MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The Brevard City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Copelof presiding.

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

Staff Present – City Attorney Mack McKeller, City Manager Wilson Hooper, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Dean Luebbe, Assistant to the City Manager Alex Shepherd, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Human Resources Director Kelley Craig, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Police Chief Tom Jordan, Public Works Director Wesley Shook, Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC Emory Owen, Water Treatment Plant ORC Dennis Richardson, Community Center Director Tyree Griffin, Fire Captain Adam Hughey, and Members of Brevard Police Department

Press – Jon Rich, Transylvania Times and Dan DeWitt, Brevard NewsBeat

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

B. Invocation – Pastor Victor Foster of Glade Creek Baptist Church 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. Morrow moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Minutes

F-1. April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting – Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comments

Nora Jane Montgomery said I am speaking on behalf of Brevard Bike Alliance, a grassroots organization that seeks to use engagement, education, and advocacy to enhance human powered transportation and recreation. We believe safety, access and equity strengthen our community. I am speaking to you tonight to urge you to retain the $132,000 of funding toward the multi-use path fund. We appreciate the budget is tight this year, but we fear abandoning this dedicated money will be a step backward for the trail and for our community. Over the years Council has repeatedly pledged to the citizens of Brevard to build and complete the Estatoe path. The project was first discussed by Council as early as 1996 and the earliest section was completed in 2003. For 20-plus years we have chipped away at completing a multi-use path that would connect our schools, our businesses, and our community. Currently the City of Brevard reports that the project is 85% complete. With just 15% remaining to complete this meaningful capital project, abandoning annual dedicated funding would be a message to our community that we do not care about completing the projects we started long ago. During your annual budget prioritization retreat councilmembers stated the

importance of finishing the projects already begun. Of seven goals set during this retreat, completing the Estatoe Trail checks four of those goals: infrastructure, economic development, safety, and connectivity and transportation network. In August 2018 the City passed a resolution to complete the construction of the Estatoe path within three years. Just over a year ago Council unanimously adopted the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Of the goals listed in the document, the top priority was completion of the Estatoe path. Barely a year old, it is imperative that we see this plan enacted. We assert that the Estatoe Trail is indeed a critical link for our students to travel to school safely; for folks who don't have access to vehicles to be able to go to work, the grocery, the pharmacy; for our local community members to have access to recreation opportunities including the imminent Ecusta Trail; and for our community to reflect inclusivity, wellness, and safety. We are here today to ask you to honor the promises you have made to the people of Brevard and to finish this project before you choose to cut the dedicated funding for the Estatoe Trail. While we do thank you for the $25,000 you allocated to the fund, we believe it is crucial to retain the annual earmarked funding of one-penny per tax dollar. Thank you for your time.

Emma Zanetti said I want to address all of you this evening on behalf of some of the owners of businesses on West Jordan Street. My business is called Newfound Artisan and I am here on behalf of me, Paper and Wood and Starfangled Press. Our businesses are located on West Jordan Street inside the Heart of Brevard. The purpose of me being here today is to express our disappointment with the City's communication regarding the stormwater upgrades that are being conducted in the Times Arcade Alley and West Jordan Street. We are also concerned about the extended timeline for the project. To date, there has been very little official public communication about the persistent closure of Jordan Street. To be clear, we are not upset about the project in general as we are all well aware of the importance of this project to address critical infrastructure issues. We were happy that the plan was to complete the project during a slower season. However, we recently learned via a Hub for the Arts Committee meeting that the project will not be completed before White Squirrel Weekend as originally planned. We also learned that there was an agreement made with the City and/or contractors to pause work during lunch service at Square Root to accommodate the restaurant's desire to serve lunch on their patio. It is disturbing to know that this agreement took place without consideration for the other businesses that would be affected by this decision. One can only assume that by taking extended breaks to accommodate one business has led, at least in part, to the delay that was just communicated to us via our Arts Committee meeting. In addition to this recent news, we are disappointed that the City has not been consistently communicating with the general public about Jordan Street closures. The lack of communication has been brought to the attention of the Mayor, the Planning Department, and the Heart of Brevard. We do not believe the communication breakdown is the fault of the Communications Director, who has demonstrated a strong ability to communicate clearly and effectively. We suspect the Communications Director is not being given the necessary information from the Planning Department, which is ultimately responsible for the management of this project. We are collectively asking the City to ensure that moving forward there is clear and consistent communication to the public about street closures on Jordan Street and the impact those closures will have on the businesses located there. For example, we would like the communications to include whether a street closure means sidewalks are also closed or not, whether people will still be able to access businesses and the public parking lot on Jordan Street. We believe these communications can be made via the City's text messaging platform as well as its social media platforms. We are also asking for another stakeholder meeting so that businesses and other stakeholders can receive an official update and engage in discussion with the City staff regarding the management of this project and how it continues to affect our business.

H. Certificates/Awards/Recognition

H-1. Recognition of Police Officer Wilson Bunn Promotion to Sergeant – Police Chief Tom Jordan recognized Police Officer Wilson Bunn who came to Brevard as a Detective and has been promoted to Sergeant. Chief Jordan presented Sergeant Bunn

with his Sergeant's badge and his daughters Rebecca and Isabella pinned the badge on his uniform.

H-2. Proclamation No. 2024-09 National Police Week & Peace Officer's Memorial Day 2024 – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Police Chief Tom Jordan.

Proclamation No. 2024-09
National Police Week and
Peace Officer's Memorial Day 2024
Brevard, North Carolina

WHEREAS, the Congress and the President of the United States have designated that there be a national Law Enforcement Officers Week; and

WHEREAS, the members of the law enforcement agencies of North Carolina play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedom of the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Brevard Police Department and the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 36th Annual Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of Monday, May 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their law enforcement offices and agencies, and that members of those agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Brevard recognize and appreciate the contributions made by law enforcement officers at all levels of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Maureen Copelof and the Brevard City Council, call upon all citizens to observe Wednesday, **May 15, 2024**, as "**PEACE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY**" and **May 12-18, 2024** as "**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**" in Brevard, North Carolina, and that all of our people join in commemorating law enforcement officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities. In so doing, they have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

H-3. Proclamation No. 2024-08 Older Americans Month, May 2024 – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Dr. Paula Hartman-Stein, Community Coordinator for Brevard's Age-Friendly Community Initiative.

Proclamation No. 2024-08
Older Americans Month

Whereas, May is Older Americans Month, a time for us to recognize and honor older adults and their immense influence on every facet of American society; and

Whereas, through their wealth of life experience and wisdom, older adults guide our younger generations and carry forward abundant cultural and historical knowledge; and

Whereas, older Americans improve our communities through intergenerational relationships, community service, civic engagement, and many other activities; and

Whereas, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate and live independently; and

Whereas, we must ensure that older Americans have the resources and support needed to stay involved in our community – reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and connectedness.

Now, therefore, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of Brevard, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as Older Americans Month in the City of Brevard. This year's theme, "Powered by Connection," emphasizes the profound impact of meaningful interactions and social connection on the well-being and health of older adults in our community.

We call upon all residents to join us in recognizing the contributions of our older citizens and promoting programs and activities that foster connection, inclusion, and support for older adults.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed on this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/Maureen Copelof
Mayor

H-4. Joint Proclamation of May as Mental Health Month in Transylvania County, the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman – Mayor Copelof noted that this is a joint proclamation of Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman. She read the proclamation aloud and presented it to representatives of TC Strong Nicole Essenberg, Beth Ford and Rik Emaus.

A Proclamation
Mental Health Month in Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of our community members, especially our youth, are paramount to the vitality and resilience of Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman; and

WHEREAS, recent tragic events, including student suicides, have underscored the urgent need for increased awareness, support, and action to address mental health challenges in our community; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an integral component of overall health and wellness, and access to comprehensive mental health resources and support services is essential for all individuals to thrive; and

WHEREAS, stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health concerns often prevent individuals from seeking the help and support they need, perpetuating cycles of suffering and isolation; and

WHEREAS, by coming together as a community, we can break down barriers, foster empathy, and create a culture of understanding, compassion, and acceptance for those experiencing mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, combat stigma, and promote mental health resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned leaders of Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman, do hereby proclaim May as Mental Health Month and call upon all residents to join us in our commitment to prioritize mental health and well-being for ourselves, our families, and our community.

We urge individuals to:

- Educate themselves and others about mental health and the importance of seeking help when needed.
- Foster supportive and inclusive environments where individuals feel safe to share their experiences and seek support without fear of judgment or stigma.
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote mental health awareness, access to care, and suicide prevention efforts.
- Encourage open and honest conversations about mental health, reducing the silence and shame that often surround these issues.
- Access available mental health resources and support services and encourage others to do the same.

Together, let us work tirelessly to create a community where mental health is valued, prioritized, and supported, and where every individual feels empowered to live their lives to the fullest.

This the 22nd day of April, 2024.

s/ Jason R. Chappell
Chair, Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor, City of Brevard

s/ Brian Shelton
Mayor, Town of Rosman

H-5. Proclamation No. 2024-10 Professional Municipal Clerks Week – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-10
55th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 5 - May 11, 2024

Whereas, the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

Whereas, the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

Whereas, the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels: and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

Whereas, the Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations; and

Whereas, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, do recognize the week of May 5 through May 11, 2024, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, Denise Hodsdon, and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed on this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

I. Special Presentations

I-1. Personnel Policy Revisions – Kelley Craig explained that in coordination with the annual budget process, staff has been reviewing the City's Personnel Policy to identify any updates and/or amendments that may be recommended or necessary. This year Staff has recommended three changes to the Personnel Policy. These changes are all employee-focused and help in the City's efforts to retain and attract its employees. The proposed changes have been reviewed by the Finance/HR and Citizen Appointment Committee with a recommendation for Council to approve. The proposed changes are as follows:

- On-Call pay increase from the rate of $0.90 per hour to $2.00 per hour. This applies to employees in Public Works and the Police Department who are responsible for being on-call 24 hours a day/7days a week. The budgetary impact is approximately $15,000 (including taxes and benefits) and this increased cost is already factored into the FY25 recommended budget.

- Floating Holiday – as a result of the inquiry into adding anther paid holiday for President's Day, staff recommend adding a floating holiday for employees which provides the flexibility for employees to use on a day of their choice that has a special meaning to them.

- Revisions to Paid Parental Leave Policy – This policy was approved in 2023 and grants six weeks of paid leave for individuals who have had the birth, adoption or fostering of a child. The policy required employees to be employed for a period of one year in order to be eligible. The revised recommendation would provide a prorated leave amount for those with less than one year of service (but at least 30 days of employment) in incremental weeks.

- 30 days to 6 months = 2 weeks of paid parental leave
- 6 months to one year = 4 weeks of paid parental leave
- 1 year or more = 6 weeks of paid parental leave

Ms. Craig noted that in addition to these policy recommendations, there are some other HR-related items in the proposed budget. The recommended budget includes a cost-of-living increase of 3.25% for all employees. We are also recommending a change to part-time Firefighter wages with a minimum hourly rate of $16.40 and this will be the final step in getting those employees to a living wage. The final piece included in the budget is taking the 401K for general employees from a 3% match to a 401K contribution of 4% for all general employees.

I-2. FY2025 Recommended Budget Presentation, FY2024 Supplemental Spending Plan, and Set Date for Public Hearing – Mr. Hooper presented his Recommended FY 2024-2025 Annual Budget to Council (copy on file in the Clerk's Office). A copy of Mr. Hoopers PowerPoint presentation is attached.

The City of Brevard FY24-25 Recommended Budget is $26,538,255. Mr. Hooper noted that the budget maintains or enhances service levels in all departments. Our three big revenue sources – property tax, sales tax, and interest income- have grown slightly but not by a lot. All their growth is basically automatically swallowed up by growth in the costs of providing services. To make the budget work we need new or enhanced revenue. Therefore he is recommending the following:

- Revised solid waste/sanitation fees to recover more of the costs of providing the service. Because the sanitation fund is a money loser, it is recommended that sanitation be brought back under the General Fund, rather than a standalone enterprise.

    - Proposing a $1/month increase to residential and small commercial collection fees
    - Proposing a more significant increase in commercial dumpster fees from $20/month to $100/month

- Two-cent tax increase to fund three new full time firefighters to enable the department to have at least two full-time firefighters on every shift;

- A new "stormwater fee" to support maintenance and enhancement of our stormwater conveyance system. Mr. Hooper offered a number of tiered fee options for Council's consideration, with his recommendation being $4/month for properties with an impervious area under 7,000 sq. ft; $15/month for 7,001 to 250,000 sq. ft. of impervious area; and $150/month for over 250,000 sq. ft.

- A High Strength Waste Surcharge on utility customers whose wastes have higher levels of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) that burden our treatment processes. Rates will be based on how much TSS and BOD each customer produces to offset the extra costs to treat high strength waste. There will be an appeal procedure for those who believe they produce less TSS and BOD than their assigned category.

- Regular 4% increase in the per/1000 gallons utility rate to start saving for our upcoming capital projects.

Mr. Hooper reviewed the balances of the City's six largest reserve funds. He is recommending an FY24 Supplementary Spending Plan that would use some of the existing dollars in these funds to pay for some important projects without burdening the FY25 budget. The Multi-Use Path Fund and the Downtown Master Plan Fund will both be endowed with $25,000 from the operating budget.

Mr. Hooper then reviewed examples of the cumulative impact of the various proposed tax rate and fee increases on taxpayers/ratepayers.

Mr. Hooper noted if Council has any recommended changes, Staff will publish those an addendum to the Recommended Budget so that they can be part of Council's menu of choices in preparation of the vote on June 3rd.

~~ At 7:09 PM Mayor Copelof called for a ten-minute break ~~

Council Discussion/Questions:

Mr. Daniel said I have some concerns about the budget. I am happy that a lot of the increases in this budget are in support of our staff. I feel that some of the cuts that have been made don't necessarily reflect the will of the Council or of our citizens. I think that some of these expenses that we have incurred, such as the Police move to Commerce Street, has changed our budget more than I personally expected it to. I understand why we did that, but at the same time I think we could divert some of the money we are spending. Instead of getting two police cars, perhaps we could get one and put that money back into the Estatoe Trail Multi-Use Fund. I think there is also, looking at Page 80, I was wondering where on this is the Recreation Fund Item 1500 M&R Buildings is increasing by $15,000. I am trying to look at some of these items. Downtown planters is $20,400 and if we're in a budget crunch, do we need to be spending that kind of money on planters? I think there are some ways to trim things that aren't quite as important to our infrastructure and ongoing business of running the city that would allow us to meet some of the needs that I feel like we have.

Mr. Baker said I think tackling stormwater and the issue of high strength waste are complicated issues and I commend Staff for their efforts in those two areas of the budget and trying to introduce those ideas for the City going forward, but do so with an eye towards fairness. One big concern that I have is the particular impact on a business like Classic Laundry and I wonder if there is a provision we can make to give them some extra time to assess whether they are going to take the step of proving that their wastewater might not be as high-strength as we think it is, and if there is some sort of pre-treatment that they are going to enact in order to lower where they sit in the tiers, that we give them some extra time to implement that pre-treatment. There are two main areas where my concerns lie. I'll start with the issue at the Fire Department. Like it or not, we're in a partnership with the County on this and it makes sense for local governments to be able to partner on things like this. The subtext to all of this is frankly the County's reputation and how they handle their budgets versus how we handle our budgets. It is important to call that out when we're talking about increasing our services, but it is not just the services for the city's taxpayers; there are county taxpayers who will benefit from this increase in services as well. I'm struck by a couple of things that were said. I believe that the medical response addition was a County requirement and that represents a huge increase in the number of calls that our Department is responding to and the County required us to make that change. Where we're down to here is that we're signing on for a tax increase for our city residents in order to boost services for not just them, but also the county. I don't dispute the need, but I think the timing of this should be considered. As it is, I'm not comfortable with moving forward with this budget and this tax increase and this increase in services in the Fire Department before we talk to our partner and really understand the impact long-term. If we pay for these three full-time positions in the Fire Department 100% from the City's budget, which right now it is 45/55, the County is not going to show up in three years and say "you know those three firefighters you paid for three years ago, we would love to pay for 45% of their salaries now". This is a decision that we are making for a long time, I would argue forever. So before we do that, I think we need to take a look at that contract, and this may be a year-long process, and negotiate that for the long-term and talk about things like the medical response requirement and the impact that has had on our call volume. If we are truly in a partnership with the County, they should be understanding of that impact and where we would like to see the department go and the services that it might provide for county residents going forward. The second concern I have is some of the major priorities that this Council and

previous Councils have set in the past. I'm going to talk about housing and the multi-use path. Last year was the very first year that we assigned funds for housing in any meaningful way and that was two cents or $264,000 a year. While this budget assigns $198,000 this year, I'm struck by the fact that we're in our second year of addressing housing and we are already taking a step back from the funding that we're allocating towards it. I don't think anybody would argue that the problem with housing has gotten better in the last year and I also don't think that anybody on this Council would agree that it is a lower priority than it was last year. We're also in the very middle of a real tangible promising project with our partners at DFI. So, the idea of taking a step back in our support for housing is something that I personally just cannot stomach in this budget. In my mind this is not the year to take a step back from our financial support for the Estatoe Trail. Yes, the Ecusta Trail is a transformative project, but that is almost entirely funded by two very large federal grants. We get a reputation sometimes for doing things only for tourists, which is completely unfair and false, but if we're truly embarking on the Ecusta Trail project as a project not just for our visitors, but for our citizens, then the Estatoe Trail, the City's trail network, is the key to providing access to the Ecusta Trail to our citizens. To reduce our funding from the Multi-Use Path Fund from one cent of the tax rate at $132,000 down to $25,000 a year is something that I don't think is in our strategic best interest given the projects that we have going on, and frankly I think it is contrary to the will of many, many Councils' opinions before us. The resolution that was passed in 2018 that we would finish the multi-use path in three years was certainly ambitious and we have missed that goal, but I maintain that we should continue along the path of completing that for our citizens in time for them to enjoy the Ecusta Trail once it is built. I agree with Councilman Daniel that there is another subtext to the budget which is that the increase in expenditures that we're experiencing is in large part in the Police Department and the move to Commerce Street is about a quarter-million dollars a year in increased expense. I don't think any of us are arguing whether that was important or not, or whether we support it, I think we absolutely do, but I think we do need to find a way to balance out the priorities of the Council that have existed for sometimes over 20 years in the case of the Estatoe Trail, and some of these new issues that we need to deal with. Sometimes there does need to be a give and a take between departments within the city and projects that we have, and given how much money we are dedicating to supporting the employees in the Police Department now, if there are ways that we can offset that or put off the purchase of the patrol cars in order to fund the priorities that have been around for a long time, then I think I would be supportive of that.

Mr. Wise said I think there has been a lot of great progress towards the goals we talked about during our budget retreat, but I also have some concerns and we have heard most of them tonight already from our previous two councilmembers. I'll take it a little bit further with the Fire Department. I do not believe we are in a partnership with the County with this current agreement. A 62/38 split for the amount of services we're providing and then being burdened with additional services is not a fair or equitable relationship between the two of us. I don't know the terms of the contract - if there is a term limit on that contract or if there is a renegotiation option on that contract. We had talked about that briefly in some other meetings, but we haven't really delved into it and I share the concern that we need to protect our citizens in Brevard and we keep adding services that benefit citizens outside of the city and it will not stop until we can get a contract that I think is equitable. So I do have a lot of concerns with that and it is not in any way arguing with what our Fire Department needs; it is how do we work with the County to get this equitable. The second piece is aligned with what Mr. Baker said. I feel like there is a history in the city of what we're hearing from citizens and what's important and I feel like not funding these paths…it is easy to look at these from the outside and say it's just a path. I have tried to say for a couple years that these are huge engines for our economy and they are critical for bringing people into our community and establishing local businesses in our community. We have now had almost a 20-year history of saying we're going to do it and we haven't gotten it done. I think we have to find a way to move forward with this and continue the funding. Last year I wasn't on the Council, but we kind of made a pledge to do that. It is tough to say, but I also agree that we have had some additional expenses for our Police this year and I think they are very valid, necessary and needed

and I do wonder if there is a compromise there with looking at these police vehicles, or at least one, and it kind of raises a question about, I know that these vehicles are on a rotation schedule and since we know they are going to be replaced, is there a way to get that into a budget request instead of a supplemental request. Because I would love to see if there is a way we could remove one of those cars this year and take some of those funds to help fund the trails. To me I think it is really important to honor these pledges we're hearing from our community. In a perfect world, I would say we need to honor the one penny we said we would do. I don't know if we can actually do that, but I am also worried we are going to lose sight of that in the future. Otherwise, I will say the moves we have done towards high concentrated waste and sewer and water, I think are absolutely important and imperative. We are looking at some major infrastructure improvements with wastewater treatment coming up and I am really glad we're starting to get our eye to the future on that because those are massive capital improvement projects and it is inevitable. As far as I understand it, we have not reached a good agreement to do any kind of regionalization so we are on our own out here. I think we also honored our non-profits this year and that was tough. I really appreciate us working together to make that happen. That's kudos, but I think we still have some hard work ahead of us as well.

Ms. Holder said I am struggling with raising taxes, garbage increase, utility increase, and stormwater increase. That is four areas of increases. At the same time, when we go to the store there are increases there; when we go to the grocery store, when we go to restaurants, Duke Power is going up and many of us are still dealing with the same income. If everything is increasing except our income, in many cases it is difficult to swallow and so if we have somewhere to trim I would like to see a trim to some of these areas that would help all of our citizens and maybe not increase in some area this year. I don't know if it has been done or not, but I agree with what has been said about working with the County or not having that partnership as we should financially. What would a feasibility study look like for us if we did not get two cars this year and just got one, how would that look? With that said, especially looking at the Fire Department, if we didn't have the additional staff that we need, I would hate to be that third person who gave the call. I understand the importance of adding additional personnel, I am just struggling with all of these four increases. I said that in the budget meeting and I'm just repeating it again. I would like to see more done to see where we can trim and let that trim fall upon the public rather than increasing four areas, maybe increase three areas that we are looking at proposing increases.

Mr. Morrow said the budget was presented really well and we understand the issues. In my view the high strength waste thing was long overdue. My sense is that we've got three months to figure out the laundries and the other folks. I agree with the additional firefighters and support whatever we need to do with Police and Fire over the Estatoe Trail in the sense that we are going to spend this year way more than our one cent allocation to the trail with the grants and the NCDOT and the carbon credits and all that. I'll have to defend the fact that the 3-year resolution was all predicated on if we got a grant, well we didn't get the grant. We have lived off of grants and we're talking about do we really want to go spend our tax money to extend a trail when it is in the DOT project and we're going to get DOT to pay for it? We've got ten projects out there that are likely to be funded in the future. He asked Aaron Bland when we would know if we are going to get any of that money. Mr. Bland said the scores will come back this summer. Mr. Morrow said so within this year we are going to know and that's how we have been able to do it without putting the burden on the taxpayer, we have relied on grants and projects like the carbon.

Mr. Hooper said we will publish the edits proposed by Council as an addendum to his Recommended Budget and at the public hearing, we will ask folks to share their thoughts on both possibilities. Mr. Morrow moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to hold the public hearing on the FY2025 Recommended Budget on May 20, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Public Hearing(s)

J-1. Proposed Amendment to City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 15 – Board Roles – Aaron Bland explained that this is a staff-initiated text amendment to Chapter 15 of the UDO. Chapter 15 details the authorities and responsibilities for the City's Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. Chapter 160D of the NC General Statutes outlines specifically the responsibilities and duties that the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment must do and others that they may do. This chapter was revised after 160D was initially adopted to update the different statutory references, but we did not do a specific review of those roles and responsibilities at the time. This text amendment would do just that, bringing these listed roles of the two boards into compliance with the new general statutes that cover land use law in North Carolina. This amendment does four things to that regard:

1. Eliminate anything listed that is not expressly authorized in the statutes
2. Ensure and make clear each board's required duties and responsibilities
3. List the optional responsibilities that each board actually engages in
4. Amend the makeup of the Planning Board city/ETJ membership for better proportional representation

North Carolina General Statutes state that the ETJ must have "proportional representation based on population for residents of the extraterritorial area" on city boards such as the BPB and BOA (GS § 160D-307). This proportionality is to be reviewed and adjusted following each decennial census; this has not yet been done following the 2020 census. The 2020 population of the city was found to be 7,818, and the population within the ETJ is estimated to be 3,129, which results in a city-to-ETJ ratio of 2.5. This ratio of 2.5 is the goal for the proportional representation on the BPB and BOA. The current makeup of the BOA is 3 city and 2 ETJ members* which equals a ratio of 1.5. Changing the makeup of the BOA would result in the ratio becoming further from the goal of 2.5, so no change is recommended for the BOA. The Planning Board, however, can improve its proportionality. The current makeup of 4 city and 3 ETJ members equals a ratio of 1.33. Changing the makeup to 5 city and 2 ETJ equals the ideal 2.5 ratio. Therefore, it is recommended that one of the ETJ members be switched to a city member. The Planning Board has discussed these amendments at their February and March meetings, and recommended in favor and submitted a statement of consistency.

Mayor Copelof opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Public Hearing Public Participation – None.

Public Hearing Closed – Mayor Copelof closed the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

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. Morrow moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

K-1. Proclamation No. 2024-07 National Day of Prayer

Proclamation No. 2024-07
National Day of Prayer

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer has been part of our heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to pray in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, by Public Law 100-307, in 1988, as amended, affirms that it is essential for us as a nation to pray and directs the President of the United States to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May, annually, as a National Day of Prayer to be celebrated by all faiths and religions; and

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer is an occasion for each of us to pause in our normal daily routine and come together as one community giving thanks for all that we enjoy as Americans and as residents of Brevard, including our treasured freedom to practice religion as we choose; and

WHEREAS, regardless of one's faith tradition, prayer helps remind us of our humanity and helps connect all of us to the greater community, nation and world in which we all share; and

WHEREAS, on this National Day of Prayer I encourage all members of our community to pray, reflect or meditate in a manner most appropriate to their own religious or spiritual beliefs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of The City of Brevard, North Carolina do hereby proclaim May 2, 2024, as a Day of Prayer throughout the City of Brevard, NC and encourage all members of our Brevard community to join in thankfulness, prayer and reflection for:

Our nation and other nations especially for all those who battle for freedom throughout the world including our brave men and women in uniform;

For those who help keep us safe here at home – our Law Enforcement, Fire Department and EMS personnel;

For those entrusted with the care and education of our children – our parents, our teachers and child care workers;

For our youth who are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic;

For our most vulnerable neighbors and for all who are struggling and need compassion and assistance;

For our leaders, so that they have the strength to meet the challenges we face today and tomorrow and the wisdom to know what to do and the commitment to do what is right; and

For our nation and the diversity that makes us strong; may we treat everyone with respect and come together in unity as Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 2nd day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-2. Proclamation No. 2024-11 National Bike Month

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-11
NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

WHEREAS, the bicycle is an economical, healthy, convenient, viable, and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent form of recreation and enjoyment of Brevard and Transylvania County's scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, Brevard and Transylvania County trails and roads attract bicyclists each year from across the country and the world; and

WHEREAS, Brevard hosts several major cycling races and events, including the Assault on the Carolinas, the WNC Flyer, and the Pisgah Stage Race; and

WHEREAS, these bicycling activities and attractions have great potential to have a positive impact on Brevard's economy and tourism industry, as well as to stimulate economic development by making the city attractive to businesses and citizens who enjoy the out of doors and healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, creating bicycle-friendly communities has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, to boost community spirit, to improve traffic safety, and to reduce pollution and congestion; and

WHEREAS, May has been declared National Bike Month since 1956 and is so again in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the League of American Bicyclists, bicycle clubs, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, hospitals, companies, and civic groups throughout North Carolina will be promoting bicycling as a leisure activity as well as an environmentally-friendly alternative to the automobile during the month of May 2024; and

WHEREAS, the education of bicyclists and motorists as to the proper and safe operation of bicycles is important to ensure the safety and comfort of all users; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard Comprehensive Plan includes several objectives and policies aimed at improving cycling as both a form of recreation and transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Maureen Copelof and the Brevard City Council do hereby proclaim and recognize the month of May 2024 as National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-3. Proclamation No. 2024-12 Public Service Recognition Week

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-12
PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK
May 5-11, 2024

WHEREAS, Americans are served every single day by public servants at the federal, state, county and municipal levels. These unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working; and

WHEREAS, public employees take not only jobs, but oaths; and

WHEREAS, many public servants, including military personnel, police officers, firefighters, border patrol officers, embassy employees, health care professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people of the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, public servants include teachers, doctors and nurses, scientists, social workers, train conductors and astronauts, safety inspectors, laborers, computer technicians, and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity; and

WHEREAS, without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, do hereby announce and proclaim to all citizens, that May 5-11, 2024 is Public Service Recognition Week in Brevard, North Carolina. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels – federal, state, county and municipal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed on this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-4. Tax Settlement Report – March, 2024

K-5. Budget Amendment for Estatoe Trail Project

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22, ESTATOE TRAIL PROJECT

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 original ordinance 2022-22, and the amended ordinance 2022-51 will be decreased by $575,000, as the State ARPA grant (SRP-SW-ARP-0009) is now being utilized for stormwater improvements in the Times Arcade Alley

Section 2: The Estatoe Trail Project is a multi-use path which weaves through large portions of the City and allows citizens and visitors to safely enjoy the beauty of the area without using a motorized vehicle.

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

Account Number	**Account Name**	**Budget Amount**
78-6300-4400	Estatoe Trail Project	$1,537,600
78-6300-4400	**Estatoe Trail Project**	**($575,000)**
	TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATION	**$962,600**

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

Account Number	Account Name	Budget Amount
78-3990-0000	Fund Balance	$395,000
78-3345-0400	PARTF Grant	$80,300
78-3900-0200	Contribution from TC Tourism	$46,700
78-3345-0200	OSBM Capital Grant	$125,000
78-3350-0220	Transfer from ARPA – Brevard HS	$315,600
78-3345-0300	ARPA Stormwater Grant	$575,000
78-3345-0300	**ARPA Stormwater Grant**	**($575,000)**
	TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE	**$962,600**

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 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22, ESTATOE TRAIL PROJECT

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 original ordinance 2022-22, and the amended ordinance 2022-51 will be increased from $962,600 to $1,094,600. This increase will allow the City to complete the section of the trail from the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center to the Community Garden.

Funding will come from the Carbon Reduction Grant received in September of 2023. Grant funding is $528,000 and the City will contribute a 20% match of $132,000. The grant was initiated by the City Planning Department with assistance from the Land of Sky Regional Council. The City Council previously approved Resolution 2023-07 in January of 2023 in support of the Carbon Reduction Program

Section 2: This Grant is expected to complete the portion of the Estatoe Trail between the Mary C Jenkins Community Center and the Community Garden. The City is only budgeting the 20% match ($132,000), but the cost of the trail in this section is expected to be approximately $660,000.

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

Account Number	Account Name	Budget Amount
78-6300-4400	Estatoe Trail Project	$962,600
78-6300-4400	**Estatoe Trail Project**	**$132,000**
	TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATION	**$1,094,600**

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

Account Number	Account Name	Budget Amount
78-3990-0000	Fund Balance	$395,000
78-3345-0400	PARTF Grant	$80,300
78-3900-0200	Contribution from TC Tourism	$46,700
78-3345-0200	OSBM Capital Grant	$125,000
78-3350-0220	Transfer from ARPA – Brevard HS	$315,600
78-3990-0000	**Fund Balance**	**$132,000**
	TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE	**$1,094,600**

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 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-6. Budget Amendment – Heart of Brevard

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY2023-2024 BUDGET.
BUDGET AMENDMENT NUMBER 24-05

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment to increase revenues and expenditures in the Heart of Brevard Fund.

AGENDA INFORMATION

Agenda Location: **Consent**
Department: **Finance**
Contact: **Dean Luebbe, Assistant City Manager and Finance Director**

BRIEF SUMMARY: The City bills and collects 21.3 cents per $100 of value for properties located within the Heart of Brevard Municipal Service District. The majority ($150,000) of the funds collected involve real property, but approximately $20,000 involve personal property and late fees and delinquent years payments. The Finance Director neglected to account for these smaller amounts in the original FY23-24 budget. This budget amendment has no impact on fund balance, as 100% of these collections are passed on to the Heart of Brevard.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: To approve Budget Amendment 24-05 as submitted, increasing the budget in expenditure account:

70-6900-4500 (Contracted Services) $20,000

And increasing the budget in the revenue account:

70-3970-0023 (Heart of Brevard Ad Val Tax) $20,000

ATTACHMENTS: None

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as presented

Approved and adopted this 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-7. Finance Report at 3-31-2024

K-8. Debt Financing – Fire Truck

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-14
A RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS

WHEREAS: The City of Brevard ("City") has previously determined to undertake a project for purchasing capital equipment (the "Project") costing $850,000 and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project as listed below:

DEPARTMENT	EQUIPMENT
FIRE FUND	One four-wheel drive fire engine

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The City hereby determines to finance the Project through First Citizens Bank Inc., accordance with the proposal dated March 29, 2024. The amount financed shall not exceed $850,000 for a fifty-nine-month loan, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 4.33%, and the financing term shall not exceed fifty-nine months from closing.

2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.

3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by City officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.

4. The City shall not take or omit to take any action, the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The City hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).

5. The City intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the City's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the United Community Bank Inc. financing described above. The City intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the City's sanitation or fire fund, or any other City fund related to the project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

6. All prior actions of City officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Adopted and approved this 6th day of May 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-9. Conveyance of Property – Fire Department

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15
RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO ANOTHER UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-274

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard owns a 1995 4-wheel drive engine manufactured by International/4 Guys (vin # 1HTSEAAR3SH216638) and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-274 authorizes a governmental unit in this state to exchange with, lease to, lease from, sell to, or purchase from any other governmental unit any interest in real or personal property upon such terms and conditions as the governmental unit deems wise, with or without consideration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to convey the International/4 Guys Pumper to the Etowah-Horse Shoe Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and deems it wise to do so for a sales price of $75,000.

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

Section 1. The City of Brevard hereby conveys to Etowah-Horse Shoe Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department the following property: a 1995 4-wheel drive engine manufactured by International/4 Guys (vin # 1HTSEAAR3SH216638)

Section 2. The property herein described shall be conveyed for a sales price of $75,000.

Section 3. The City Manager is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey the property in the manner authorized by this Resolution.

Approved and adopted this the 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16
RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO ANOTHER UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-274

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard owns a 1997 heavy rescue fire truck manufactured by International/Hackney (vin # 1HTSDAAN1VH448305); and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-274 authorizes a governmental unit in this state to exchange with, lease to, lease from, sell to, or purchase from any other governmental unit any interest in real or personal property upon such terms and conditions as the governmental unit deems wise, with or without consideration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to convey the 1997 heavy rescue fire vehicle to the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Rescue Department, and deems it wise to do so for a sales price of $42,500.

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

Section 1. The City of Brevard hereby conveys to the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Rescue Department the following property:
1997 heavy rescue fire truck manufactured by International/Hackney
(vin # 1HTSDAAN1VH448305).

Section 2. The property herein described shall be conveyed for a sales price of $42,500.

Section 3. The City Manager is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey the property in the manner authorized by this Resolution.

Approved and adopted this the 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-10. Funding Offer Acceptance – Sewer Pump Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17
BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD
ACCEPTING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund established in S.L. 2021-180/2022-74 to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of $2,873,000 to perform work detailed in the submitted application related to Sewer Pump Station Improvements, and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

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

1) That the City of Brevard does hereby accept the American Rescue Plan Act Grant offer of $2,873,000.

2) That the City of Brevard does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

3) That Dean Luebbe, Assistant City Manager and Finance Director, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted and approved this the 6th day of May, 2024.

s/ Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-11. Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for Special Event – White Squirrel Weekend

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12
AN ORDINANCE DECLARING STREET CLOSURES
FOR THE 2024 WHITE SQUIRREL FESTIVAL WEEKEND

WHEREAS, Brevard City Council acknowledges a tradition of providing for festivals and special events downtown for the pleasure and enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike; and,

WHEREAS, Brevard City Council acknowledges that festivals and special events provide an opportunity for family-oriented activities that celebrate our small-town charm; and,

WHEREAS, Brevard City Council acknowledges these events require NCDOT system roads to be closed for setup, activities, and cleanup; and,

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to authority granted by G.S. 20-169, the City of Brevard hereby declares the following temporary road closures on the following described portions of the State Highway System:

Friday, May 24th starting at 4:00 PM until Sunday, May 26th at 9:00 PM
Main Street (US 276) between Rice Street and Oaklawn Avenue.
Broad Street (US 64) between Probart Street and Oakdale Street.

Monday, May 27th until 2:00 PM
Main Street (US 276) between Rice Street and Broad Street.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its adoption.

Adopted and approved this the 6th day of May 2024.

K-12. Resolution re Clemson Plaza Mental Health Art Installation

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18
RESOLUTION ADOPTING "HOPE WALL" ART INSTALLATION
IN CLEMSON PLAZA AND "TURN TRANSYLVANIA GREEN"
AS OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPEECH

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of our community members, especially our youth, are paramount to the vitality and resilience of Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman; and

WHEREAS, recent tragic events, including student suicides, have underscored the urgent need for increased awareness, support, and action to address mental health challenges in our community; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an integral component of overall health and wellness, and access to comprehensive mental health resources and support services is essential for all individuals to thrive; and

WHEREAS, stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health concerns often prevent individuals from seeking the help and support they need, perpetuating cycles of suffering and isolation; and

WHEREAS, by coming together as a community, we can break down barriers, foster empathy, and create a culture of understanding, compassion, and acceptance for those experiencing mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, combat stigma, and promote mental health resources;

WHEREAS, an art installation in Clemson Plaza will display messages of hope

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

Section 1. The month of May is proclaimed as Mental Health Month and we call upon all residents to join us in our commitment to prioritize mental health and well-being for ourselves, our families, and our community.

We urge individuals to:

- Educate themselves and others about mental health and the importance of seeking help when needed.
- Foster supportive and inclusive environments where individuals feel safe to share their experiences and seek support without fear of judgment or stigma.
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote mental health awareness, access to care, and suicide prevention efforts.
- Encourage open and honest conversations about mental health, reducing the silence and shame that often surrounds these issues.
- Access available mental health resources and support services and encourage others to do the same.

Together, let us work tirelessly to create a community where mental health is valued, prioritized, and supported, and where every individual feels empowered to live their lives to the fullest.

Section 2. The Brevard City Council adopts the "Hope Wall" art installation in Clemson Plaza and "Turn Transylvania Green" as official government speech.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted and approved this the 6th day of May, 2024.

s/Maureen Copelof
Mayor

K-13. City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – January 3, 2024

K-14. City Council Rosenwald Community Advisory Board Minutes – January 11, 2024

K-15. City Council Public Safety Committee Minutes – January 22, 2024

K-16. City Council Housing Committee Minutes – February 13, 2024

K-17. City Council Downtown Master Plan Committee Minutes – February 14, 2024

K-18. City Council Rosenwald Community Advisory Board Minutes – February 15, 2024

K-19. City Council Finance, Human Resources & Citizen Appointment Committee Minutes – February 26, 2024

K-20. City Council Public Safety Committee Minutes – February 26, 2024

K-21. City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – March 6, 2024

K-22. City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Special Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

K-23. City Council Parks, Trails, Recreation Committee Minutes – March 20, 2024

K-24. City Council Finance, Human Resources, and Citizen Appointment Committee Minutes – March 25, 2024

K-25. City Council Public Safety Committee Minutes – April 2, 2024

K-26. City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – April 3, 2024

L. Unfinished Business – None.

M. New Business – None.

N. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations.

Mr. Wise said I am not going to be neutral or impartial, Denise is amazing. Thank you for all the work you do. I know you have to maintain that role, but I do not. Thank you all for helping us through the budget stuff. This budget process is really amazing to go through and daunting, so I want to thank all my fellow Council Members and the Mayor, Wilson and all you guys for helping me through that.

Ms. Holder said I want to ditto what Mr. Wise just said to Denise. Thank you so much and congratulations; well deserved. To Wilson, I'll say again thank you so much.

Mr. Morrow said I add my congratulations to Denise for all those things that the Mayor reminded us of.

Mr. Baker said I want to address some comments that a local government official made recently. I am sure if you keep up with the Transylvania Times you know what I'm talking about. I just want to say that we can disagree on policy and in many ways our whole system of government is built so that we do disagree on policy and we have a forum for talking about those disagreements and discussing a way forward. But, things

like racism and hatred and bigotry and discrimination are not something that we should have in our local politics. I think it is worth repeating that when something like what occurred and what was said is said, mostly because we have citizens who might fall into some of the categories that experience racism and bigotry. We are a small community and I can only imagine what that might feel like as a citizen to have someone who is representing you on a very local level repeat some pretty bigoted things. The second thing I want to talk about is another thing that unfortunately comes up a lot nationally, but I have seen recently the topic of misinformation even at a local level. It seems to be running a little bit out of control in our little town of 8,000 people and in our county of 34,000 people. Again, we're a really close-knit community and there is really no reason why we should have local issues just fraught with misinformation and wildly false things being spread. A lot of times we like to blame social media, but I don't think social media is the source of misinformation, but it certainly does make it easy for all to see that misinformation. It is important for us all to address it when we see it and try to correct that misinformation. Moving on to some positive things, I spent the weekend down in Greer, SC with my son's youth soccer team and a whole bunch of other academy teams from TYSA and it is amazing to go to a tournament like that and interact with other people from other places and be surrounded by people from your own community. I was really struck by the positivity and the warmth and the spirited competition, but also really the kindness that our group from here in Brevard showed while we were down there. It was in stark contrast to some of the attitudes that we saw from some of the people on our opposing teams. It was heartening to be in another place with a bunch of people from your city and have them representing such a spirited positivity. Shout out to the U-11 Boys who won that tournament. I'm really proud of them for that. Finally, I want to talk about a couple of events coming up – Bike Walk or Roll to School Day is on Wednesday and the Brevard Bike Alliance who we heard from earlier has organized several events at our local schools. They are meeting up at various places within the city, including the City's Sports Complex, the Depot, which I will add is a great trailhead, and the library in order to roll out to school so look for more information on that. Then Bike to Work Day, which I will definitely be participating in is May 17th. I did want to say because it got a little bit buried in the Consent Agenda, but May is National Bike Month. On a related note there is a bill which I admittedly don't know as much about as I probably should, but it is House Bill 198 and it is making its way through the State Legislature. It's a reform bill for NCDOT and to a point earlier by Councilman Morrow, there is actually a rule on the books which I was not aware of that the state has prohibited NCDOT funding for projects which are solely focused on pedestrian infrastructure and bicycling infrastructure. So, NCDOT can pay for those things, but only if they are also attached to a project that is improving things for vehicles. House Bill 198 would actually change that, as I understand it, and allow for NCDOT funding for standalone pedestrian projects like a sidewalk or a crossing or even a bike lane or other bicycling infrastructure. I am just learning about this, and I do think in the future I may ask this Council to consider a draft resolution in support of a bill like that or parts of that bill so I will bring that forward once I know more.

Mr. Daniel said I would like to expand on my comments about the budget earlier. I feel like this budget is a reality check for us in a lot of ways. There are a lot of things that we had said we were going to do that we may not be able to do, but we have made promises that we were going to do these things. The things that this budget is doing I think are so important, not only our staff, but also working on our infrastructure and things that have been put on the back burner for a little bit too long, and in the meantime we've been doing these other fun shiny things. Again, they're promises that we made and we may not be able to keep all those promises. I personally can accept that, but I think I personally will work my hardest to keep those promises. I think that is part of what this discussion has been about today as we talked about our reaction to this proposed budget, is working to keep promises that we've made. Another thing I want to address, which I think is being taken up by Public Safety already, but my neighborhood is the Railroad Avenue district and parking there is out of control. I have discussed it with members of the Police Department and with members of the Public Safety and I just want to be on the record that we need to get some signage and take what steps are appropriate there. I am offering my support for that.

Ms. Hodsdon thanked everyone for their kind words and recognition this evening.

Mr. Hooper said at our Public Safety meeting a month ago, some residents of the Cherry Street neighborhood came and asked if there is anything we could do to prohibit transfer trucks from turning into their neighborhood and getting stuck; trucks that were intending to go to Mountain Industrial Drive. To follow up on their request we reached out to the State since Old Hendersonville Hwy is a state road and asked if they could erect some signs on either side of Cherry Street to warn truck drivers not to turn there, and they have done that. I wanted to let Council know that NCDOT has done us a nice favor and hopefully the residents won't have some 18-wheeler stuck on the bridge anymore.

Mayor Copelof said I want to thank staff for the incredible amount of work that has gone into the budget. Probably the biggest responsibility that we, as both the city staff and as elected officials, have each year is to come up with that balanced budget. Unlike the federal government, we cannot have an unbalanced budget. Our revenue and our expenses have to be balanced. It is no easy job and I know staff has worked incredibly hard for months on this, but the last few weeks have been a real marathon. Thank you everybody for an incredible job. It is a complicated budget and you can see that trying to balance the current operations that we have here in this city and also plan for the future on what we need in terms of new projects, capital expenditures, is no easy job. I also want to encourage the public; this is your budget; this is your money; this is your opportunity at the May 20th public hearing for us to hear from you about what you think about the proposal that was put in place tonight. As the manager mentioned, there will be an addendum with some other options based on Council's feedback. Please let us know what you think about all of the different proposals and take the time to look at the document. We have put it out in many different forms with different ways to access it, so that you can read the document. The budget is certainly one of the most important and most challenging jobs that we have. I want to remind everybody that tomorrow, I think for the first time, we will be installing a temporary interactive art exhibit at Clemson Plaza in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month and it is called the Hope Wall. It will be up until White Squirrel Weekend and I encourage you to participate and write your messages of hope on that. I think it is a tremendous opportunity for our community to express ourselves and show support for people that maybe are having a hard time and need to be reminded and need to be connected with more hope. We are working on our Age-Friendly Community initiatives and I encourage you to please take our survey. We want to know what you think about how we are doing right now and then what do you think we should be prioritizing and working on to make our community more age-friendly. The survey is available on our website and we have paper copies available. I too have spent a lot of time dealing with misinformation. I will agree with Mr. Baker that there seems to be an absolute plethora of incredibly strange facts being passed around by people. Trying to get accurate information out there is one of my goals and one of my roles as Mayor. The next Meet the Mayor is this Thursday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at MCJCC and I have been encouraging people that if you have questions or concerns, or just want to know the actual facts on what is happening, come and ask your elected officials. I hold these every month so there are a lot of ways to get information and we post an incredible amount of information on our website and on our Facebook page. Go to the source and get the real information about what is happening in town. We also have a couple of very big events coming up at the end of this month. White Squirrel Weekend, our 20th Anniversary of that event, will be May 24th to 26th. On Monday, May 27th we will have Memorial Day. That is a very special day that lives in my heart for all of my shipmates who did not come back after serving in the military. I urge you to join me at 10:00 on Monday morning to remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for us and our democracy.

O. Closed Session

Closed Session #1 – At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to enter into closed session to discuss an economic development matter and to clear

Council Chambers. The motion carried unanimously. Authorized to remain for the closed session with Council and the Attorney were City Manager Wilson Hooper, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, and Transylvania Economic Alliance Executive Director Burton Hodges.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 9:02 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.

Closed Session #2 – At 9:02 p.m. Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to enter into closed session to discuss pending litigation matter City of Brevard vs. Bauslaugh - Case No. 21-CVS-381. The motion carried unanimously. Authorized to remain for the closed session with Council and the Attorney were City Manager Wilson Hooper and City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 9:42 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 9:42 p.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Baker, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Copelof Mayor	Denise Hodsdon, CMC City Clerk

Minutes Approved: May 20, 2024