Friday – December 5, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

Special Meeting

Present: Mayor Esther E. Manheimer, Presiding; Vice-Mayor S. Antanette Mosley; Councilman Bo Hess; Councilwoman Kim Roney; Councilwoman Sheneika Smith; Councilwoman Sage Turner; Councilwoman Maggie Ullman; City Attorney Brad Branham; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

At 9:00 a.m. Councilman Hess moved to go into closed session for the following reason: (1) To prevent disclosure of information that is privileged and confidential, pursuant to the laws of North Carolina, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. The statutory authorization is contained in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(1).The law that makes the information privileged and confidential is N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.10(e); and (2) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; and to establish or to instruct the City's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City in negotiating (i) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. The statutory authorization is contained in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a) subsections (5) and (6). This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Ullman and carried on a 7-0 vote.

At 9:22 a.m., Councilwoman Ullman moved to adjourn the closed session. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roney and carried on a 7-0 vote.

At 9:30 a.m., City Council returned to open session to (1) appoint a new City Manager effective January 12, 2026; and (2) appoint an interim City Manager effective December 6, 2025, to serve until such time as the full time City Manager begins employment.

Mayor Manheimer spoke about the extensive process used to search for a new City Manager.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-280 - RESOLUTION APPOINTING DAKISHA (DK) WESLEY AS THE NEW CITY MANAGER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 12, 2026, AND TO BE EMPLOYED AS OF THAT DATE PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN HER AND THE CITY, AND SAID AGREEMENT IS HEREBY RATIFIED

Vice-Mayor Mosley moved to appoint Dakisha (DK) Wesley to serve as the Asheville City Manager as of January 12, 2026, and to be employed as of that date pursuant to the terms of the Employment Agreement between her and the City, and said agreement is hereby ratified. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Ullman and carried on a 7-0 vote.

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-281 - RESOLUTION APPOINTING BEN WOODY AS INTERIM CITY MANAGER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 6, 2025, TO SERVE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE FULL TIME CITY MANAGER BEGINS EMPLOYMENT

Councilwoman Turner moved to appoint Ben Woody as Interim City Manager, effective December 6, 2025, to serve until such time as the full time City Manager assumes the role. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roney and carried on a 7-0 vote.

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Ms. Wesley thanked City Council for their confidence and spoke regarding her commitment to serving the City of Asheville.

Mayor Manheimer adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

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City Clerk Mayor