RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON REVIEWING THE WATER OUTAGE IN ORDER TO ASSESS INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND THE CITY'S RESPONSE; AND TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAXIMIZE PREVENTION AND IMPROVE RESPONSE EFFORTS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

WHEREAS, in December of 2022, the City of Asheville experienced several days of extraordinarily low temperatures, causing water pipes to freeze and break and related infrastructure to fail; and

WHEREAS, the damage to this system resulted in numerous customers of the City's Water Department to go without water for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville initially devoted all available resources, as well as coordinating assistance from community and local government partners, to fully restore service to all people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, upon completing these restoration efforts, and because the City of Asheville cares deeply about our community's well being and the impacts this outage has had on our residents, their families and businesses, City Council now desires to establish a multidisciplinary and independent review committee to review the water outage in order to assess infrastructure needs and the City's response; and to determine what can be done to maximize prevention and improve response and communication efforts in the case of future events; and

WHEREAS, because this water outage also impacted customers who do not reside in the City limits, the independent review committee will include appointees from Buncombe County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council hereby establishes an independent review committee to analyze the events and circumstances leading up to, and throughout the duration of, the recent prolonged water outage. This committee shall review the water outage in order to provide a comprehensive account of the event, an assessment of the City's operational and emergency response and communication efforts, and an analysis of needed infrastructure and process and policy changes that, if implemented, would maximize prevention of future events and improve communication, emergency response, and mitigation processes.

The committee shall be composed of nine members with multidisciplinary backgrounds to include the following position classifications: Two Residential Water Customers, One Commercial Water Customer, One Emergency Response Professional, Two Communications Professionals, and Three Subject Matter Experts in Public Water Systems. Two appointments shall be made by the Buncombe County Commission, and the remaining appointments shall be made by the Asheville City Council.

The committee shall engage an expert to prepare an initial report regarding the findings and recommendations of the committee, with updates on this process being shared with the City Council within 30 days of the committee being established.

The Committee shall provide a final report, including the written report of the committee's contracted expert, with the City Council within 90 days of the committee being established.

Thereafter, upon completion of the assigned review, presentation of its report, and fulfillment of any related tasks assigned by the City Council, the commission shall dissolve.

Read, approved and adopted this 10th day of January, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney