City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- May 12, 2026

Subject

- Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville Operating Budget Amendment

Staff Resource(s)

- Chris Corl, Director, Community & Regional Entertainment Facilities Director

Action Requested

- Adoption of a budget amendment in the amount of $1,400,000 to the HCCA operating fund to reflect updated fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26) revenue and expenditure projections.

Background

- HCCA revenues are expected to total $1,400,000 more than initially budgeted.
- HCCA operating expenses are expected to potentially total $800,000 more than initial budgeted.
- Capital repair and maintenance backlog continues at HCCA, transfer of $600,000 to capital fund will allow staff to continue effort to maintain and repair the facility.
- Concessions, ticketing and other show related revenues will cover all additional expenses; therefore, no additional transfer from the General Fund is required at this time.
- HCCA has 48 event dates booked in the final two months of the fiscal year.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Not Applicable

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Thriving Local Economy
- Fiscally Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Economic Recovery

Committee(s):

- Not Applicable

Pro(s)

- Provides sufficient budget authorization for anticipated expenditures in the HCCA Fund without increasing the General Fund transfer.

Con(s)

- None

Fiscal Impact

- This budget amendment is funded with HCCA operating revenues that are expected to exceed original budget estimates.
- There is no expected impact to the City's General Fund budget.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of $1,400,000 to the HCCA operating fund to reflect updated fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26) revenue and expenditure projections.

Attachment(s)

- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville:

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $800,000 to the HCCA operating fund, and $600,000 to the HCCA capital fund as follows:

Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville Operating Fund

Revenues:

Billable Staff Hours - $120,000
Rentals; Buildings & Equipment - $330,000
Ticketing Fees - $330,000
Concessions - $620,000

Total Revenues: $1,400,000

Expenditures:

Maintenance & Repairs Buildings - $100,000
Maintenance & Repairs Equipment - $50,000
Temporary / seasonal staff compensation - $250,000
Purchase for resale concessions - $300,000
Show settlement expense - $100,000
Transfer to the HCCA Capital Fund - $600,000

Total Expenses: $1,400,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 12th day of May, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk