MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
November 2, 2026 – 5:30 PM

The Brevard City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Copelof presiding.

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

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, Assistant to the City Manager Shawnee Cummings, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Planning Director Paul Ray, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Senior Planner Emily Brewer, Police Chief Christy Wentzell, 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* and Jonathan Rich, *Brevard Beagle*

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

B. Invocation – Norm Bossert of the Brevard Jewish Community 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. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Minutes

F-1. October 19, 2026 Regular Meeting – Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Certificates / Awards / Recognition

G-1. Proclamation No. 2026-30 National Family Caregivers Month – Mayor Copelof read the proclamation aloud and presented it to members of the Brevard Livability Task Force.

PROCLAMATION N0. 2026-30
NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

WHEREAS, this November in Brevard, we recognize the 2.1 million family caregivers across our state who are helping their older parents, spouses and other loved ones live independently in their homes and in their communities – where they want to be; and

WHEREAS, Brevard's family caregivers are among millions of Americans recognized this November during National Family Caregivers Month. Family caregivers are the backbone of North Carolina's long-term care system. This extraordinary contribution not only sustains families but also saves our state's taxpayers billions; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers are stressed and overwhelmed by balancing the physical, emotional, financial and often time-consuming demands required to care for their older loved ones. They do it all, help their older loved ones with essential tasks, including medications and medical care, meals, bathing and dressing, chores, finances, grocery shopping, transportation and more; and

WHEREAS, most pay for expensive care out of their own pockets--all while facing soaring prices for everyday essentials like groceries, housing, utilities and health care. Too often, family caregivers stop saving, take on more debt, use up personal short-term savings, leave bills unpaid or pay them late, and borrow money from family and friends to deal with the financial challenges. And for the family caregivers who are also juggling jobs, many must reduce work hours or leave the workforce entirely due to caregiving responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers deserve our gratitude, but they also need commonsense solutions that save them money, time, and provide support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard hereby proclaim November 2026 as **National Family Caregivers Month** in Brevard. Chances are if you are not a family caregiver right now, you have been, you may be at some point, or you know someone who is, or you will someday need a family caregiver yourself to help you live independently at home. Family caregivers need support, including financial relief. I encourage all citizens to reach out to the family caregivers in their lives, thank them for the incredibly important work they do, and support them if you can.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 2nd day of November, 2026.

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

G-2. Oath of Office – Police Officer Lance LeDoux – Lance LeDoux was sworn in as a Law Enforcement Officer by City Clerk Denise Hodsdon. Officer LeDoux was accompanied by his wife and daughter.

City of Brevard, North Carolina
Oath of Office

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania
City of Brevard

I, Lance Robert LeDoux, 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 Law Enforcement Officer for the City of Brevard, so help me God.

Oath Administered By: s/ Lance Robert LeDoux
s/ Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk
November 2, 2026

H. Public Comments

Lisa Rodke of Whitmire St. said I am absolutely 100% against the Clemson Plaza being usurped by the Ecusta Trail terminus. I am speaking for myself and have not spoken to anyone about my objections. When I read the front-page article in the October 19th edition of the *Transylvania Times* about the Ecusta Trail and the artist rendition of the terminus in Clemson Plaza, my first reaction was how dare they desecrate the gorgeous mural of Loretta Aiken a/k/a Moms Mabley. How dare they whitewash the only visual symbol on Main St. of Brevard's vibrant Black history? On second thought, I realized they probably did not make these recommendations with malicious intent, but out of ignorance. However, ignorance is no excuse. The best anecdote to ignorance is education. Until the fiasco of the giant sign on the Clemson Plaza, I, myself, was totally ignorant of what the Clemson Plaza was all about. The *Transylvania Times* educated me with the history of the Clemson Theater, the first movie theater in Transylvania County. This artist rendering would be perfect for the England/Main St. parking lot. It does not interfere at all with the Fire Department and emergency vehicles, and all of the bike riders would be on the correct side of the street for all of the restaurants until Broad St.—all the restaurants are on that side of the

street. Also, there's a blank wall just waiting to be painted on, and the blank wall will be facing people riding up Main St. It's perfect, but not Clemson Plaza.

Morris Young of Faith St. said I am one of a few individuals who used to live on Pinnacle Mountain during the late 50's and early 60's. We used to live in a house that Mr. Howard Irving and his wife Maggie lived in. When Miss Maggie died, we moved into the house to be of assistance to Mr. Howard Irving during this time. My father, Eddie Young, Jr. was the brick mason teacher at 9th Avenue High School. When a school student driver was out, my father would drive the bus and always was able to turn the bus around on Pinnacle Mountain Rd. My uncle, Vernon Smith, who owns property there, and the taxes have been paid, he is married to Mr. Howard and Maggie's daughter, Sarah. They have property and they always pay their taxes. Why is it that the City would take advantage of the Black American community by having a 50-foot right-of-way that zigzags back and forth, encroach each homeowner's property, that would in the future and at the present time would stop and would not allow homeowners to cross this path to build their homes or to reach their homes, because the former road that leads to their home now has Bracken Mountain Trail zigzagging over and through their property. Would it have not been a better solution to go straight up the original road, past Ms. Barbara Baker, and start the Bracken Trail road past there. Easier, but yet it was not done. I come to a sad opinion that for some reason I have seen and heard in other communities, states and cities in these United States, another erosion by man has wiped away another Black community and has taken place. Especially in my hometown, my beloved city of Brevard, North Carolina. Why did they not seek out former residents to give them information about where the road was? What were they afraid of? It leaves me no choice but to think perhaps, and to form an opinion, that this was done deliberately, and it did not have to be.

Jimmy Veal of Pinnacle Rd. said I believe this is my tenth appearance. At my second appearance I shared with you that it was my unwavering opinion that the trail blocks access to these properties up there, one of which is owned by Roy Ray Robinson, great-great-grandson of Jake and Sarah Mackey. Barbara Garrett owns a piece of property up there—she's the granddaughter of Ella and Isaac Bailey. Also, Emma Dorsey and Connie Williams have interest in a piece of property that is still up there. The easement overlays their property; access to their property is blocked. I gave you guys certified notarized letters from each Connie and Emma talking about the driveway that was up there and they used to drive cars up there and the road was the access that some people claim never existed. Mr. Young mentioned his dad drove the school bus, and Connie Williams in the letter that I gave to you said the school bus drove up there and turned around at the flat spot at the end of the road, except when it's snowing and they had to walk down the hill to get to it. When you're paying taxes on property, that presumes that there's access, and you don't have access and your property was blocked without anybody telling you, there's something amiss. I also gave you guys a packet of information that showed which pieces and parts of the trail infrastructure block access—the parking lots, the handicap parking place, coincidentally or incidentally or with intent, was put right in the middle of the roadbed. The boulders, holly trees and native bushes right in the middle of the roadbed. Three of the trail signs are right in the middle of the roadbed. The last nail in the coffin is the two picnic tables that are out in the middle of nowhere that I have never seen anybody sit at are right in the middle of the roadbed. So, I've twice asked you guys, I'm going to ask one more time, please can we have a special meeting to talk about it, or can we be on the agenda at a regular meeting? To be obligated to spend three minutes without any dialogue or questions is not helping us get to the bottom of this problem. I again reiterate that request. In my second meeting I said it would be nice to try to solve it before lawyers got involved and I'm sure you're aware that the lawsuit was filed and I'm pretty sure that we're looking for a date in January so that you guys can try to have the suit dismissed. And I mentioned that if you want to get to the bottom of it, get to the truth, let's have a discussion.

Doug Powell of Oakdale Rd. said that, with the traditional celebration of Thanksgiving in America only three weeks away, he wanted to share rarely taught Pilgrim history. He said the Pilgrims fled religious persecution but needed London

investors to finance their voyage. To protect their investment, the investors required property to be held in common for seven years, with shared labor and profits from corn, grains, fish and furs. Because everything was held in common, this is generally accepted as one of the first modern communes in America. Most Americans think socialism or communism is a new idea here on this continent. But Carl Marx himself said in the Communist Manifesto that "the theory of the communists may be summed in the single sentence abolition of the private property." And decades later Vladimir Lenin alerted the world the goal of socialism is communism. The American experiment in communal living by the Pilgrims led to what was called the Starving Times. Able-bodied men resented being forced to produce more and benefit less, and many began producing less crops and goods or faking illness in order not to work. Women resented having to cook and care for other families other than their own. Remember, these were decent and honest men and women, and yet the failure of this communistic living led to a desperate reexamination of the involuntary sharing of private property and the fruits of their labor. It was said that this community of property was "found to breed much confusion and discontent." What happened next? Their first governor William Bradford decided to allow each man to plant corn for his own household, so every family was assigned a parcel of land according to the proportion of their number. Almost immediately every individual family member became harder working and more industrious. Even the women and children went into their own field to plant corn knowing that they would directly benefit. This led to abundance rather than lack, and out of these many blessings and gratitude led to immense voluntary charity. As Americans living in Brevard, we have much to be grateful for. We still have the ability and right to voluntarily work more and share with others the blessings and fruits of our liberty and freedom. As we celebrate another Thanksgiving in America, let us remind ourselves of the Pilgrims' failed experiment in socialism here and everywhere it has been tried. And, why on the contrary, our current republic is the most benevolent and generous nation in the history of the world.

I. Special Presentations – None.

J. Public Hearing(s)

J-1. Request for Modification to the City of Brevard Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) – Aaron Bland explained that this is a request to modify the boundaries of the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) to remove one parcel of land owned by Jeff Rogers, located at 55 Grey Havens Drive, Pisgah Forest. The request is to remove the parcel from the ETJ and the City's zoning jurisdiction. The property currently has one mobile home on it but historically had two. One home has been removed, and any nonconformity grandfathered status has expired. In order to replace the second home, the lot would have to be subdivided, but because Grey Havens Drive is a private street and the subject lot is more than 150 feet from the public Cemetery Road, the requirement for frontage on a public street cannot be met. Variances are not allowed for subdivision requirements per the ordinance and state law. The option that the property homeowner has pursued is this request to remove them from the City's planning zoning jurisdiction. The requirement that only one principal structure per lot would therefore not apply. The parcel is the last property within the ETJ; other parcels beyond the subject property that front on and are accessed by Grey Havens Drive are not in the ETJ. Several parcels on Grey Havens Drive, including the subject property and others outside the ETJ, have city water service.

At 6:03 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation:

James King said I am here with Mr. Rogers, the homeowner. I'm his proposed builder if we can remove ourselves from the ETJ. In essence all we're asking for is the chance to have Mr. Rogers have his property back the way it was, where he had two homes on it. We are on the border of the ETJ. It doesn't seem as though we're going to be nonconforming in any kind of crazy ways, and there are some inconsistencies with

the water going to folks outside of the ETJ. All we're asking is for his ability to get his land back the way it was.

Jeff Rogers said this particular piece of land is the first one that I've ever owned. I've owned it for 30-plus years. I did not know, I did not realize that I had a timeframe of when I started destruction of taking the home down to put it back. I was unaware of that. That's the reason for the meeting. We're just asking to go back like it was but update the unit. The property borderline is what we're asking to possibly be modified if it's possible.

At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

During questions/comments by Council Mr. Baker had some questions about what the options are. He said I certainly want to be able to help the property owner—we need more housing in the city, and I don't want to do anything to prevent that from happening. He noted that this is the first time he has seen a request to be removed from the ETJ and asked whether staff has a record of the City ever doing that in the past. Mr. Bland said he has not seen it happen in the 15 years he has been at the City. Mr. Baker asked if asking the Board of Adjustment for a variance is a pathway to building things that may not otherwise be allowable in the UDO. Mr. Bland explained that there are two issues they are running up against: first, there is a provision that you can only have one primary structure per lot. That is in the section of the ordinance that can be varied through the variance process. The second is the subdivision on a public street that is explicitly not allowed to be varied. The option of dividing it into two lots and putting one primary on each lot can't be varied by the Board of Adjustment. The only other option would be that one primary per lot—you could vary the number one to the number two primary structures per lot. The issue with that in this case is that one of the things you have to prove for a variance is that the hardship is not self-created. Because the owner who would be seeking a variance is the same owner who removed the home, that would be difficult to prove. A variance would be a bit of a high bar given the details of this circumstance. Mr. Bland said he didn't want to speak for the owner, but given the options, just simple removal from the ETJ meant that they didn't have to worry about any of that. So, that was more of a long-term attractive option. A variance is for one specific thing and if they were to run up against something else, they would have to go back and do it all over again. If they could get out of the ETJ, they wouldn't have to worry about that in perpetuity.

Mr. Baker then asked about the city water service in that area. Mr. Bland said there are several properties on the road that have water service and a few of them are beyond this parcel and outside the ETJ. Mr. Baker said I am not that concerned with this particular property, but because it seems to be a new action for the City, it has the potential to be Pandora's box, and I know the state legislature has their eye on ETJ legislation in general. I want to make sure that if we do this when it comes back for official action that it does not lead to some other consequences that we can't necessarily foresee right now. That would be a request for the next meeting; for Staff to think through any potential negative consequences down the road, or some alternatives such as the Board of Adjustment option or any other option.

Ms. Holder said she would like to see what the alternatives might be as well.

Mr. Wise asked if there was any history understanding why the ETJ was extended out here. He said it is such an odd division, especially at this property, and if maybe those properties that have water now outside the ETJ were at some point in the ETJ. I am assuming that if the Rogers family want to use water, even outside the ETJ, they can still pay for that service. I am also assuming that they can get the two buildings on the property under the county provisions. I would want to make sure they were square on that before we make a decision on this.

Mr. Daniel and Mr. Lytle both said they shared Mr. Baker's concerns.

J-2. Proposed Amendments to City of Brevard Unified Development Ordinance Chapter 16 – Vesting Period – Emily Brewer explained that North Carolina Session Law 2026-59, adopted August 11, 2026, amended North Carolina General Statutes related to vested rights for site specific vesting plans. These amendments extend the statutorily required duration of site-specific vesting plans. A site-specific vesting plan is a development plan submitted to a local government that describes the type and intensity of use for a specific property, establishing a statutory zoning vested right (an immunity from subsequent changes in local zoning ordinances) once it receives valid approval. Previously, NCGS required that site-specific vesting plans receive approval for a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years. Now, the minimum period is five years with a maximum of eight. This amendment incorporates those higher periods into our ordinance language to comply with State law. The Planning Board considered the proposed amendment at its October 27th meeting and recommended in favor of its adoption.

At 6:15 p.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Baker to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation – None.

At 6:15 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Ms. Holder to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

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. Baker to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

K-1. Property Tax Releases – September 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-58
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 September 2026 property values from the tax scroll in the amount of:

TAX YEAR 2026: $ 52.44

Adopted and approved this 2nd day of November 2026.

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

K-2. Proclamation No. 2026-31 Veterans Day

PROCLAMATION N0. 2026-31
COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY
November 11, 2026

WHEREAS, the freedoms we enjoy as Americans have been purchased and maintained at a high price throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the original 13 states, Americans have been willing to fight and die to preserve their individual rights as guaranteed in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, we owe a great debt to those who have served in defense of this nation, as throughout the generations, their sacrifices have preserved our unique form of government dedicated to human rights and respect for the individual; and

WHEREAS, for many, that sacrifice had ended in permanent injury or death, yet their spirit remains in the continued preservation of our freedoms and the promise of liberty established as an example for all the oppressed persons of the world; and

WHEREAS, in honor of these dedicated men and women, we pledge our continued defense of our nation so that their sacrifice will stand before the entire world as a tribute to the spirit and determination of people dedicated to the principles of freedom and democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, call upon our citizens to salute all Brevard and Transylvania County veterans who have served with honor and distinction, and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies in honor of our veterans, both living and deceased, who have served this Country so willingly to preserve the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to fly the flag; and to show our veterans we appreciate their great sacrifice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed this 2nd day of November, 2026.

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

K-3. Traffic Schedule Update – No Left Turns, Probart/Caldwell Intersection

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-46
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE CITY OF BREVARD TRAFFIC SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, a public meeting was conducted on Monday, November 2, 2026, by Brevard City Council, and after review and consideration of the proposed amendments, it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Brevard that Section 66-5 of the Brevard City Code of Ordinances be amended as outlined below.

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

Section 1. The City of Brevard Traffic Schedule and Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as described below:

Section 2. Add Probart Street at its intersections with North Caldwell to City of Brevard Traffic Schedule XV, Section 66-79.A No Left Turn Intersections.

Section 3. 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 4. 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 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and in effect from and after the date of its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved on the 2nd day of November, 2026.

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

K-4. Ordinance Declaring Road Closure for Special Event – Light Up the Night and Holiday Parade

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-47
AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MULTIPLE
ROAD CLOSURES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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

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

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to authority granted by G.S. 20-169, the City of Brevard hereby declares the following temporary road closure during the day and time set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

Light Up the Night
Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026
Time: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Route Description: Main Street (US 276) from Caldwell Street to Rice Street; Broad Street (US 64) from Probart Street to Oakdale Street

SECTION 2. Pursuant to authority granted by G.S. 20-169, the City of Brevard hereby declares the following temporary road closure during the day and time set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

Holiday Parade
Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Route Description: North Country Club Road (SR 1116) from Woodland Terrace to South Broad Street; Broad Street (US 64) from North Country Club Road to the Brevard College main entrance.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its adoption.

Adopted and approved this the 2nd day of November 2026.

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

K-5. Rosenwald Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2026

K-6. Finance and Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2026

K-7. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2026

L. Unfinished Business – None.

M. New Business

M-1. Quarterly Report for Construction Contracts – Shawnee Cummings recalled that on May 4, 2026 Council approved revisions to the Purchasing Policy which increased the formal bidding requirement for construction and repair contracts to $499,999.99. Under the revised policy contracts between $30,000 and $499,999.99 require informal bids but allows management discretion when Staff are unable to obtain 3 informal bids, provided that there is substantiating documentation. In exchange for giving Staff more leeway for special circumstances, the policy includes a requirement that Staff provide quarterly reports to Council for construction and repair contracts between $30,000 and $499,999.99 to ensure adequate oversight. This is the first quarterly report to Council and going forward the report will be included on the Consent Agenda on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Hooper added that the Purchasing Policy also gives the manager the authority to approve time sensitive scope changes to projects and corresponding change orders that would cause them to exceed the budget if he notifies Council in a timely manner. Over the last week or so, but especially today, as the work commenced, we have learned of some additional cost related to the smokestack demolition. These will require change orders, which will cause this to exceed the budget. They are related to the extra requirement levied upon the City by the State regulators in the approved environmental management plan (EMP); things that were not known when Staff briefed Council back in the summer and were not known until after the contracts were bid and approved. They include additional testing on the failed bricks, additional testing on the vault that will soon be removed, and the disposal of the bricks since the final EMP said we couldn't use them as beneficial fill as we originally intended to. Mr. Hooper said he has approved the cost of the extra testing and plans to approve the special disposal

strategy, which will depend on the results of the testing. We project that there will be between $75,000 and $100,000 addition to the cost of this project. He will bring back a recommended funding strategy and the necessary budget amendments at the next meeting. He said having seen how easily the stack came down today, I am more convinced than ever that this was the right thing to do from a safety perspective.

N. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations.

Mr. Baker said I want to put an exclamation mark on what Wilson said about being glad we went ahead and took the smokestack down. When I watched the video of the first nudge that the crane made at the very top and a huge chunk came off, it made me thankful we had done that. I know the additional cost is not something anybody is happy about, but I am thankful we don't have that safety issue lingering out there. To respond to some of the public comment today, nobody is touching the Moms Mabley mural and that has never been considered at any level. That rendering was strictly for the England St. location and was never in consideration for Clemson Plaza. While Clemson Plaza is on the list of locations for some additional parking, that in no way would take away from the existing mural or some of the other amenities that are already there. I will also say that we are very early in that process, so we don't know the extent to what that bike parking might look like and there are a lot of other considerations. I am very proud of that mural, and no one has ever considered moving that mural or taking it down. He also reminded everyone to vote tomorrow and expressed appreciation for everyone that works on elections.

Ms. Holder said I ditto what he said as far as voting is concerned. I polled the congregation yesterday and asked how many have voted. 98% raised their hand and I was very proud of that. I spoke with Wilson earlier today about a request that I made to find out…some comments have been made about all of this money going into Rosenwald, and even the community center was brought into that conversation. As I said to him earlier today, I never saw it as a Rosenwald community center; I always see it as a community center for everybody. The history is the previous one that was there was in poor condition, but that community center was built because the African American residents were not allowed to go to another community center. As I understand that history, it means even more to have this community center for the city of Brevard. We don't have a Rosenwald, North Carolina, we have Brevard. I hope that people will understand. I think we do as a community because everyone uses it and it's not money that was spent in Rosenwald, it's a community center that was built for Brevard. I just wanted to make that clear. I asked him to give us some numbers because some of the complaints have been that all this money has been spent in Rosenwald. Well, let's do some comparisons about other communities, because if more is spent in Rosenwald it's not fair, and if it's not then we need to know what the facts are and dispel the image of what is going on in Rosenwald. We were able to get those numbers for Rosenwald, but I would like to see it for other communities as well so that we can make sure that we're being fair and doing what needs to be done in all of our communities in all of Brevard.

Mr. Wise also encouraged everyone to vote. He said I am excited about your 98%; in the county it is about 40% of people who have voted early. I just want to mention that next week on the 11th is Veterans Day and I like to remind people that Veterans Day is a way to celebrate veterans. It's also completely appropriate to remember veterans who aren't with us. If you know a veteran, tell them thanks.

Mr. Lytle also encouraged everyone to vote. He said we are presented with a lot of evidence to be cynical, and no one is immune to feeling like that, but at the end of the day we all have to do everything we can to make our city, our county, our state, and our country better. There's nothing that will harm you by voting, but you do stand something to gain.

Mr. Hooper said I called Councilwoman Holder today and confessed that I misunderstood her request from last meeting that I committed to. What I understood the request to be was to bring back the figures on Rosenwald investment broken out by

year, but she reiterated today that what she really wanted was investment information on other neighborhoods. That's a much more time-consuming process. We're willing and capable of doing it, but I would I like to have the Council's full permission before we invest the hours needed to pull that information. He said I want to thank everyone who stands for election. It takes a lot of guts to do that, so I just want to say as a voter and a resident of Brevard, I appreciate the bravery to get into the arena like that.

Regarding Mr. Hooper's request for guidance from Council on whether to put time into trying to figure out the investment in different neighborhoods, Mayor Copelof said I'm not sure how we define the neighborhoods, and how we define what investment is particular to a neighborhood. She said I think it is a very nebulous concept right now and that might be why Staff is having trouble trying to figure out how to go back and quantify it. She asked for thoughts from Council to provide guidance to Staff. Following discussion, there was consensus for Staff to provide a list of capital projects over the last ten years and where they are located to determine where the City has been investing, and to have that information in time for the Strategic Planning Session in February.

Mayor Copelof encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th at 11:00 am in front of the Courthouse. She thanked the American Legion for organizing it. She said we will also be turning the lights green on City Hall from November 4th to 11th in honor of Veterans Day. She mentioned upcoming events—the Caregivers Seminar in the Library's Rogow Room on November 12th, and a Patients' Rights seminar on November 7th at MCJCCC. She noted that yes, the smokestack is gone and that it has been there since 1917 and has been a symbol of the early industrial age of our town. She said we had no choice—for safety reasons the smokestack had to come down, but we are looking for ideas on how to memorialize that area and honor its history. She hoped that everybody votes tomorrow.

O. Closed Sessions – None.

P. Adjourn – There being no further business, at 6:52 p.m. Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Ms. Holder, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Copelof	Denise Hodsdon, CMC
Mayor	City Clerk

Minutes Approved: November 16, 2026