get a finished product that's safe right away. I think we're all in agreement with Carolina Ave.

Mr. Daniel recalled that he was against establishing this fund and felt like it was creating a fund for one community at the expense of the other communities in our city. He said we created this fund for infrastructure in Rosenwald and now we're debating about not spending it for infrastructure in Rosenwald. The HAC community is in Rosenwald. We are talking about sewer infrastructure and the people who will be living in those houses are going to be citizens of the Rosenwald Community. I don't understand why we shouldn't spend this money on the sewer extension. If there is money elsewhere that's fine, but I think the point has been made that money is needed elsewhere as well. This is money that is unallocated and this is a small amount that is coming out of a fund that was created for this purpose.

Mr. Wise said in terms of the $2.5M Water/Sewer fund balance, I want to reminded people that we are on the cusp of an $80M wastewater treatment plant improvement. We are also looking at a new water intake because we only have one. Not to mention the miles of underground water/sewer infrastructure that we have to maintain that we just finished mapping and have found multiple issues with. This money is so over-allocated at this point with all the other infrastructure that would improve the entire city, including Rosenwald. I would just be careful about thinking of that as just money whereas we do have a discreet fund specifically for infrastructure improvement in this neighborhood.

Mayor Copelof noted that no action was requested this evening; that this was for information and discussion only and to give the Manager an idea of what Council's position was. Mr. Hooper said he would bring back some follow-up items in the weeks to come.

M-2. Appointment of At-Large Member to the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board – As Chair of the Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee Mr. Lytle reported that the committee reviewed applications for the vacant at-large seat on the Ecusta Trial Advisory Board and recommended the appointment of Joseph Moore as an At-Large Member.

Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to appoint Joseph Moore as an At-Large Member of the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-46
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN AT-LARGE MEMBER TO THE ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2024 City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-31 Updating the Membership and Charge of the Brevard/Transylvania Ecusta Trail Advisory Board (ETAB); and

WHEREAS, the membership of the ETAB was reconstituted to include two members of Brevard City Council, two at-large members, and one representative from each of the following entities, per each entity's recommendation: Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority, Friends of Ecusta Trail, Conserving Carolina, Transylvania Economic Alliance, Heart of Brevard, and Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, the membership terms are indefinite; and

WHEREAS, At-Large member Madeline Hanley resigned from the board on June 2, 2026, leaving a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Staff conducted an open recruitment for citizens interested in serving on the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the applications received during the recruitment period were reviewed by the Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee at their July 27, 2026 meeting, and the Committee reviewed supplementary responses from the candidates at their August 24, 2026 meetings and recommended that Joseph M. Moore be appointed as an At-Large member of the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

The Brevard City Council does hereby appoint Joseph M. Moore as an At-Large member of the Brevard/Transylvania County Ecusta Trail Advisory Board.

Adopted and approved this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor

M-3. Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) – This item was removed from the agenda.

N. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations.

Ms. Holder thanked Chief Wentzell and said I know that took a lot because when a leader makes a decision to do something, and we have to go back on it, it is not

without clear thought, the process of letting go, but also the process of realizing what the people want, and you did both. To Lauren's point re the $2.5M, the $25,000 in Rosenwald is about 1% of that $2.5M—not that much money for funds that were already set aside for sewer, so I will always hold to that. I just had a realization that is bothering me. I heard someone say that the citizens of Rosenwald should feel lucky that we have this money in Rosenwald. I think if we can wrap our heads around, myself included, that we're not just citizens of Rosenwald, we're citizens of Brevard, and if we look at each other like that, we won't even have to have these conversations. All the roads would be equally well-taken care of; we wouldn't have to have conversations about where money is coming from for sewer because it's in Rosenwald. I think if we look at each other as citizens of Brevard; we all live together, we work together, we eat at restaurants together. I live in Brevard; we live in Brevard.

Mr. Baker said I'm going to speak to the existence of this Rosenwald Fund, and what we did tonight was essentially like a budget exercise. The most painful things we do all year are budget exercises, and now we're talking about a budget exercise for a neighborhood, and a neighborhood with a history of being underfunded by the City. It makes these conversations extremely difficult and tense, and it creates a division amongst the folks up here that I don't enjoy. When we're having these discussions about the Rosenwald Fund, what goes unsaid is that there are two Black councilmembers up here, and there are three white councilmembers up here. I don't like thinking about that; I don't want to do that anymore because as Councilwoman Holder said, we are all citizens of Brevard. Whatever happens with the Rosenwald Fund, we need to close this chapter out, we need to do what's right, and I'm not sure what that is right now, but we'll figure it out, and then we need to get back to doing the business of the City and the whole city. I believe we can do that. I want to thank the Chief. Councilman Lytle and I serve on the Public Safety Committee, so we heard about this a lot at multiple meetings. Dean asked so many good questions and we learned a lot through that process, but here we are at the end. The Chief did such a great job informing us about the issue, but beyond that she had policies written and ready to go that I am comfortable saying would keep the citizens of Brevard safe and that our officers would handle that in a good way. But, as I learned more about this, these are not just cameras connected to a server that is located within the Police Department. All of this data is housed somewhere else. We sign a contract that says we own that data, but when you're talking about sensitive information from the public, it is hard to trust a third-party multi-billion dollar security company that this sensitive data is going to be safe. That is why I am not a fan of these and moving forward with this right now. I didn't get a chance to say this at the committee level and probably should have, but I do think that there is a larger theme here which is the vision that we have for the Police Department. We have been through a lot with the Department over the last few years, we had a complete turnover in the leadership over there, but throughout that we were pretty clear we wanted a community-based Police Department, that they were out and about and they would be visible. I know that this technology does not mean that they would be sitting behind a screen doing all their police work there, but it does make you think about what putting cameras up symbolizes in terms of where our Department is going. I'm glad we didn't make that decision tonight. I'm also glad that the public was able to weigh in, and I'm really proud of the transparent process that we undertook, and I hope we can continue doing that in the future. He asked Mr. Hooper if we have heard from the County regarding our letter to the County about the courthouse. Mr. Hooper responded that we have not.

Mr. Daniel said I would like to thank Mr. Baker for his words about the Rosenwald account, because I felt like those comments were directed at me personally, as I am the one who used the term Rosenwald Community. This is an account that was set up that has the name Rosenwald on it, so it is just the Rosenwald Community's money, and we've heard that said by members of the Rosenwald Community—that it's our money, not that it's the City's money. I would like to see us get refocused on the Ecusta Trail. I feel like as a council we don't talk about it much, and I still don't feel like we're ready for what's coming our way. I read an article that David Bradley wrote about the Ecusta Trail, and he mentions a fellow by the name of Steve Bert of the Institute of Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State who I believe has

written a study for how this trail will affect the City of Brevard in particular. I would ask that our Staff follow up on that. If that actually exists, I would be interested to see the results of that. I would like to encourage us and remind us that there is a tidal wave coming our way that's called the Ecusta Trail. It's going to be a huge economic driver, and we need to be ready and I'm not sure that we are right now.

Mr. Lytle said I see tonight as a positive. We're elected to challenge each other; we're not elected for groupthink. When we challenge each other, it allows us to get to decisions that are best. I grew up in Rosenwald, I rode my bike every weekend to Franklin Park, we played football by the library. This whole town is all of ours and I see myself as a citizen of Brevard. My thoughts tonight would have been the same no matter where I lived in the city. My thoughts were based on logic, my own logic and what I thought was best, not because I live in Rosenwald. I've prepared a statement tonight because I think it's worth it given what's transpired the last few days and tonight. I did that so that the Chief understands how important I think this is. I just want to say a few words about the license plate reader discussion and the public session we held.

First, I want to thank everyone who came to that and participated. Regardless of where everyone stood on the technology itself, I learned something important at that meeting. What I heard was a deep level of concern about privacy, and especially about how much trust people currently have in the federal government and in large corporations when it comes to their personal information. It occurred to me that most citizens don't have many meaningful ways to push back on those larger institutions. They can't walk into the boardroom of a major tech company, and most people have very little direct influence over federal policy. But they can come here. They can stand in front of their city council and tell us what concerns them. In some ways the discussion was about more than just three cameras in Brevard. This was one place where people felt they could make their voices heard about a much larger concern over privacy and surveillance. I think it's important that we listened. I also want to recognize Chief Wentzell. She and her department put a tremendous amount of work into researching this technology, developing safeguards, answering our questions, and engaging with the community. Her decision to withdraw the request should not be viewed as a failure of proposal. I view it as a demonstration of leadership. She has only been Chief for a relatively short time, but I've been very impressed with what I've seen. She's shown that public trust matters to her, and that she's willing to listen even when that means considering something she believes could help her department. There's a difference between having authority and having the trust of the community you serve. The best public safety leaders understand you need both. I believe the Chief demonstrated that here and I appreciate her leadership. This also doesn't mean that Brevard can never discuss emerging public safety technology again. It means that when we do, the community deserves to be a part of that conversation, and public trust has to be a part of the decision.

Mr. Hooper reminded Council that at the next Ecusta Trail Advisory Board meeting at the end of this month there will be a presentation on the estimated cost of the trail. We were holding off on doing a lot of additional work regarding the trail until we found out whether or not we were going to be able to afford. I can report that the estimated cost is within the realm of possibility and in the neighborhood of what we expected. There's still some work to do to close a small funding gap, but I do think that the trail will move forward. We will be able to build it and so we are going to pick up some of those issues that have been tabled for a little while and redouble our efforts to make sure we're prepared for the arrival of the trail here.

Mayor Copelof said I too want to thank Chief Wentzell, and I want to thank the public. One of our priorities is to hear what people have to say, and we give opportunity to the public to come to us in different forums and express your opinion. We do listen, and yes it is "we the people." That was demonstrated very clearly with the public input session that had such wonderful turnout, as well as people coming here tonight prepared again to speak. We heard your concerns and we reacted and took action on those. Because we believe in transparency and communication we are going to start holding quarterly town hall meetings in different areas of the city. We held one in Rosenwald a couple months ago and we're going to hold our next one in the Pisgah

Forest area on September 29th at the Recreation Center from 6-8pm. It will focus on things that are happening in that section of town. Staff will be there to give updates on things like the Ecusta Trail, the parking lot at the Sports Complex, the proposed housing on Morris Rd., and NCDOT will talk about what is happening with their projects. I encourage people to take advantage of the fact that we are putting information out, and then give you a chance to give us feedback afterwards. The next Meet the Mayor will be on September 24th at the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center from 11:30am to 1pm.

O. Closed Sessions

O-1. Economic Development: NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) – At 7:42 p.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Lytle to go into closed session to discuss an economic development matter, and to clear Council Chambers. The motion carried unanimously. City Manager Wilson Hooper, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Dean Luebbe and City Clerk Denise Hodsdon were authorized to remain for the closed session with Council and the City Attorney.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 8:50 p.m. Council resumed the meeting in regular session. No official action was taken in closed session, and the minutes of the closed session are authorized to be sealed.

P. Adjourn – There being no further business, at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Lytle moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Copelof
Mayor

Denise Hodsdon, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes Approved: September 21, 2026

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