MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Organizational Meeting
December 1, 2025 – 5:30 PM

The Brevard City Council met for its Organizational Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025, 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, and Council Member-Elect Dean Lytle

Staff Present – City Attorney Mack McKeller, City Manager Wilson Hooper, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, Assistant City Manager David Todd, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Human Resources Director Kelley Craig, Planning Director Paul Ray, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Senior Planner Emily Brewer, Planner Stephanie Holland, Interim Police Chief Jack Moorman, Fire Chief Chase Owen, Water Treatment Plant ORC Dennis Richardson, Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC Aaron Winans, and Community Center Director Tyree Griffin

Press – David Bradley, Transylvania Times

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

B. Invocation – City Council Member Rev. Dr. Pamela Holder of Bethel "A" Baptist Church offered an invocation.

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

D. Certification of a Quorum – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified a quorum 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. November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting – Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Recognition of Departing Council Member

G-1. Resolution No. 2025-74 - A Resolution of Respect and Appreciation for Council Member Mac Morrow Upon His Retirement from Brevard City Council – Mayor Copelof read the Resolution aloud and presented it to Council Member Morrow. Council Members Daniel, Baker, Wise and Holder, Attorney McKeller, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon and City Manager Wilson Hooper expressed appreciation to Mr. Morrow for his 34 years of dedicated service to Brevard and its citizens and wished him well.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74
A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT AND APPRECIATION FOR
COUNCIL MEMBER MAC MORROW
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM BREVARD CITY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, Spencer Macfie Morrow—better known as "Mac"—is a Brevard, North Carolina, native who has faithfully and tirelessly served both country and community in several capacities; and

WHEREAS, after growing up in Brevard, Mac joined the United States Marine Corps serving honorably for thirty years and retiring with the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 in recognition of his military service and his efforts in environmental stewardship in Western North Carolina, Mac was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society, one of the state's most prestigious honors, by North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt; and

WHEREAS, Mac was first appointed to Brevard City Council in 1986. He was subsequently reelected, and served until 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mac was elected to Brevard City Council again in 2001, serving consecutively until this day, including two separate stints as Mayor Pro Tem; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty-four years in elected office Mac served on nine distinct City Councils and innumerable city and community committees, providing leadership, guidance and wisdom to newly elected and appointed officials; and

WHEREAS, more notable than the length of Mac's service is its quality; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time on Brevard City Council Mac worked tirelessly to promote conservation of Brevard's natural resources, expansion and enhancement of its recreational assets, investment in its utility infrastructure, development of the City greenway and the Ecusta Trail, and creation of the Bracken Preserve, while always remembering to preserve the rich and diverse heritage of our community; and

WHEREAS, along with former mayor Jimmy Harris, Mac led the Rosenwald and Railroad Avenue revitalization projects, which included the construction of the new Mary C. Jenkins Community Center, the Silversteen Memorial Park rebuild, and the creation of the Jimmy Harris Railroad Depot Park; and

WHEREAS, Mac's steadfast leadership helped Brevard recover from the closure of the major manufacturing plants in the early 2000s, the 2008/9 economic downtown, the health and economic COVID crisis, Hurricane Helene, and the countless other challenges the Brevard community faced over the decades; and

WHEREAS, Mac's statesmanship was instrumental in the City of Brevard partnering with Transylvania County, Land of Sky Council of Government, NCDOT, US Forest Service and numerous other public and private organizations to achieve regional priorities and a shared vision for Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mac is well respected by constituents, owing in part to the deep connection to the community he shares with them and his encyclopedic knowledge of the community's families and their histories and his dedication to ensuring that history is respected and preserved; and

WHEREAS, Mac's long and fruitful thirty-four-year career is a model of elected service, and the City of Brevard owes him an immense debt of gratitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD THAT:

This body expresses to Mac Morrow, on behalf of our citizens and officials, our respect, appreciation and deep gratitude for his three decades of service to the City of Brevard and its residents and commends honors upon him on the occasion of his retirement from elected service.

Adopted and approved this the 1st day of December, 2025.

s/ Maureen Copelof, Mayor
s/ Aaron Baker, Council Member
s/ Pamela Holder, Council Member
s/ Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Attest: s/ Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

s/ Gary Daniel, Mayor Pro Tem
s/ Lauren Wise, Council Member
s/ Dean Lytle, Council Member
s/ Mack McKeller, City Attorney

Mayor Copelof then read Proclamation No. 2025-30 Naming Mac Morrow as Official Historian for the City of Brevard and presented the proclamation and a Key to the City to Mr. Morrow.

PROCLAMATION N0. 2025-30
NAMING MAC MORROW AS OFFICIAL HISTORIAN
FOR THE CITY OF BREVARD

WHEREAS, the preservation and understanding of our City's history is vital to our cultural heritage and future progress; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Brevard it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals to help preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, Mac Morrow's leadership as an elected official for over three decades was critical to Brevard creating a future vision of the city that preserved and celebrated the rich and diverse heritage of our community; and

WHEREAS, Mac Morrow demonstrated an exemplary commitment to researching, documenting, and sharing the rich history of Brevard ensuring City leadership was aware and considered historical and cultural aspects during decision deliberations; and

WHEREAS, Mac Morrow worked closely with the Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Committee, Mountain True and the French Broad Riverkeeper, Land of Sky Regional Council, Conserving Carolina, The US Forest Service and other regional organizations to preserve and honor the heritage of the land and our predecessors; and

WHEREAS, Mac Morrow possesses a deep knowledge of our community's past and the skills necessary to ensure its stories are accurately recorded and accessible to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize individuals who contribute significantly to the historical integrity of our community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, hereby name Mac Morrow as the Official Historian for the City of Brevard..

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and executed the Great Seal of the City of Brevard on this the 1st day of December, 2025.

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

City Clerk Hodsdon presented Mr. Morrow with a framed photo of his swearing in ceremony of 1991. Mr. Hooper presented Mr. Morrow with a hand-carved embossed hiking stick, created by local artisan Ty Hardy, a former Navy Seal, from wood that was harvested from Pisgah National Forest.

Mayor Copelof then asked if Council had an additional honor they wished to bestow on Mr. Morrow. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to officially name the soon to be constructed brand new upper loop trail within the Bracken Preserve expansion parcel as the Mac Morrow Trail. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morrow shared some farewell remarks and said it has been a wonderful journey, and it's been a lot of fun too. But, the main thing is the relationships that you get to establish with people over that time. He expressed his appreciation to Councilmembers and to City Staff and said for those of you sitting in the back row in public service you will always be my heroes, and I am glad to be a part of that.

H. Acknowledge Receipt of the Transylvania County Board of Elections Abstract of Votes for the Municipal Election November 4, 2025. Results of the 2025 Municipal Election have been certified, and Maureen Copelof was elected to the Office of Mayor, and Aaron Baker and Dean Lytle were elected to Office of City Council for a term of four years. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to acknowledge receipt of the results of the Municipal Election. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Induction of Mayor and Council Members – Oath of Office

I-1 Administration of the Oath of Office to Mayor Maureen Copelof – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon administered the Oath of Office to Maureen Copelof, who was accompanied by her husband Sylvan.

City of Brevard, North Carolina
Oath of Office

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania
City of Brevard

I, Maureen Copelof, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Mayor of Brevard, North Carolina, so help me God.

s/ Maureen Copelof

Oath Administered by: Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk
December 1, 2025

I-2 Administration of the Oath of Office to Council Member Aaron J. Baker – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon administered the Oath of Office to Aaron Baker, who was accompanied by his son Henry and partner Nora Jane.

City of Brevard, North Carolina
Oath of Office

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania
City of Brevard

I, Aaron J. Baker, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a Brevard City Council Member, so help me God.

s/ Aaron J. Baker

Oath Administered by: Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk
December 1, 2025

I-3 Administration of the Oath of Office to Council Member Dean Lytle – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon administered the Oath of Office to Dean Lytle, who was accompanied by his wife Setar.

City of Brevard, North Carolina
Oath of Office

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania
City of Brevard

I, Dean Lytle, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a Brevard City Council Member, so help me God.

s/ Dean Lytle

Oath Administered by: Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk
December 1, 2025

Council Member Seated – Council Member Lytle took his seat at the dais.

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

J-1. Approval of City Council 2026 Meeting Schedule

J-2. Appointment of Council Members to Boards and Committees

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-75
RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2023 the City of Brevard City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-51 amending the process for appointing council members to serve committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the mayor to recommend appointment of council members to serve on committees and boards, subject to approval by vote of City Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Maureen Copelof has presented a recommended slate of council member appointments for City Council's consideration.

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

Section 1. The Brevard City Council does hereby appoint City Council Members to various committees and boards for a term to be effective immediately and expiring in December 2027 as follows:

Policy Committees:

1. Housing Committee – Chair: Pamela Holder; Vice Chair: Aaron Baker
2. Public Works and Utilities Committee – Chair: Lauren Wise; Vice Chair: Gary Daniel
3. Public Safety Committee – Chair: Aaron Baker; Vice Chair: Dean Lytle
4. Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee – Chair: Dean Lytle; Vice Chair: Pamela Holder

Advisory Committees:

1. Downtown Master Plan Committee: Chair: Gary Daniel; Vice Chair: Lauren Wise
2. Rosenwald Community Advisory Board: Co-chair: Pamela Holder; member Gary Daniel
3. Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee: Chair: Aaron Baker; Vice Chair Lauren Wise
4. Ecusta Trail Advisory Board: Co-Chair: Aaron Baker; Co-Chair: Dean Lytle

Outside Boards:

1. Land of Sky Regional Council: Primary: Maureen Copelof; Alternate: Gary Daniel
2. RPO Transportation Committee: Primary: Lauren Wise; Alternate: Aaron Baker
3. Transylvania Economic Alliance: Dean Lytle
4. Heart of Brevard: Maureen Copelof
5. TC Tourism Development Authority: Lauren Wise
6. Chamber of Commerce: Maureen Copelof
7. Community Relations Board: Dean Lytle

Adopted and approved this the 1st day of December, 2025.

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

K. New Business

K-1. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore – Mr. Daniel moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to nominate Aaron Baker for Mayor Pro Tem. During discussion, Ms. Holder said I will not vote in favor of this and the reason is that I feel when we serve on Council that we are in a position to support and work together with the County and other organizations in a positive way, and I think we have to hold ourselves to a standard. The motion carried 4-1 (Holder). City Clerk Denise Hodsdon administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Pro Tem Baker.

City of Brevard, North Carolina
Oath of Office

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania
City of Brevard

I, Aaron J. Baker, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Mayor Pro Tem of Brevard, North Carolina, so help me God.

s/ Aaron J. Baker

Oath Administered by: Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk
December 1, 2025

L. Adjourn – There being no further business, at 6:21 p.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel, to adjourn the Organizational meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Immediately following the meeting, a reception was held at the Pisgah Health Trust Center to extend appreciation to departing Council Member Mac Morrow and to welcome incoming Council Member Dean Lytle and reelected Mayor Maureen Copelof and Council Member Aaron Baker.

Maureen Copelof
Mayor

Denise Hodson, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes Approved: January 5, 2026