THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: Donation of a 2018 GEM Car to Mars Hill University, a non-profit organization

Staff Resource(s): Interim Chief Jackie Stepp, Captain Janice Hawkins

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the donation of a used 2018 Electric GEM car to Mars Hill University.

Background:

- N.C.G.S. § 160A-280 authorizes a city to donate personal property that the governing board determines to be surplus, obsolete, or unused to a nonprofit organization incorporated in the United States.
- Item to be donated is: 2018 Electric GEM Car, VIN: 52CG2DGA4J5017963
- The 2018 Electric GEM vehicle is obsolete compared to newer electric vehicle platforms currently in service.
- The Asheville Police Department is no longer utilizing this vehicle and has transitioned to electric golf carts for downtown operations.
- Additionally, the City of Asheville Fleet Manager has determined the vehicle will not be repurposed for other municipal use.
- Mars Hill University has requested the vehicle to enhance public safety operations on its campus.
- Mars Hill University is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- While the vehicle has an estimated surplus resale value of approximately $5,000, donating this asset will provide greater public benefit than resale.
- Mars Hill University currently has only one vehicle in its fleet, which is nearing the end of its service life.
- Donating this vehicle will improve patrol reliability, enhance campus safety operations, and extend the service life of the university's existing fleet.
- Donating this surplus asset supports collaboration and promotes continued public safety benefits for our broader community.

Council Goal(s):

- Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Continue a partnership with a local university that has expressed a need for an electric GEM car for its campus security.

Con(s):

- The City will not receive the vehicle's resale value, which is expected to be a maximum of $5,000.

Fiscal Impact:

- While this equipment has nominal resale value as surplus property, this donation will enhance the local university's capacity to perform campus-related tasks.
- The donated item is obsolete relative to current electric vehicle platforms, and it is not used by the Asheville Police Department.
- Mars Hill University is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City of Asheville to donate a used 2018 Electric GEM car to Mars Hill University.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution
- Inventory List

RESOLUTION NO. 26-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF A 2018 ELECTRIC GEM CAR TO MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-280 allows for donations of surplus, unused, or otherwise obsolete personal property to other governmental units within the United States, a sister city, or a nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville Police Department has a 2018 Electric GEM Car that is no longer used by the department, and is not needed for continued departmental use.

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville considers the used items to be surplus, unused, or otherwise obsolete; and

WHEREAS, Mars Hill University has expressed a need for the equipment; and

WHEREAS, Mars Hill University is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statute § 160A-280, the City of Asheville has posted public notice of this proposed Resolution at least five days prior to the adoption of this Resolution approving the donation;

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

1. The used equipment is declared surplus, unused, or otherwise obsolete; and,

2. The Purchasing Manager is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the donation of and transfer of ownership of surplus, unused, or otherwise obsolete equipment, specifically a 2018 Electric GEM Car, to Mars Hill University.

Read, approved, and adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

INVENTORY OF DONATED ITEMS:		
Description	**Quantity**	**Est. Value**
2018 Electric GEM Car	1	$5,000
VIN: 52CG2DGA4J5017963		