MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The Brevard City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 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 City Manager David Todd, Planning Director Paul Ray, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Senior Planner Emily Brewer, Human Resources Director Kelley Craig, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Police Chief Tom Jordan, Fire Chief Bobby Cooper, Public Works Director Wesley Shook, Water Treatment Plant ORC Dennis Richardson, Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC Emory Owen, and Community Center Director Tyree Griffin

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

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

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

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

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

E. Approval of Agenda – Mr. Daniel requested to add an item regarding Resolution Authorizing a Great State Trails Grant Application as Item M-1 under New Business. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Minutes

F-1. September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting – Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comments

Sean Walton of Hendersonville said I would like to speak to you about the current difficulties occurring at the Brevard Police Department. Although I am neither an employee of this agency nor a resident of Brevard, I have a vested interest in these matters as I am Lt. Kat Twomey's fiancé and recent decisions are negatively affecting her home life and her work life. Additionally, currently I am in my 30th year in law enforcement and in my current job have worked with the Brevard Police Department for the past 12 years. The current schedule of patrol, a modified Panama schedule was recently forced upon the Patrol Division. This schedule was not asked for, nor were the patrolmen consulted before this change. The prior DuPont schedule provided for an 8-day break, which many families, including ours, scheduled our vacation. Patrolmen would also schedule training during this time as to not burden their shifts with working short. It could be said that police officers could use their vacation as other city employees do, but in what other department do employees, instead of management,

have to find a replacement for them when they take vacation? Officers have had to return from approved vacations due to these replacements not being available. This pool of replacements has become less and less with the short staffing of the Patrol Division, which is continuing as officers are leaving this agency and seeking other law enforcement job opportunities. With the new schedule, a directive was sent out that patrol officers will not work more than 4 days in a row. This winnows down the officers available to work for others even more. Making this pool even smaller is the fact that only the Patrol Division seems to be carrying this burden. The Chief of Police had a practice where all patrol shifts would be staffed with 4 officers. Now some patrol shifts have only 2 officers working at a time. This is an officer safety issue. This change in schedule seems to be retaliatory for a recent complaint filed with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. The schedule was implemented not only the same day that the Police Department was notified of this complaint, but within hours of it being notified. I know this because I'm the one who contacted OSHA. My fiancé's workstation at the old Police Department downstairs, which included computers and monitors and other electronic equipment, had flooded during the rains of this summer. She had taken pictures and videos of rainwater coming down the walls over electrical outlets and pooling around the chairs at these computer stations. When she notified her chain of command, their advice was "limit their time in this working environment". This is the same advice given to patrol officers when a portion of the department was moved to the new Police Department due to mold and respiratory health issues. But Patrol did not move and continued to work in that environment until recently. What would you have done if this was a family member of yours? Additionally, the current Police administration has put out a schedule for cleaning the new Police Department to include cleaning the bathrooms. In conclusion, the City of Brevard police officers are your employees. You're supposed to protect them from these sort of issues and I would ask that you look into these issues and the issues that others are going to address tonight.

Tim Waldrop of 3225 Island Ford Road said I am not a resident of the City of Brevard, but I did put in 30 years at the City of Brevard - started out as a patrol officer and retired as a lieutenant. During my career we had a waiting list to be hired at the Police Department. I retired in 2008 and I would say there were 14 to 15 officers waiting to come in. It's not that way anymore. Two officers per shift is…we went to 3 officers per shift in the mid-80's; 4 officers per shift in the early 2000's and it's not just a club; those officers are needed on the road. It is not safe for one officer to answer calls by themself. I don't know where the problem lies but I have heard it from many officers. There are 3 or 4 here who were still here when I retired. City Council used to come out and ride with the officers; they knew what we were facing and they actually cared about what we were facing and tried to do their best to help us. I am not seeing that now and I don't mean to disparage anyone here, but I am not seeing anyone standing up and trying to help the Brevard Police Department.

Rick Harbin of 418 Pisgah Drive said I served at Brevard Police Department for the better part of 13 years. I recently retired in May of this year as Lieutenant. I loved serving this city and I feel that it is my duty to help in this matter. I urge you not to take these complaints, facts, and concerns lightly, as our ultimate goal is to make Brevard a better and safer place. Under the current administration staffing issues are at an all-time low. This is not only a safety issue for the officers, but makes providing law enforcement services to the public at the expected levels very difficult. The lack of leadership at this department is appalling and in turn has significantly lowered the morale of the officers on duty, something that is important in this line of work. A sudden schedule change without the knowledge of the officers has recently raised concern. This change has been detrimental to the officers' well-being and family lives. Again, two things in this line of work that are significantly impactful on their daily lives. Under this leadership the communication between agencies has deteriorated making it difficult to better serve this community as a team in my opinion. It is no secret that there are drug issues, not only among this community, but the surrounding areas as well, yet this leadership caused the removal of the Brevard PD from the Narcotics Task Force. This causes less intel and action by the City for drug enforcement. This is highly

important to better the city that we all love. I encourage you to please get input from the officers as currently their livelihood, well-being and the safety of Brevard are at risk.

Vince Stone of 75 Dodson Flats, said I was an officer here and had to retire prematurely due to some medical issues. But in my job the biggest concern is safety and we are having that issue now. Two officers to a shift is unsatisfactory and needs to be corrected immediately. Morale at this department has gone downhill; not sure of everything that is going on with it, but I do know the schedule being changed going from the DuPont to the Panama…I'm not real familiar with the Panama; don't care. I worked 39 years rotating shifts starting at Ecusta and then came here. When I came to work here I felt like family and the closer I got and had some medical issues, the worse it got. We had Interim Chief Dean Galloway and he was a good chief. People got along, we all did our jobs, we worked and had fun, along with the risk we took when we put that uniform on. When he went out things started changing and starting going downhill and they have gone downhill since then. Right now it's at its worst and it's embarrassing. It's bad enough that the officers have to deal with all the issues that we dealt with over the last 4 years – defund the police and all the harassments and other issues that are going on – but now we're having to go out on patrol and work short-handed and deal with complaints and then come and deal with administrative issues. I read an article, something about retaliation, I'm not sure what that's about, but there is no place for that here. We talk about people being bullied at school and if there is retaliation going on in this department, that's bullying and that needs to stop. Mold is another issue. It's hard to cover everything in 3 minutes that needs to be covered, but I will leave it at the fact of it's a safety issue for officers.

Brandon McGaha of Mills River said I work for the NC Police Benevolent Association and I travel the state working on issues like these. If I'm here it's typically that somebody has reached out to me and has brought me here and that's the scenario here. I have met with Mr. McKeller and Mr. Hooper and have found them both very good to work with. I think we may have disagreements on the progress made at this stage, but I have found them open to suggestions. But we are concerned about the men and women at the Police Department. Morale is especially low in the Patrol Division and that is partially due to a schedule change that I believe you all received some information from me today on. While the new schedule hasn't been in effect but a couple of weeks, it's obvious on paper that it's not going to work for them. It gives them less time with their families. Taking a Friday, most families start their activities then, and trading for a Monday doesn't make sense to anyone. It drastically affects the family and their weekend events. How patient should officers be when they see something that damages their lives so much? Officers already lose large amounts of time due to work and any further loss is a huge bill to them that will cause officers to look other places. Several officers have advanced degrees and can manage organizations themselves. The administration seems to have the parent/child mentality concerning the Police Department and that prevents the development of a happy and healthy workplace. There seems to be a feeling that when someone stands up for themself, that they are retaliated against. I offered to employees for them to come today and watch this process and speak to you all on matters of public concern and they refused out of concerns for retaliation. These employees did communicate to me that they would be willing to sit down with Mr. Hooper or you all to talk about these issues. While you can't order a schedule change, North Carolina General Assembly has given you all authority to keep tabs on the city's services. You all can hold hearings and hear from officers as to the functionality of the PD. I would say it is part of your duty to make sure the city services are topnotch and that may be more than just listening to the administration of the city. Our hope is that you all will communicate your vision for a vibrant workplace where the employees feel vested and part of the mission of the City.

Rick Tullis, President of the Mountain Chapter of the North Carolina Police Benevolent Association, said we represent over 17,000 members in North Carolina, several of which are Brevard officers, which brings me here tonight. The association exists to provide its membership with legal representation, legislative advocacy, as well as grievance resolution. When it comes to resolving grievances or complaints we always prefer to work closely with law enforcement executives and government

officials privately so as to reach an amicable agreement for each party, Over the last several years we have received disturbing complaints from our members about the administration of the Brevard Police Department. We have diligently attempted to work through the administration and the city attorney to resolve these concerns. The administration seems to be unwilling or unable to acknowledge that the Brevard Police Department is facing a severe dilemma regarding the morale issues and trust in the officers' leadership. Additionally, certain members of the administration have acted in a manner that appears to be retaliatory, specifically as it relates to abruptly changing the patrol schedule to a schedule that is untenable and negatively impacts the officers and their families. There has been no explanation or reason given to the officers as to why this has occurred. This change has come suddenly and without warning immediately following an OSHA investigation that was brought forth by the concerns of members of that agency. Another equally and disturbing issue is the state of the evidence room. We have been made aware that there are several items of evidence missing, including money and drug evidence. When we brought this to the administration's attention we were met with denials of stonewalling and furthermore, the Chief went on record recently with the media to say he was never made aware of the state of the evidence room. We have documents in our possession that are public record that contradict his statements. Not only was he aware, instead of working with his staff to resolve these issues, we have documents to show he acted in a manner to subvert and block the efforts of his staff. The importance of missing evidence and mismanagement of the evidence room cannot be understated. It directly impacts the integrity of any evidentiary of value and impedes the Brevard Police Department's ability to provide the District Attorney with the means to successfully prosecute cases brought forth by the officers. I must urgently ask this council, as within its authority per NCGS 160A-80, to initiate an investigation, subpoena any records relating to the administration of the Brevard Police Department for misconduct as it relates to the obstruction of officers' abilities to uphold their oaths of office, retaliatory actions that have created a hostile work environment for the officers, and refusal to report as required to the District Attorney the department's compromised ability to provide evidence in its criminal cases.

Don Rogers of 45 Gristmill View said I am on the board and volunteer with the Hunger Coalition of Transylvania County, which I hope you are somewhat familiar with. We have several programs and this year during the budgeting cycle I submitted a grant request for $5,000 to fund our meal kit program. These are meal kits that we hand out to the after-school programs and to families that teach heart healthy plant-based cooking. We requested $5,000 to provide 2,000 meals, a very good deal, and we were denied; and I and my board have trouble understanding why that was true. We did investigate a little bit; I see that your support for other non-profits has gone down quite a bit in the last three years from $140,000 two years ago, $120,000 last year, and only $82,000 this year designated for non-profits. Well there are some budgetary we understand, and so we were feeling a little better. However, if you look at the individual of what you funded with that, you funded the Pisgah Conservancy and the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA), both with more than $5,000 and it seems to us that that says your priorities are more on tourism and bicycling than feeding hungry families and kids and teaching them how to cook and be more heart healthy. This program has been funded by Dogwood regionally with a $30,000 grant three years ago but we have used that money and now to keep it going we have got to have more and we can't continue without it. We were lucky enough to get another grant for $5,000 to continue the program through Christmas, but after Christmas we are dead in the water. I am hoping you might be able to help with that; maybe this was just an unfortunate oversight on the Council's part, because I can't believe you prioritized tourism over feeding your own citizens. If that's true, maybe you can help as we've still got until January to do that. Lacking that, perhaps you could lead us or point us at somewhere we might also be funded again. Bottom line, we feel like this is not right. We will reapply next year but without your help it is possible that we will not be able to continue this the rest of the school year.

Brent Wilson of 120 Orchid Heights Dr., Pisgah Forest said I worked here at the Police Department for 13 years and I have seen morale in the Police Department go

down in the years that I've been gone; I left in 2005. To see the police officers having to struggle to have two men on a shift, when we were here we had five men on a shift. Crime in the City of Brevard has not gone down; it's not changed from when I was here. There's probably more now and we have the same amount of dope I'm sure that was here then. I don't understand the City not having a drug enforcement team to back up with the County on the situation with the drug enforcement because we had it here then and I did a lot of work in it. It hurts my heart to know that police officers don't do the escort for funeral services anymore here in Brevard. That was a thing that I took heart in when I worked here and I know a lot of the older officers that worked here were proud to do stuff for the people in the community. I don't understand stuff like that. It's a sad day that our police officers don't have enough protection. That was something that was in my heart when I got hurt and I left. Now you don't have the people covered. It's not right if somebody was to get hurt and you don't have enough manpower to take care of that man or woman that is working out there on the street. It should be that we are all taken care of. If you knew what happened to me and I had people back me up, but if somebody got hurt on the street today, two people on the road is not enough. There were five that came out to help me the day that I got hurt and it took five, so if there is something bad, it is going to take more than two people. I just wish you all would pay attention to these older officers who have been here and have done this stuff.

H. Certificates/Awards/Recognition

H-1. Proclamation No. 2024-18 Constitution Week – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to DAR members Stacy Hufziger, Nancy Davis, Molly Tartt, and Kathy Haehnel.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-18
CONSTITUTION WEEK

WHEREAS, September 17, 2024, marks the two 237th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 16th day of September, 2024.

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

I. Special Presentations

I-1. Estatoe Trail Unfinished Sections Review and Next Steps Discussion – Mr. Hooper presented a table of Estatoe Trail outstanding projects (copy attached) and noted that there is still more information to come. He said he hoped to have a discussion about which segment Council would like to prioritize and dedicate most of our resources to in the year to come. He noted that the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee was asked the same question a few weeks ago. Mr. Hooper explained that the Estatoe Trail has eight outstanding projects to complete it. Six of those are active and three of those six are constructing new segments. One of the sections that is about to be constructed, Tannery North, is funded and we are waiting for it to start. We turned that project over to NCDOT because of the complexity of doing construction on a Brownfield and they are more familiar with administering federal grants, which is the source of funding for this project. In exchange for their expertise, we have traded

timeliness and this has been delayed a little bit, primarily due to the federal funding source. The let date for this contract has been pushed off to fall of 2025, which means it probably won't be open until spring of 2026. This project is also affected by the bat moratorium for this area and construction can only take place in the wintertime. Staff are in talks with NCDOT to see if we can do some of the preparatory site work this season so construction could go a little quicker.

The two remaining construction projects – Main Street to Mary C. Jenkins Community Center and Rosman Hwy to the high school – are both the subject of our 30% design contract Council recently approved, but we have an opportunity to apply for a Great State Trail Program grant. Aaron Bland explained that this grant is for planning, design and construction and maintaining trails. Staff is suggesting that if we are successful with this grant request that we change that 30% design contract to a 100% design contract for these two sections and use the grant to fund the majority of that. We would have to match $1 for every $2 of the grant, but our matching funds for that grant for 100% designs would be less than we are already committed to spend for 30% designs.

Mr. Hooper said we have more information on the cost of right-of-way acquisition from Main Street to MCJCC. With that information, he is projecting that we will have $500,000 or more in right-of-way acquisition cost, and there is the challenge of the intangible cost of using eminent domain. This was the segment that was endorsed by the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee as their top priority.

The last construction segment is the Rosman Hwy to the high school and there are fewer properties to acquire right-of-way on, but longer distances to cover. We have no idea of the right-of-way acquisition cost but suspect it will be a similar order of magnitude to the other section. The design contract will inform this substantially.

Mr. Hooper explained that the next category are enhancements to current infrastructure that will make that infrastructure function more like a trail and be more accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians. These are:

1) Rosman Hwy Crossing – conceptual designs have been approved by NCDOT and we have sufficient information to apply for the necessary encroachment permit. The projected project will be a pedestrian stop light and in exchange for NCDOT paying for and installing this light, the City has offered to build sidewalks on both sides of the road.

2) R-5800 Betterments – Transylvania County Development Authority gave us a $75,000 grant to study these improvements. We have asked our trail designer TPD to review NCDOT's design plans and identify possible traffic safety enhancements and trail features that might work on this project; and then to approach NCDOT to find out which of those NCDOT would be willing to add to the project. The majority of these enhancements would have to be funded by our local funds.

The two boardwalks behind McDonald's that connect the trail to Poplar Street and beyond are reaching the end of their useful life. We have engaged an expert to assess these structures and give us an estimate of the cost to repair or replace them, but we are still waiting for him to come out to do that assessment. Mr. Hooper noted that if it is uneconomical to replace the bridges, an alternative alignment to use the abandoned railbed may be worth considering.

Mr. Hooper explained that no action was needed this evening, but he wanted to hear Council's thoughts on which project(s) to focus on. Following Council's discussion, there was consensus that the first priority would be the section from Main Street to MCJCC, followed by the Rosman Hwy crossing as the second priority. Council Members also noted that the R-5800 project is very important and encouraged negotiating with NCDOT to use its funds to help pay for some of the enhancements.

J. Public Hearing(s) – None.

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. Tax Settlement Report – August 2024

K-2. Property Tax Releases – August 2024

RESOLUTION 2024-39
A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPERTY TAX RELEASES

WHEREAS, The City of Brevard has previously determined to collect property taxes for the City of Brevard and the Heart of Brevard, and it is necessary to release the below shown amount from the city tax records.

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

The Tax Collector is hereby authorized to remove August 2024 property values from the tax scroll in the amount of:

2024: $ 372.29

Adopted and approved this the 16th day of September, 2024.

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

K-3. Official City-Sponsored Special Event Listing

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-40
RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIST OF CITY-SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENTS

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

WHEREAS, Brevard City Council recognizes 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

WHEREAS, the 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan recommends that the city "Invest in public infrastructure and facilities, as well as the operations and maintenance necessary to support festivals and cultural events."

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 approve and declare the following events to be City-sponsored for NCDOT permitting purposes:

- White Squirrel Weekend
- July 4th Celebration
- Brevard En Plein Air Festival (aka Art is in the Air)
- Halloweenfest
- Light Up the Night
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Rosenwald Community Basketball Tournament
- Old Time Street Dances
- National Night Out
- Memorial Day Parade
- Christmas Parade
- Brevard High School Homecoming Parade
- Veterans Day Ceremony

Section 2. These events shall have the typical special event permit fee waived, however event bonds and fees for emergency personnel may still be charged.

Adopted and approved this the 16th day of September 2024.

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

K-4. Proclamation No. 2024-19 Honoring the 156th Anniversary of Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association

PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-19
HONORING THE 156TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the year 2024 marks the 156th Anniversary of Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association, which has been dedicated to the service of God and humanity and played an important role in the religious life of many Black Baptist Churches in a three-county area (Henderson, Buncombe, and Transylvania) of Western North Carolina.; and

WHEREAS, we give pause, honor and praise for the deep and abiding Christian commitment of those who in faith began this work and for all those who have given so unselfishly during the many years to help the work grow and thrive and provide valuable human services to our community; and

WHEREAS, our community has benefited from the fine Christian influence of the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association through the years and the many facets of its outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association's 11th Annual Banquet will take place on September 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard hereby extends its expression of best wishes to Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association on its 156th Anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, hereby proclaim September 21, 2024 as "**MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNIVERSARY DAY**" and ask our citizens to extend their appreciation for the exemplary work Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association continues to do in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, to be affixed this, the 11th day of September, 2024.

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

K-5. Ecusta Trail Advisory Board Minutes – May 29, 2024

K-6. Council Downtown Master Plan Committee Minutes – June 12, 2024

K-7. Council Public Works & Utilities Committee Minutes – August 7, 2024

K-8. Council Housing Committee Minutes – August 13, 2024

L. Unfinished Business – None.

M. New Business

M-1. Great Trails State Grant Application – Mr. Daniel moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the resolution authorizing the grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-41
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO APPLY FOR A GREAT TRAILS STATE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF THE ESTATOE GREENWAY

WHEREAS, The City of Brevard has long valued quality multi-modal transportation infrastructure investments, a value expressed through numerous public input efforts and planning processes over many years; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation has announced the Great Trails State Program grant, a one-time grant cycle of $25 million to provide funding for new trail development and extension of existing trails in the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the City's Estatoe Trail greenway has currently built out 6.4 miles of the planned 7.5-mile-long system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard City Council has prioritized the Estatoe Trail greenway system repeatedly over the past several years, including at the Strategic Planning Retreat held February 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the *Building Brevard 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan* action ATCH-16 states "Complete priority greenways including the Estatoe Trail and the Ecusta Trail. Pursue grants and prioritize local funding to be used for key segments and/or matching grants"; and

WHEREAS, the *2023 Brevard Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan* identifies completing the Estatoe Trail as a top priority; and

WHEREAS, design and engineering of new paved trails, resulting in a set of construction documents, is an eligible project of the Great Trails State Program grant; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County is a "Tier 2" county and therefore the City would be required to match one non-state dollar for every two dollars of grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Great Trails State Program grant applications are due November 12, 2024, with awards expected to be announced in early 2025.

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

Section 1. The City of Brevard Planning Department is hereby authorized to apply for the Great Trails State Program grant for the design and engineering of the remaining unbuilt sections of the Estatoe Trail greenway system.

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

Adopted and approved this the 16th day of September 2024.

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

N. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations.

Mr. Wise commented that the Moms Mabley mural is awesome.

Mr. Holder agreed with Mr. Wise and said it was good to see Moms Mabley who my dad knew well and passed on some of her albums to me. She thanked the Mayor and City Clerk for the Mud Creek Association proclamation.

Mr. Morrow remarked that it was great that Moms Mabley is finally getting some recognition and said in talking with the artist it was interesting to hear why they chose that picture of her.

Mr. Daniel commented that it was perfect timing for the Moms Mabley mural to be finished in time for the Plein Air Festival. He mentioned that that festival is one of the more unique municipal festivals and encouraged folks to attend next year.

Mr. Baker agreed that seeing Moms Mabley up there was great and hoped that their encounter with the mural would lead to people wanting to learn more about her. He said I want to acknowledge what a gift our trail system is and how proud I am of what we have in Brevard already; and the advantages of the Ecusta Trail for Brevard, I feel like we are very well positioned to take advantage of that.

Attorney McKeller said I want to express that any concerns you have heard tonight about the Police Department, every concern that has been brought to staff's attention has been very carefully looked at and investigated. There were some allegations made regarding evidence and retaliation, and I have done an extensive review and found no evidence of that whatsoever. I offered under very carefully closed opportunities on two different occasions to listen to any other specific allegations that may be out there and both meetings were canceled by the PBA at the last minute. I am

still willing to listen to any sort of allegations that may be brought out, but I wanted to assure you that the administration of the City is taking each and every one of these allegations seriously and is investigating them thoroughly. The mold issue was the primary reason Council was asked earlier this year to approve a new place for them to go, so I'm not sure of the genesis of some of the statements that were brought forth tonight. We want to ensure that there is a non-retaliatory workplace, and I hope we can get any issues resolved.

Mayor Copelof reiterated that the Plein Air Festival was wonderful and expressed thanks to Heart of Brevard, the Police Department, the Fire Department and Public Works. She heard feedback from the artists that this was one of their favorite places to come to because they were treated so well. She said she has received nothing but positive feedback about the Moms Mabley mural and thanked the Planning Department for their work on getting us the grant to pay for the mural. She added that she and Paul Ray attended the Great State Trail Conference last week and Brevard was recognized for our trail system in almost every session.

O. Closed Session

O-1. Property Acquisition: NCGS §143-318.11.(a)(3)(5) – At 6:59 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to enter into closed session to discuss a property acquisition 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, Planning Director Paul Ray, Senior Planner Emily Brewer and Assistant City Manager David Todd.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 7:17 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.

O-2. Pending Litigation: NCGS §143-318.11.(a)(3) – At 7:17 p.m. Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Ms. Holder 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, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, Planning Director Paul Ray, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland and Assistant City Manager David Todd.

Council Returned to Regular Session – at 7:45 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 7:45 p.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Copelof Mayor	Denise Hodsdon, CMC City Clerk

Minutes Approved: October 8, 2024