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

The Brevard City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 5, 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, Planning Director Paul Ray, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Senior Planner Emily Brewer, 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, Police Lieutenant Charles Richard Harbin, Police Lieutenant Brent Sorrells, and members of Brevard Police Department

Press – Jon Rich, Transylvania Times

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

B. Invocation – Rev. Shelly Webb of Sharing House 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. Hooper noted that he had made a revision to the proposed resolution regarding the reformation of the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board and that copies had been distributed to Council. Mr. Morrow moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Minutes

F-1. June 17, 2024 Regular Meeting – Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comments

Billy Parrish of 515 Probart Street said I am the current President of Heart of Brevard and the co-chair of the Heart of Brevard Built Environment Committee. I also serve as a member of the Downtown Master Plan Committee representing the Heart of Brevard. I am offering this public comment to you tonight in my role as Heart of Brevard President. The Heart of Brevard supports the concept being put forward in tonight's resolution declaring the current terminus of the Brevard trail system at West Main Street as the named Brevard terminus of the Ecusta Trail project. This public declaration of intent will ensure that the Ecusta Trail fulfills its stated purpose of linking downtown Hendersonville and downtown Brevard from Main Street to Main Street. Additionally, we believe that creating a clear connection between this new Main Street terminus to downtown proper is a crucial next step. In fact, the resolution before the Council aligns seamlessly with a Pathway Pilot Project that our Built Environment Committee has been diligently developing over the past several months. The Heart of Brevard is in the final stages of preparing our Pathway Pilot Project proposal for

presentation to the appropriate City committees and community partners. We welcome tonight's resolution as a critical first step in strengthening the connection between Brevard's trail system and downtown. Thank you for all that you do for our community and for downtown.

Jimmy Veal of 187 Pinnacle Road said some of you guys are aware I have an issue that is kind of pending with the City. I have made an effort to reach out to a few of you on the Council and had a conversation with Mr. McKeller last November. It's kind of moving in the slow lane for one reason or another. It has to do with access to 4 or 5 pieces of property that are landlocked by the bottom 200 feet of the Bracken Preserve trail, hopefully inadvertently, and I am searching for a solution that would provide access back to those properties. On that note, I would like to reach out to you guys individually over the next week or so and see if I could have a one-on-one convo with you. It would be nice to resolve this at Council level, rather than having to explore other avenues.

James Carli of Burrill Avenue said I am a member of the Brevard Planning Board, here in my own capacity. I am speaking in favor of the affordable housing project at the Presbyterian Church property. It is a good idea; I'm very supportive; and here's a few reasons why. We are all very aware of the need for affordable housing in our community. There was a report just a few years ago that identified a shortage of somewhere between 800 and 1200 units of affordable housing. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan called for prioritization of infill development in our city and that is an example of infill development – a vacant lot close to town that can be used. Urban planning best practices call for increased residency in downtown cores, which anchor residents near amenities boosting economic activity while reducing negative externalities like traffic and pollution. Recent ordinance updates also permit new and innovative materials like more permeable pavers to reduce water runoff and making parking more efficient for developments like this. Negative impacts of this development will be lower today than if this were built just a few years ago before these code changes were passed. We have the need; we've reduced the impacts through changes in the Code; and now is the right time to move forward with this kind of project in this type of location. I look forward to seeing the presentation tonight and I am excited to give my support as a resident to this project.

H. Certificates/Awards/Recognition

H-1. Presentation of Retirement Badge and Plaque to Lieutenant Charles Richard Harbin – Police Chief Tom Jordan presented to retired Police Lieutenant Charles Richard "Rick" Harbin his service badge and a retirement plaque honoring his years of service to the Brevard Police Department.

H-2. Badge Pinning Ceremony – Brent Sorrells Promotion to Lieutenant – Chief Tom Jordan recognized Police Officer Brent Sorrells who has been promoted to Lieutenant. Chief Jordan presented Lt. Sorrells with his Lieutenant's badge, and his wife pinned the badge on his uniform.

I. Special Presentations

I-1. Engagement for Affordable Housing Project on the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church Property – Emily Brewer recalled that the City of Brevard engaged the UNC School of Governments's Development Finance Initiative (DFI) in March 2023 to assess affordable housing development opportunities. As of June the City of Brevard and the Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church entered into a lease agreement to facilitate development of affordable housing on approximately 4.5 acres of land behind the Church. DFI will be working with the City on a pre-development feasibility study that includes community engagement sessions. DFI will conduct two phases of community engagement sessions where they will solicit community input on public interests to be addressed by this project and will also request targeted feedback on feasible housing development program options.

Phase 1: Guiding Public Interests (anticipated mid-August - early October)
The first phase of community engagement will focus on defining the guiding public interests for the development of the Church site. Public interests are statements that represent values and goals related to the project, as well as inform trade-offs for the site's development. An example public interest is: "development on the Church site should enhance pedestrian connectivity from the site and surrounding neighborhood to downtown."

Phase 2: Development Scenarios (anticipated mid-November - mid-January)
The second phase of community engagement will inform City Council's selection of a preferred development program for the Church site. Similar to the first phase, DFI will facilitate discussions in which community members will be asked to reflect on multiple development concepts and asked how well each concept aligns with the guiding public interests, and which, if any, best reflects the public interests.

Phase 1 of Engagement will begin with two in-person events and one virtual event where DFI will facilitate discussion groups to gain input on the project's guiding interests:

- August 20th from 2:00 - 3:30 PM at the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church (269 E Main St, Brevard, NC)
- August 20th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Transylvania County Library, Rogow Room (212 S Gaston St, Brevard, NC)
- August 22nd from 5:30 - 7:00 PM held virtually (details TBA)

I-2. Ecusta Trail Advisory Board Reformation and Trail Governance Update – Based on feedback from the June 26th Ecusta Trail Joint Workshop, Mr. Hooper presented a proposal for reformation of the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board (ETAB), with an updated membership and charge. A copy of his presentation is attached. Mr. Hooper noted that there are three significant elements of trail governance: 1) how do we make our trail-related decisions?; 2) how do we go about jointly managing the trail with our partners in Henderson County and perhaps Friends of Ecusta Trail?; and 3) how do we integrate the trail into everything else that we do? He explained that except for the two at-large citizen members, his proposal for the updated ETAB includes appointees from groups whose areas of expertise tie in with the publicly stated goals of the trail. He noted that he is recommending that a representative of the Transylvania Economic Alliance be added to ETAB so that we can figure out how to leverage the trail into commerce – how we use it to generate commerce; how we use it to support workforce. He said I think we are duty-bound to try to use the trail for those purposes because that's the premise under which we were awarded the RAISE dollars. He noted that he has included a proposed resolution updating the membership and charge of the ETAB for Council's consideration later this evening. If Council chooses to adopt the resolution, he will ask that Council appoint two council members to the board.

During questions/comments Council expressed support for the reconstituted ETAB membership and its charge as proposed.

J. Public Hearing(s)

J-1. Proposed Amendments to City of Brevard Unified Development Odinance Chapters 5 and 13 – Requirements for Underground Wiring – Aaron Bland explained that this is a staff-initiated text amendment to clarify the intent and specific requirements for new utility connections to be underground for new development within the city limits; it is optional in the ETJ. This is mentioned in two chapters, Chapter 5 - Building Types & Architectural Standards and Chapter 13 - Infrastructure Improvement Requirements. The new language will be located in Chapter 13, with the single line related to underground wiring in Chapter 5 removed to avoid confusion. The new language makes it more clear that underground wiring must begin where the new lines leave the street right-of-way, an existing easement, or an existing pole.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the amendments with a slight modification.

Mayor Copelof opened the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

Public Hearing Public Participation: None.

Public Hearing Closed – Mayor Copelof closed the hearing at 6:25 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. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

K-1. Tax Settlement Report – June, 2024

K-2. City of Brevard Annual Tax Collection Settlement Report

K-3. Resolution Directing Clerk to Investigate Sufficiency of Petition for Annexation – Jason Shepherd, 35 Verdery Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE THE SUFFICIENCY OF A PETITION FOR AN ANNEXATION PURSUANT TO NCGS 160A-31, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition was received on July 1, 2024, requesting the annexation of a contiguous area described in said Petition as a portion of the Jason Shepherd property at 35 Verdery Avenue, Brevard, NC 28712, consisting of 0.101 acres, more or less, be annexed into the City of Brevard. (Tax Property Identification Number: a portion of 8585-28-6101-000).

Metes and Bounds Property Description:

That certain piece of land being located in the state of North Carolina, county of Transylvania, township of Brevard. Beginning at an unmarked point on the existing line of the City of Brevard Limits and on the northern right of way line of Verdery Ave., also being located on the southern line of that property of Jason M. Shepherd described in Deed Book 765 Page 452, said property being that 0.34 Acre tract shown on Plat File 16 Slide 749. Thence running with the existing City of Brevard Limits, a curve with an arc length of 113.84', with a radius of 983.05', with a chord bearing of N 42°18'23" W, with a chord length of 113.78', to an unmarked point in the northern line of the before mentioned tract, said point being on the existing line of City of Brevard Limits. Thence leaving the existing City of Brevard limits and running with the Earnest Duncan line a course S 76°10'43" W a distance of 18.15' to a 1/2" Rebar found, the southwest corner of the Earnest Duncan property described in Deed Book 320 Page 140. Thence with the Bobby Tucker line a course S 14°14'36" E a distance of 20.01' to a 1/2" Rebar found at a 3" spindle guard stake, the southeast corner of the Bobby Tucker Tract described in Deed Book 332 Page 469. Thence with the line of the other property owned by Jason M. Shepherd, described in Deed Book 765 Page 436, for two calls, S 13°27'48" E a distance of 4.95' to a 5/8" Rebar and Cap set, thence S 13°37'43" E a distance of 75.06' to a 5/8" Rebar and Cap set. Thence leaving the Shepherd tract described in Deed Book 765 Page 436 and traveling along the northern right of way line of Verdery Ave. N 76°09'56" E a distance of 72.55' to an unmarked point on the existing line of the City of Brevard Limits, which is the point of beginning. Containing 0.101 acres, more or less. Being a portion of the property conveyed to Jason M. Shepherd in Deed Book 765 Page 452.

Also shown as "This Portion of Property to be Annexed +/- 0.101 acres" on a plat prepared by David L. Burrell titled "Plat of a Boundary/Annexation Survey for Jason M. Shepherd" being drawing number 24-27-REVISED and dated June 20, 2024-Revised July 23, 2024. Reference is hereby made to said plat for a more complete and accurate description. The intent of the landowner, Jason M. Shepherd, is to annex any portion of the property described in Deed Book 765 Page 452 that is not in the existing City of Brevard Limits, into the City of Brevard limits.

WHEREAS, said Petition has been received by the City Council of the City of Brevard, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, NCGS 160A-31, as amended, provides that the sufficiency of the Petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Brevard deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation.

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

Section 1. The City Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described Petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved this the 5th day of August, 2024.

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

K-4. Ecusta Trail Advisory Board Minutes – March 27, 2024

K-5. Ecusta Trail Advisory Board Minutes – April 24, 2024

K-6. Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – May 1, 2024

K-7. Council Public Safety Committee Minutes – May 28, 2024

K-8. Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – June 5, 2024

K-9. Council Public Safety Committee Minutes – June 24, 2024

K-10. Council Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee Minutes – May 15, 2024

L. Unfinished Business

L-1. Amendment to Traffic Schedule to Name and Establish Regulation for New City Street – Aaron Bland recalled that this was presented as a public hearing at the June 17th Council meeting. The city has accepted dedication of an access road off Deerlake Road behind the EnMarket gas station. Now that it is a city street, it needs to be named and appropriate traffic regulations for this street need to be codified. He noted that the proposed ordinance codifies the regulations but does not include a name. Mr. Bland recalled that at the last meeting it was mentioned that Mr. Morrow could potentially do some research on the history of the area and propose a name. Mr. Morrow has done that research and proposes the name Siniard Court to honor the family that owned a lot of the land and was instrumental in the County and City's early history. Mr. Daniel moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to name the street Siniard Court and to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Morrow gave a history of the Siniard family and added that the Transylvania County Historical Society Board endorsed the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SINIARD COURT
AND AMENDING THE BREVARD TRAFFIC SCHEDULE
AND BREVARD CITY CODE CHAPTER 66

WHEREAS, an unnamed street off of Deerlake Road was dedicated to the City on April 18, 2024 (Plat File 24, Slide 136); and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing held on June 17, 2024, the City of Brevard wishes to add this street and its pertinent regulations to the City of Brevard Traffic Schedule.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT THE TRAFFIC SCHEDULE AND THE BREVARD CITY CODE SHALL BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The previously unnamed street located along Deerlake Road approximately 220 feet west of Asheville Highway is hereby named "Siniard Court."

Section 2. Chapter 66, Schedule I, Section 66-122 of the Brevard City Code and the City's Traffic Schedule is hereby amended as described below:

a) Both sides of Siniard Court in its entirety.

Section 3. Chapter 66, Article IV, Schedule XI, Section 66-72 of the Brevard City Code and the City's Traffic Schedule is hereby amended as described below:

a) Add Deerlake Road from Siniard Court.

Section 4. Chapter 66, Schedule XVIII A, Section 66-87(6) of the Brevard City Code and the City's Traffic Schedule is hereby amended as described below:

a) Add Siniard Court.

Section 5. The City Clerk of the City of Brevard is hereby authorized and directed to revise and amend the official records and the Brevard Traffic Schedule to reflect the change as set forth herein.

Section 6. The City Manager of the City of Brevard is hereby authorized and directed to cause the appropriate signs to be installed and enforcement of the foregoing provisions to be implemented.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved this 5th day of August 2024.

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

M. New Business

M-1. Consider Resolution Reforming the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board – Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to approve the resolution reformatting the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to appoint Council Member Baker as chair and Council Member Morrow as co-chair. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31
A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE MEMBERSHIP AND CHARGE OF THE BREVARD/TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail is a planned 19+ mile multi-use path stretching from Brevard, NC to Hendersonville, NC; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021 the City of Brevard passed Resolution 2021-21 agreeing to become the "lead agency" for the trail in Transylvania County to "secure funding, oversee design, oversee construction, and manage public use of the section of the trail in Transylvania County"; and

WHEREAS, in December 2021 the City of Brevard passed Resolution 2021-58 establishing the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board (ETAB) and delegating oversight of the above listed activities to it; and

WHEREAS, between 2021 and 2023, under the direction of the ETAB and the Brevard City Council, the City of Brevard applied for and won three large Federal grants -FLAP ($1M), NSFLTP ($21.4M) and RAISE ($24.5M)- to fund design and construction of the trail; and

WHEREAS, in August 2023 the City of Brevard received permission from US Department of Transportation to transfer its awards to NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for execution; and

WHEREAS, while NCDOT is technically the executor of the project, it is deferring decisions on all elective components of the project to the City of Brevard; and

WHEREAS, in spring/summer 2024 with engineering and design underway, NCDOT notified that City of Brevard of approaching deadlines for decisions on branding, alignment, amenities, and other matters; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has also identified several additional projects, some of which are time sensitive that, if completed, will complement the Trail and multiply its impact; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County plans to open the first segment of the Ecusta Trail, located entirely within its jurisdiction, in calendar year 2024, and is seeking Brevard's input on matters that may affect the Transylvania County segment once it is completed; and

WHEREAS, the ETAB's authority is unclear and its membership reflective of conditions in 2021; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of these factors and in recognition of the large potential impact the completed Trail is expected to have on the Brevard community, there is interest among City of Brevard staff and elected officials in clarifying the ETAB's charge and reviewing its membership; and

WHEREAS, the Council expressed this interest publicly in a Workshop dedicated to Ecusta Trail governance held on June 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2024 the Brevard City Council discussed this matter at its regular public meeting.

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

The Ecusta Trail Advisory Board is hereby reconstituted with the following provisions

1.) Membership shall consist of the following members:

   a. A chairperson appointed by the Brevard City Council from amongst its members (Aaron Baker)
   b. A co-chairperson appointed by the City Council from amongst its members (Mac Morrow)
   c. One representative as recommended by the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority from amongst its membership or staff. (Dee Dee Perkins)
   d. One representative as recommended by the Friends of Ecusta Trail from amongst its membership (John Ditillo)
   e. One representative as recommended by Conserving Carolina from amongst its membership or staff (Rebekah Robinson)
   f. One representative as recommended by the Transylvania Economic Alliance from amongst its membership (Shelia Carland)
   g. One representative from Heart of Brevard from amongst its members (Doug Miller)
   h. One representative as recommended by Transylvania County (Larry Chapman)
   i. Two at-large representatives as appointed by City Council (Madeline Hanley and Meredith Carli)

2.) The Mayor of the City of Brevard and a representative from the Henderson County RTAC shall serve in non-voting ex-officio capacities. These seats shall not be considered in the quorum calculation.

3.) To be eligible for appointment, a participant must be deemed by the appointing authority, Brevard City Council, to be vested, with a personal or professional stake in the affairs of the City of Brevard and the Ecusta Trail. City residency is not required.

4.) The membership terms are indefinite. The board's membership, charge, and authority shall be reviewed every three years, with new appointments/reappointments made at that time.

5.) The committee chairperson is granted flexibility on meeting rules and procedures

6.) The work of the ETAB shall be facilitated by the City Manager (or his designee) with participation by city staff. Staff shall participate in ETAB only in a non-voting, advisory role. Staff shall not count towards quorum calculations. Voting seats vacated by staff shall not be refilled.

7.) ETAB agenda shall be created by staff in cooperation with the committee chairperson. Items may be added by the chairperson at his/her discretion, administratively by the City Manager, or via referral of the full City Council.

8.) The ETAB's recommendations shall be forwarded to City Council typically through its "Consent Agenda" process.

9.) The ETAB's charge shall be to consider and make recommendations on matters related to trail usability and community impact. Examples include:
   a. On-trail amenities
   b. Maintenance prioritization
   c. Signage (types, content, and placement)
   d. Trail "rules" and user standards
   e. Integration of Ecusta Trail into existing trails/facilities

f. Type and location of complementary amenities outside federally funded project footprint.
g. Construction timing
h. Complementary programs (e.g. Trail Partners) intended to leverage the trail's presence to create community impact
i. Encroachment requests within trail corridor in conjunction with technical analysis by staff.

10.) The provisions of this resolution supersede the related provisions of the below resolutions. Unaffected provisions of the below resolutions remain in effect:
a. Resolution 2021-21
b. Resolution 2021-58
c. Resolution 2022-40

Adopted and approved this the 5th day of August, 2024.

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

M-2. Consider Resolution Dedicating the Western Terminus of the Ecusta Trail on Main St. in Downtown Brevard – Mr. Hooper noted that this was a Council-initiated question and Staff's position on this is neutral, but in order to facilitate the conversation Staff compiled a SWOT analysis for Council's consideration:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats/Risks
• Proposal would result in a single brand for Brevard's most prominent trail segments. • Proposal would bring Ecusta Trail nomenclature into Lumberyard and downtown areas. • Proposal would provide clarity to Henderson County and FOET as they embark on trail branding for their segment opening in late 2024. • Proposal extends the length and prominence of the Ecusta Trail	• Proposal replaces legacy trail name (Estatoe) for prominent segments of trail network. • Proposal expands Ecusta Trail footprint beyond federally funded project footprint. All necessary enhancements would have to be funded with local dollars.	• Proposal could induce Ecusta Trail users to continue downtown, allowing downtown and Lumberyard businesses to benefit from the commerce the trail is expected to generate. • Proposal would allow Depot to be used to its fuller potential. • Local Ecusta Trail money could potentially be used to improve bike/ped infrastructure in R5800 from what's planned.	• Trail segment along AVL HWY will be different in character than the main trail, and likely harder to travel. • Full connection between current terminus and downtown won't be completed until NCDOT's R5800 project is finished. • R5800's construction will interrupt connection between main trail and downtown for perhaps two years.

Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to adopt the Resolution Dedicating the Western Terminus of the Ecusta Trail on Main Street in Downtown Brevard.

Discussion: Mr. Baker said I see this as fulfilling the promise and the potential of the Ecusta Trail as originally intended when the City of Brevard took the leadership role in making this trail happen. I see this as an extension of that and a really important decision for us to make. The logo that we approved at the joint meeting said Hendersonville and Brevard at the top; it did not say Hendersonville and Pisgah Forest. The trail reaches all the way to downtown Hendersonville on their Main Street, and I believe a project as transformational as this should also reach our Main Street. He said I know there has been some discussion about the current Estatoe Trail and how this affects the names of our current trail system, and I don't think this in any way overshadows the Estatoe Trail name, the importance of that trail to the city, and I think this honors the forethought from so many city leaders of the past who took a risk on building the multi-use path to begin with. The only real reason we can make this decision tonight is because the trail already reaches Main Street which is a relatively new development in the last few years, and the decisions that led up to that fact have brought us here today and made this a reality.

Mr. Wise said I agree with most of what Mr. Baker said. I think it is critically important we find a connection between our two communities in Hendersonville and here. The Main Street to Main Street ideal is a very clear concept and it compels people to want to ride the whole thing from mile zero all the way to our downtown where we really want them.

Mr. Daniel said I agree with what both council members have said. When you have a vision and you're this close to completing it, let's do that. I see bringing the trail to Main Street in downtown Brevard as the completion of that vision.

Ms. Holder said I think one of the weaknesses is part of the answer to my question that since it is beyond the federally-funded footprint of the project, then we would have to use local dollars in order to fund it. Do we have those resources at this point or is that something we would have to look at again later to build those resources? Mr. Hooper said perhaps the local Ecusta Trail dollars, the TDA contribution and perhaps the FOET contributions could be used for enhancements to this trail. Also, the R-5800 NCDOT project is going to jumpstart some of the improvements to the trail along that corridor. There are some enhancements we can make to further convert that project to make it function more like a trail.

Mr. Morrow said I would hope that we would push this decision down the road. The history of it means so much to me and if they're both going together, maybe that works, but I don't see the Ecusta Trail overriding the Estatoe Trail. The Estatoe Trail was created in 1856 between Rosman and Pisgah Forest, so that tells you that they're linked. The history of it goes on and many Cherokee-heritage people that live here understand that perhaps more than most. It was the very first foot trail that existed in this river valley. I think we need to be real careful about how we treat the Estatoe Trail and I think it is an opportunity. We've always talked about this competition between gateway and downtown – what connects them? The Estatoe Trail does. It seems to me that is a real opportunity to improve…we have put $12,000 in this year's budget for the same design team that is working on the Ecusta Trail to look at the Estatoe Trail for improvements. So we know that it's needed. The engineering of the two are entirely different; one is safe, one is not so safe. The Estatoe Trail needs a lot of work. Just to say we are going to do it without knowing how much it's going to cost or where the issues are, in my view we are waving a magic wand.

Vote on the motion was 4 in favor; one opposed (Morrow). The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-32
RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE ECUSTA TRAIL ON MAIN STREET IN DOWNTOWN BREVARD

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail will be a multiuse, paved greenway connecting the cities of Hendersonville and Brevard along a former rail line which ended service in 2002 and will serve as a new "cultural main street" connecting communities, promoting health, enriching the quality of life and the economy for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Ecusta Trail is a grassroots non-profit formed in 2009 dedicated to the completion of this trail; and

WHEREAS, Conserving Carolina, a non-profit land conservation organization operating in Henderson, Transylvania and neighboring counties, worked with partners including the Friends of the Ecusta Trail and local governments to create the proposed Ecusta Trail utilizing the 19.4-mile rail corridor connecting Hendersonville and Brevard; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard agreed in June 2021 to play a lead role in securing funding, overseeing construction and managing public use of the section of the Ecusta Trail in Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, in the Summer of 2023 the City of Brevard was awarded two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation to complete the Ecusta Trail: a $21.4 million Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects grant and a $24.5 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant; and

WHEREAS, the future Ecusta Trail will bring many recreational, public health and economic benefits to local residents and businesses in the City of Brevard and Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, the eastern terminus of the Ecusta Trail is located on South Main Street in Downtown Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard with its partner the Heart of Brevard is dedicated to maintaining and growing a vibrant and vital downtown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard is building and maintaining its own 7.5 mile long multi-use trail called the Estatoe Trail which connects its citizens to important landmarks, schools, businesses, and recreational assets within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Ecusta Trail will only fulfill its aspirations of connecting the Western North Carolina communities of Hendersonville and Brevard if it is contiguous from "Main Street to Main Street".

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

Section 1. The City of Brevard dedicates the western terminus of the Ecusta Trail on Main Street in Downtown Brevard and will commit staff time and infrastructure including portions of its multi-use trail to this purpose.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved this the 5th day of August, 2024.

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

N. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations.

Ms. Holder thanked everyone for being here.

Mr. Wise said I have been talking to a number of candidates that are running in our community and one of the first things we talked about is talking to the public and so I would love to thank all of you for being here telling us your opinion, writing us, calling us. I can't tell you how important that is; we are here for you. There is a WNC housing forum this Friday August 9th at the Blue Ridge Conference Hall in Flat Rock. It is a good opportunity to talk about housing needs regionally in our community.

Mr. Morrow said to Chief Jordan I would like to give a shoutout to Lt. Ralph Cobb and Sgt. Wilson Bunn, two of your finest. Unfortunately, about ten days ago with the international cyber security problem, Keir Manufacturing's cloud was compromised. Thankfully they were not able to penetrate our system, but they did get into our cloud and were able to duplicate exactly our invoices and try to get them to send their money to Texas instead of Brevard. Those guys know their stuff. They got us in and the biggest thing is they understand enough about the intricacies of Microsoft to where they could actually get everybody's computer back up and running within an hour. A big thank you and shout out to you guys.

Mr. Daniel expressed concern about the Jailhouse Hill sidewalk. He said we have given City Camper multiple passes and they need to get that cleaned up.

Mr. Hooper reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center. In an effort to make government more transparent and meet people where they are we decided to experiment with holding a meeting remotely.

Mayor Copelof reminded everybody that tomorrow night is National Night Out, an opportunity for the community to meet and interact with our public safety folks. Also, the Heart of Brevard will have its square dance that same evening. It was nice to watch one of our police officers get promoted and one get recognized. We talk about the importance of public input, and we have opportunities for that public input on the affordable housing project as we heard earlier. We will also have a public input session on the Ecusta Trail on September 10th from 5-7 pm at the Rogow Room. I want to thank everybody that took time out to come tonight as well as those that took time out to come to the public input session we had a week ago on the new district in the Pisgah Forest area.

O. Closed Session

O-1. Pending Litigation: NCGS §143-318.11.(a)(3) – At 7:00 p.m. Ms. Holder

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 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, Planning Director Paul Ray, and Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 7:53 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 7:54 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Ms. Holder, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Copelof Mayor	Denise Hodsdon, CMC City Clerk

Minutes Approved: August 19, 2024