City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- April 28, 2026

Subject

- Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Asheville City Council to execute an amended Joint Cooperation Agreement to add the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium

Staff Resource(s)

- Nikki Reid, Community Development Department Director
- Kaylee Pulliam, Community Development Analyst

Action Requested

- Adoption of a resolution to add the Towns of Marshall and Mars Hill to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium

Background

- The Asheville Regional Housing Consortium has been operating under the assumption that Marshall and Mars Hill were active members; however, city staff were recently informed that the process to officially add these two new members was never finalized.

- Staff is currently working with the existing consortium members to formalize the addition of the Towns of Marshall and Mars Hill.

- To successfully admit Marshall and Mars Hill to the Consortium, all current members must provide a signed resolution from their respective governing boards approving the addition of the new members.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Quality Affordable Housing

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Housing

Committee(s):

- On August 27, 2025, the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium voted unanimously to direct the City of Asheville to effect the addition of Marshall and Mars Hill townships to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium.

Pro(s)

- Including Marshall and Mars Hill in the consortium would sustain community input and offer valuable perspectives on the diverse populations we serve.

Con(s)

- None

Fiscal Impact

- N/A

Suggested Motion

- Move to approve a resolution to authorize the addition of Marshall and Mars Hill to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorising the Asheville City Council to execute an amended Joint Cooperation Agreement to add the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium

Whereas, Article 20, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes authorises units of local government to enter into contracts or agreements with each other in order to execute any undertaking; and

Whereas, the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, makes provisions whereby units of general local government may enter into cooperation agreements and form Consortia to undertake or assist in undertaking affordable housing pursuant to the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

Whereas, a consortium of local governments is entitled to receive funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that they would otherwise be unqualified to receive individually; and

Whereas, in 1993 the City of Asheville and other units of local governments in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties and governmental units located within said counties (“Cooperating Units”) formed the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium, for the purposes of cooperatively providing safe, affordable and standard housing, promoting economic development and alleviating housing problems in their counties and participating municipalities; and enabling the City of Asheville (“Lead Entity”) to receive and administer HOME funds on behalf of the other Consortium; and

Whereas, aforementioned Cooperating Units and the City as Lead Entity most recently entered into the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium Joint Cooperation Agreement, which outlines the various rights and responsibilities of the parties in regard to housing policy and funding; and

Whereas, for the past several years, the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium has been operating under the assumption that the Town of Marshall and the Town of Mars Hill are active members of the Consortium; however, city staff were recently informed that the process to officially add these two new members was never finalised; and

Whereas, in order to successfully admit Marshall and Mars Hill to the Consortium, all current members must provide a signed resolution from their respective governing boards approving the addition of the new members; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville, along with the other current regional units of general local government members, desire to allow the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to join the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium and to amend the Joint Cooperation Agreement to add them as additional “cooperating units” of the Consortium; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

1. The City of Asheville hereby supports the addition of the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium, and the City Manager is authorised to execute an amended Joint Cooperation Agreement with the other member governments of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium to reflect these additional “cooperating units”; and

2. The City Manager is further authorised to sign all contracts, approved by the City Attorney, with other Governmental Agencies as may be required to carry out activities of the Cooperation Agreement.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk