

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
AGENDA
Regular Meeting - Thursday, January 2, 2025, 6pm
Burnsville Town Hall

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. Regular meeting held on November 7, 2024
4. Public Hearings
5. Presentations
 - a. Jeff Truett's retirement
6. Manager's Update - Heather Hockaday
 - a. Project updates
 - b. Consideration of Appropriate Technology Use policy update
 - c. NCLM Biennium Legislative goals discussion
 - d. Tax Report
7. Clerk's Update
 - a. CDBG-I Semi-Annual Self Report
 - b. Consideration of Planning Board alternate
8. Department Updates
 - a. Public Works - Shane Dale
 - b. Finance - Leslie Crowder
 - i. Budget vs. Actual, previously provided to Council
 - ii. Emergency Bridge Loan Project Ordinance amendment
 - iii. Budget Amendment, MAPS donation
 - c. Fire Department - Niles Howell
 - d. Police Department - Brian Buchanan
 - e. Zoning/Code Enforcement/Flood Plain Administration - Brian Buchanan
 - f. Burnsville Town Center - Corbin Cooper
9. Council Members' Reports
10. Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits
 - a. Yancey/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
 - b. High Country Council of Governments
11. Closed Session
12. Next Town Council Meeting - Regular meeting on February 6, 2024, 6pm
13. Adjourn

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting - Thursday, December 5, 2024, 6pm
Burnsville Town Hall

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6pm, the Burnsville Town Council with Mayor Russell Fox and Councilors Judy Buchanan, Randy Ollis, Denise Collier, and Bill Wheeler present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Also in attendance were town staff members Heather Hockaday, Shane Dale, Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Niles Howell, Chad Fox, and Corbin Cooper, and visitors. Mayor Fox called the meeting to order at 5:59pm and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of December 2024.

Adoption of the agenda - Randy Ollis moved to adopt the agenda. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.

Public Comment

Consideration of Minutes - Minutes from a regular meeting held on November 7, 2024 and a special meeting held on November 22, 2024 were considered. Bill Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Minutes from a closed session held on November 7, 2024 were distributed and signed during the meeting.

Public Hearings

- There were none.

Presentations

- David Connor, operations director with the Military Aircraft Preservation Society (MAPS) in Ohio was present to present a donation to the Town. Mr. Conner, a retired fire fighter, volunteered in the Cane River area recently and said that the staff of MAPS had donated money for supplies but wanted to do more. A benefit concert was held at the museum with the proceeds to benefit the Town of Burnsville's recovery from Hurricane Helene. He presented a check for \$7,005.00 to Mayor Fox.

Manager's Update - Town Manager Heather Hockaday

1. Project updates
 - a. West Main Sewer Interceptor - Mrs. Hockaday reported that the project has received another extension to complete work after delays from the flooding. She said that crews are back on site with a completion date set for March.
 - b. Water Treatment Plant renovation - Carolina Specialties has nearly completed valve and piping work and begun grading for the EQ basin.
 - c. Main Street Water Line Improvements - She reported that part A of the project (Main Street and Bennett Street Water Line Improvements) did not have enough bidders and would be rebid soon. Carolina Specialties appears to be the low bidder on contract B (Glendale Avenue Area Water Line Improvements).
 - d. Pine Swamp Waterwater Treatment Plant renovation - Mrs. Hockaday said that a recent pre-bid meeting for the project was well attended and should receive enough bids to continue.
 - e. New PWD/Police building - Several contractors attended a pre-bid meeting the day before with a good walk-through. Mrs. Hockaday expects several bids.
 - f. Temporary emergency fixes, resolution to ratify Bryant agreement - Mrs. Hockaday gave background on an agreement with Bryant Land and Development Industries Inc. for emergency repairs following Tropical Storm Helene, the first amendment, and

a resolution to ratify the contract documents. Judy Buchanan moved to approve *Resolution # 2024.12.05.01, Resolution to Ratify Contract Documents, Including Amendments, for Emergency Repair Services with Bryant Land and Development Industries Inc.* Denise Collier seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Personnel Policy update - Mrs. Hockaday mentioned several recent personnel changes including retirements and an employee leaving for another job. She explained the need for a description of a "temporary employee" in the Employee Handbook, saying that a temporary employee could help fill unexpected gaps or help with special events. Bill Wheeler moved to approve the *Resolution to Amend Appendix A "Job Descriptions" To The Town Of Burnsville Employee Handbook.* Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. Tax Report - Mrs. Hockaday presented the Council with an updated tax report, included within these minutes.

Clerk's Update - Town Clerk Chad Fox updated the Council on the Christmas Parade and the rescheduled High Country Council of Governments Annual Banquet.

Department Updates

1. Public Works - Public Works Director Shane Dale reported that the sewer plant is having issues with the belt press and he is working with electricians to fix it. He said that several water leaks have begun to occur with the public works crew making every effort to keep them fixed. He also mentioned that Public Works has been dealing with continued problems at the temporary water intake but he expects the pumps to be upgraded soon.
2. Finance - Finance Officer Leslie Crowder previously provided a budget vs actual and overtime report.
 - a. Consideration of opening an account, FEMA advance - Mrs. Crowder explained the need to open an account for FEMA funds. Judy Buchanan moved to open a new account for the FEMA advance. Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.
 - b. NC DEQ Bridge Loan
 - i. Project Ordinance - Mrs. Crowder presented the Project Ordinance that addressed a repayable bridge loan for utility repairs and temporary water line/intake infrastructure. Judy Buchanan moved to approve *Capital Project Ordinance - NC DEQ Bridge Loan.* Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.
 - ii. Opening account - Mayor Fox moved to open a new account for the NC DEQ Bridge Loan. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.
 - c. Line item transfer, Fire Department - Mrs. Crowder presented a budget amendment to allocate funds for Hurricane Helene related expenses and supplies. Randy Ollis moved to approve *Adjustment #3, FY 24/25.* Judy Buchanan seconded the motion which carried. All were in agreement.
3. Fire Department - Fire Chief Niles Howell presented a call summary and mentioned that the department received thirty-two calls for the month, most of which were motor vehicle accidents and fire alarms. He said that the Station is still distributing supplies as part of recovery efforts, hosting a field hospital on a reduced schedule, and working with the school system to give out toys.
 - a. Consideration of appointments to the Firemans' Relief Fund board - Randy Banks and Robert Byrd were considered as the two members appointed by the Town Council. Mayor Fox moved to appoint Randy Banks and Robert Byrd to the

Firemans' Relief Fund Board. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Police Department Update - Police Chief Brian Buchanan presented an activity log and said that the department has filled open positions and is now at full staff.
5. Zoning/Code Enforcement Update - Zoning Administrator Brian Buchanan said that things are getting back to normal with permits beginning to get pulled.
6. Burnsville Town Center - Town Center Manager Corbin Cooper reported that the Center is hosting several holiday events including toy drives, craft shows, and live music.

Council Members' Reports

- Denise Collier shared an update from a RTAC meeting saying that the committee discussed how Yancey County was one of the hardest hit, requiring countless repairs.
- Randy Ollis mentioned a resident that was concerned about a muddy creek on private property.

Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits

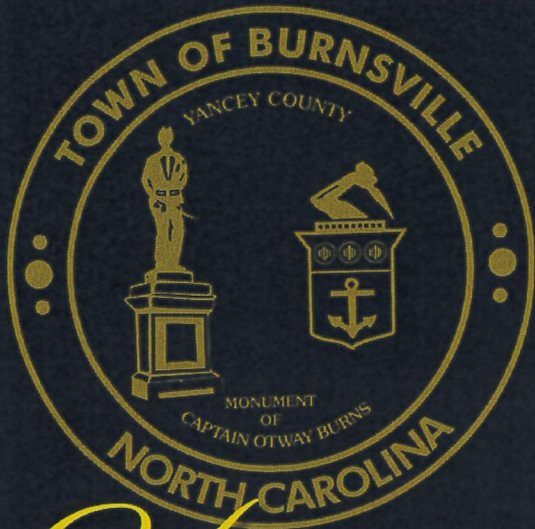
- Yancey Chamber of Commerce - Chamber Director Elaine Mann reported on several initiatives and introduced Kat Bowers, a volunteer recently hired as program director. She mentioned the upcoming Christmas Parade, with an Appalachian Christmas theme, and Merry Main Street. The Chamber is hoping that the events will bolster attendance along the downtown streets.

Next Town Council Meeting - Regular meeting on January 2, 2024, 6pm.

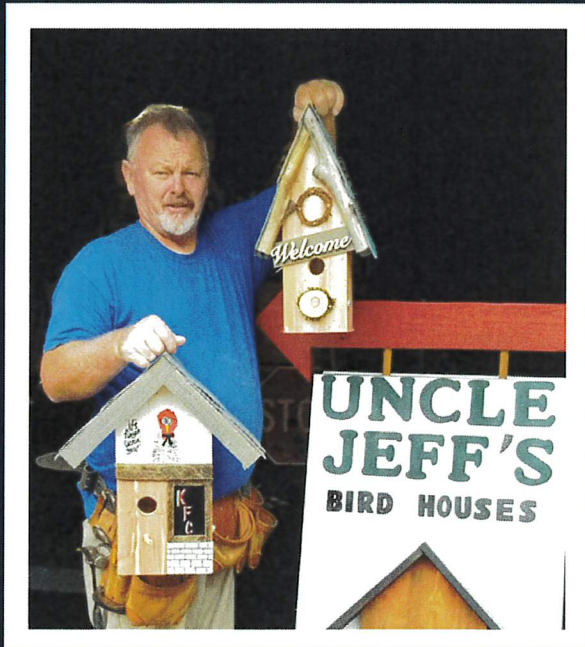
Adjourn - With there being no further business, Judy Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36pm. Randy Ollis seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.

J. Chad Fox, Town Clerk

T. Russell Fox, Mayor



Happy
RETIREMENT



JEFF TRUETT

Enjoy your well
deserved retirement!

Resolution to Amend the Employee Handbook's Appropriate Technology Use Policy

Whereas, the North Carolina General Assembly has enacted N.C.G.S. 143-805, codifying legislation prohibiting the viewing of pornography by employees on a network of a public agency and prohibiting employees, elected officials, appointees, or students of the public agency to view pornography on any device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-805(c) units of local government are considered public agencies and must adopt a policy regarding the use of its network, as well as the use of devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency; and

Whereas, North Carolina General Statute 143-805(f) requires that annually, no later than August 1 and in the format required by the State Chief Information Officer, each public agency shall report information to the State Chief Information Officer on the number of incidences of unauthorized viewing or attempted viewing of pornography on that public agency's network; whether or not the unauthorized viewing was by an employee, elected official, appointee, or student of that public agency; and whether or not any of the unauthorized viewing was on a device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency; and

Whereas, those certain exceptions as listed in N.C.G.S. 143-805(d)(1-7) apply to this policy; and

Whereas, this policy must delineate consequences for violation of the prohibited activities in the policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Burnsville Town Council does hereby RESOLVE and AMEND the following sections of the Town's Employee Handbook section entitled "Appropriate Technology Use Policy" to include the following provisions:

1. Definitions:

- (a) Device. - Any cellular phone, desktop or laptop computer, or other electronic equipment capable of connecting to a network.
- (b) Material. - As defined in N.C.G.S. 14-190.13.
- (c) Network. - Any of the following, whether through owning, leasing, maintaining, or otherwise controlling:
 - i. The interconnection of communication systems with a computer through remote or local terminals, or a complex consisting of two or more interconnected computers or telephone switching equipment.
 - ii. Internet service.
 - iii. Internet access.
- (d) Pornography. - Any material depicting sexual activity.
- (e) Units of local government as defined in N.C.G.S. 159-7.
- (f) Employee includes full, part-time or temporary employees.

(g) Appointees include persons who are appointed to employment positions with the Town, Town advisory boards, agency boards, or individuals appointed to fill out terms of elected officials on the Town Council.

(h) Elected officials include duly elected members of the Town Council.

2. Sexually Explicit Material

(a) The viewing of pornography or materials listed in N.C.G.S. 14-190.13 by employees on a network of that public agency is strictly prohibited.

(b) The viewing of pornography or materials listed in N.C.G.S. 14-190.13 on any device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency by employees, elected officials, appointees, public agency to is strictly prohibited.

3. Exceptions

Those activities related to employment with the Town listed in N.C.G.S. 143-805(d) are not subject to the provisions of this policy.

4. Violations

(a) Employee violation of this policy shall be considered an act of insubordination as set forth in section 3(l) of the Disciplinary Procedures "Detrimental Personal Conduct" and will be subject to disciplinary actions defined in that provision, up to and including termination/dismissal.

(b) Elected officials and appointees to advisory boards and agency boards shall be subject to censure and/or removal if found in violation of this policy.

5. Mandatory State Reporting

The number of violations of this policy shall be reported annually, not later than August 1st, to the State Chief Information Officer on the form approved by the State Chief Information Officer.

6. Removal of content from devices

All pornography saved to a device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the Town of Burnsville must be removed, deleted, or uninstalled immediately upon the adoption of this policy.

7. The Town Clerk is directed to insert these amendments into the Employee Handbook and distribute the changes to the Department Heads who are hereby directed to make the employees of their departments aware of the amendment. The Clerk is also directed to make any Town Council appointees to advisory or agency boards aware of this amendment.

Adopted this the 2nd day of January, 2025.

T. Russell Fox, Mayor

ATTEST:

J. Chad Fox, Clerk

Approved as to form:

Heather Hockaday, Attorney



Coates' Canons NC Local Government Law

FAQs on the New Law Prohibiting Pornography on Government Networks and Devices

Published: 11/25/24

Author: [Kristi Nickodem](#)

Several months ago, I released a [blog post](#) on the new North Carolina law that prohibits local governments, state agencies, the judicial branch, and the legislative branch from allowing pornography to be viewed on their networks or devices (Section 7 of [S.L. 2024-26](#)). Since then, I've received a number of questions about how this law applies in the local government context. I'll address a few frequently asked questions related specifically to local governments in this post. I encourage readers to go back to my earlier [blog post](#) for a more comprehensive discussion of the new law.

Does this law apply to units of local government, such as counties and municipalities?

Yes. The law applies to all public authorities and units of local government, as those terms are defined by [G.S. 159-7](#). See [G.S. 143-805\(g\)\(5\)](#). A “unit of local government” is defined as “a municipal corporation that is not subject to the State Budget Act...and that has the power to levy taxes...and all boards, agencies, commissions, authorities, and institutions thereof that are not municipal corporations.” As my colleague Kara Millonzi has noted in [this blog post](#), this definition clearly includes counties and municipalities, as well as some “special purpose” local governments.

The law also applies to all State agencies and offices of the members of the Council of State (including all boards, departments, divisions, constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina, community colleges, and other units of government in the executive branch) and all public school units (as defined in [G.S. 115C-5](#)). Many elements of the new law also apply to the judicial branch and the legislative branch.

What is the deadline for creating the network and device usage policy required by the new law?

Each public agency (including each unit of local government) must adopt a policy governing the use of its network, as well as the use of devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency, no later than **January 1, 2025**. The same requirement and deadline apply to the judicial and legislative branches. *See* [G.S. 143-805\(c\)](#).

What language must be contained in the network and device usage policy?

The new law does not specify any particular language that must be in the required network and device usage policy, except that it must “delineate the disciplinary actions that will be taken in response to a violation of that policy.” Presumably, however, the policy should reflect [G.S. 143-805\(a\)-\(b\)](#):

- prohibiting the viewing of pornography by its **employees** on a network of that public agency; and
- prohibiting **employees, elected officials, appointees, or students** of the public agency to view pornography on any device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by that public agency.

The terms “[pornography](#),” “[device](#),” and “[network](#)” should be defined in the policy as they are defined in [G.S. 143-805\(g\)](#). The policy should also include an exception for officials and employees who are engaged in certain activities in the course of their official duties, listed at [G.S. 143-805\(d\)](#) and discussed in more detail in my [prior blog post](#). These exceptions are important to include since some local government employees, such as law enforcement officers and department of social services employees, will sometimes have to view material that would be considered “[pornography](#)” under the new law in order to carry out their official duties.

If a local government already has a policy regarding the use of its networks and devices (as many do), then that existing policy could be modified to include these new terms. In other words, the local government need not start from scratch by creating a brand new policy if it is able to simply modify and readopt an existing policy to comply with the law.

What disciplinary consequences must be included in the policy?

The law says the network and usage device policy must “delineate” disciplinary actions that will occur if the policy is violated, but it does not specify particular disciplinary consequences that must be included. For its employees, a local government may decide to incorporate or reference parts of

its personnel policies that speak to disciplinary procedures into the network and usage device policy. A local government may also want to include this network and device usage policy as part of its personnel policies.

What disciplinary consequences could be delineated for elected and appointed officials? The policy could specify that elected officials will be subject to censure proceedings, and that appointees will be subject to removal from office by the entity or individual with appointment and removal authority over their position.

Does this law apply to employees' personal devices? Does the answer change if a county or municipality gives the employee a stipend to use towards their cell phone bills?

Remember, the law requires local governments to institute two different prohibitions: 1) employees must be prohibited from viewing pornography on the government's *networks*, and 2) employees, elected officials, appointees, and students must be prohibited from viewing pornography on *devices* owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the local government.

Prohibition #1, regarding viewing pornography on a government's *networks*, applies regardless of whether an employee is using their personal device or a government-owned device. An employee must not view pornography on *any* device if they are doing so via the government's *networks* (e.g., the city or county's Wi-Fi). The law does not, however, impact what an employee is allowed to view on their personal devices on *other* networks (e.g., on their home Wi-Fi or coffee shop Wi-Fi).

Prohibition #2, on the other hand, applies to viewing pornography on *devices* owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the local government, regardless of where those devices are used or what network is used to connect them to the internet. It does not, however, apply to personal cell phones or other personal devices that are owned by an employee. Merely paying a stipend to an employee to help cover the cost of their personal phone bill does not transform an employee-owned device into a device "owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled" by a local government employer.

What is the deadline for removing pornography from government devices?

Employees, elected officials, appointees, and students of each "public agency" (including local governments and all the governmental entities described above) who have pornography (as that term is defined by the new law) saved to a device owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise

controlled by the public agency must remove, delete, or uninstall that pornography no later than **January 1, 2025**. Once again, there is an exception for certain employees and officials who are engaged in certain activities in the course of their official duties, listed at G.S. 143-805(d) and discussed in more detail in my [prior blog post](#). This removal requirement also does not apply to devices owned *personally* by an employee, official, appointee, or student.

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Coates Canons

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LEGISLATIVE GOAL STATEMENTS

RECOMMENDED BY THE NCLM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following goal statements are NOT listed in any priority order.

- **Expand funding opportunities for disaster resiliency and recovery efforts.**
 - North Carolina has faced a number of damaging natural disasters in recent years, including the unprecedented storm that devastated western North Carolina in the fall of 2024.
 - To fully recover from these natural disasters requires a broad approach that focuses on infrastructure, housing and economic losses.
 - Federal assistance and private insurance will not be enough to address these ongoing, critical needs or mitigate damage when future disasters hit.

- **Establish long-term funding streams that adequately address water, sewer, stormwater, transportation and other infrastructure needs.**
 - Infrastructure – including roads, water, sewer, stormwater, parks and beaches – are critical to economic development and job creation.
 - Many cities in the state are growing, creating a constant need for investment to keep pace with population growth; many cities and towns also have aging infrastructure that must be replaced.
 - Creating long-term and more permanent funding streams for infrastructure will ensure adequate investments so that North Carolina thrives now and into the future.

- **Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance of municipal and state-owned secondary roads.**
 - Current Powell Bill and other state funding is not adequate to address transportation needs, particularly as they affect municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
 - In many cities and towns, major commuting corridors are not receiving the level of investment needed to keep pace with traffic.
 - More investment is needed for these roads if existing residents are to embrace business and residential growth

- **Increase funds to remediate contamination in local water supplies.**
 - Local municipal water systems and their ratepayers increasingly are footing the costs of cleaning up PFAS and other “forever” chemicals from drinking water supplies.
 - As more regulations are set at the state and federal level to limit these chemicals in water supplies, costs will escalate.
 - Cities primary recourse to try to recoup the cost for utility ratepayers is through the courts.

- **Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.**
 - Funding is simply inadequate in many cities and towns to encourage job growth.
 - State grants and incentives are often targeted in ways that fail to assist the areas in greatest need of job creation.
 - Maintaining or expanding funding for film tax credits, major industrial site development, downtown development and renewable energy tax credits helps cities and towns across the state.

- **Create incentives to encourage the development of diverse housing options.**
 - Housing affordability continues to be a significant problem across many areas of North Carolina, affecting people of different income levels.
 - The lack of affordable housing acts as a major impediment to business and workforce recruitment.
 - State incentives to encourage the construction of housing for people of various income levels are extremely limited.

- **Provide resources to rehabilitate or purchase blighted properties.**
 - In many cities and towns, blighted properties act as an impediment to economic and business growth.
 - Cities and towns have limited means to address these properties, particularly in more rural, smaller communities.
 - Rehabilitating blighted properties can help address North Carolina’s housing needs.

- **Create incentives that encourage and adequately fund regionalized water and sewer solutions.**
 - A number of municipal water and sewer systems continue to financially struggle with deferred maintenance needs.
 - These challenges came about largely due to population and job losses in rural areas, leading to an erosion of taxpayer and ratepayer bases.
 - While legislators and municipalities have begun to address these issues with the creation of the Viable Utility Reserve and the use of ARPA funding, state estimates show needs still exceed expenditures by several billion dollars.

- **Reduce regulatory conflicts between state agencies that discourage voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.**
 - Municipalities have contractually obtained older, smaller utility systems of other municipalities and private enterprises in order to provide better and more efficient services to residents and businesses.
 - Older laws and regulations impose penalties on mid-size and large municipalities due to state agencies requiring them to pay for relocation of utilities when those penalties would have been reduced or eliminated for the smaller entities they were purchased from.
 - The State should work to reduce and eliminate these conflicts which have the effect of discouraging voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.

- **Create an orphan road program whereby the state improves those roads to N.C. Department of Transportation standards before municipalities assume maintenance responsibilities.**
 - So-called orphan roads are typically created when a street in a subdivision is not built to state or municipal standards, and the developer walks away without an agreement for maintenance.
 - The abandoned road can leave homeowners on the hook for the cost of maintenance.
 - For cities and towns, these abandoned roads can serve as a deterrent to voluntary annexation agreements even as the residents seek municipal services.

- **Provide local revenue options beyond the property tax.**
 - Roughly 40 percent of municipal general fund revenue is generated by local property taxes.
 - Cities have little to no authority to raise significant revenue in other ways.
 - A lack of diverse, local tax options can affect economic growth, as well as cause large swings in revenue based on economic changes.

- **Support technical assistance programs to assist municipalities with securing or maintaining grants or other necessary municipal resources.**
 - Many municipalities do not have the resources to seek or administer grants, even as that source of funding could help meet the needs of residents.
 - State, federal and other grant funding offers a significant opportunity for cities and towns to improve infrastructure or enhance services.
 - Providing technical assistance to these municipalities can provide them with access to grant funding, providing resources not otherwise available to them.

- **Address the needs of a changing municipal workforce through state assistance that supports employee retention, including training and recruitment.**
 - Municipalities across the state are facing staffing issues as current workers age and retire.
 - Training and retention resources are limited and competing with wages offered in the private sector can be difficult.
 - The use of training and recruitment tools across state and local government boundaries can improve public sector workforce availability.

- **Update the annexation petition thresholds to make voluntary annexations easier to initiate.**
 - Voluntary annexation by petition currently requires 100 percent consent from all property owners, a threshold that can be impossible to meet even if a majority of property owners can benefit by utilizing their property for business or residential purposes.
 - Lowering the threshold from 100 percent represents a middle ground that would still reflect the will of property owners but not handicap communities' ability to economically thrive.
 - The ability of a city or town to grow and reflect its urban footprint is vital to its financial health; city services are relied on by residents whether they live in or near municipal boundaries.

- **Preserve authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure that growth is well-planned and investments by homeowners and business owners are protected.**
 - A community's land-use planning tools, including ETJ, are vital as infrastructure investments are made that pave the way for economic growth.
 - Protecting homes and businesses from incompatible uses continues to be an important feature of ETJs. As of 2022, at least 14 counties in North Carolina had no zoning restrictions, with several others being only partially zoned.
 - Protecting neighborhoods from incompatible uses ultimately protects the value of residents' homes and property.

- **Protect the ability of municipal elected officials, acting on behalf of local voters, to determine election formats, districts and other election matters currently under their purview.**
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are best positioned to understand the wishes of local voters and how those should be applied to local election matters.
 - In many areas, residents prefer to avoid political polarization when it comes to the practical tasks of municipal government.
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are in their communities every day and accessible to voters.



Heather Hockaday <hhockaday@townofburnsville.org>

2025-2026 Biennium Legislative Goals | NCLM Board Proposed Recommended Goals

1 message

Erin Wynia, NCLM Director of Government Affairs <NCLM@mail.nclm.org>
Reply-To: nclm@nclm.org
To: hhockaday@townofburnsville.org

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 1:05 PM

2025-2026 Biennium Legislative Goals Voting Process

December 17, 2024

Dear NCLM Members,

As this year comes to an end, I am pleased to share with you that the League's legislative goals development process is almost complete. All that remains is for member cities and towns to review the proposed goals and cast their votes—we need your help and participation in this last, and most important, step in the process.

Thank you for the work you have already completed; we have received over 350 ideas from 197 individuals representing 154 municipalities. After the dedicated work by the Legislative Policy Committee to compile and refine the submitted goals, the NCLM Board of Directors has reviewed, approved and now submits **16 proposed legislative goals for your consideration**.

Your job now is to review and vote on the proposed goals so that cities and towns have a focused state and federal advocacy agenda for the 2025-2026 legislative biennium, which begins in January at the N.C. General Assembly.

Each municipality will cast a single vote by selecting 10 of the **16 proposed advocacy goals**. To vote, your municipality must:

STEP 1.

Designate a single Voting Delegate who will cast the municipality's vote by January 16, 2025. If your municipality has not yet designated its Voting

Delegate, please do so using **this form**. Official voting instructions and the ballot will be sent directly to the Voting Delegate.

STEP 2.

Review, discuss and determine which of the **proposed legislative goals** your municipality supports. Each municipality may select 10 of the 16 proposed goals.

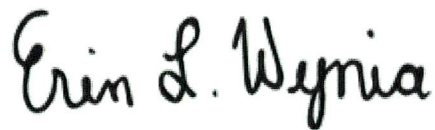
STEP 3.

Submit the online ballot by January 17, 2025. The Voting Delegate will receive voting instructions and the online ballot directly.

Thank you for your continued participation in this legislative goals development process, which is so critical to our advocacy efforts.

Establishing these Municipal Legislative Goals with wide participation by all cities and towns allows our organization to speak with confidence and sincerity as we pursue each with state and federal policymakers. It truly allows us to live up to our motto, "Working as one, advancing all."

Sincerely,



Erin Wynia
Director of Government Affairs

PROPOSED GOALS

DESIGNATE YOUR VOTING DELEGATE

.....



WORKING AS ONE. ADVANCING ALL.

CONTACT US



Stay Connected with the North Carolina League of Municipalities

434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Manage Preferences](#)

Russell Fox
Mayor
Heather Hockaday
Town Manager/Attorney
Chad Fox
Town Clerk

Town of Burnsville



Councilors:
Judy Buchanan
Denise Collier
Randy Ollis
Bill Wheeler

Capital Project Ordinance *NC DEQ BRIDGE LOAN*

BE IT ORDAINED by the Burnsville Town Council, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the general statutes of North Carolina, the following grant projects are hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project is the temporary water line and intake system, as well as repairs to the water and sewer utility system to be funded by a state loan from NC DEQ.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the board resolutions, loan documents and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project.

Funds:

Repayable bridge loan proceeds: \$3,200,000.00

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Expenses:

Utility repairs and temporary water line/intake infrastructure: \$3,200,000.00

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grants Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and federal and state regulations.

Section 6. Requests for funds should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner as funds are obligated and expenses incurred. Funds may be advanced from the enterprise and general funds for the purpose of making payments as due.

Section 7. The Finance Officer is directed to report on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of the project.

Section 8. Copies of this Capital Project Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board, and to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of January 2025.

Mayor
T. Russell Fox

ATTEST:

Clerk

Town of Burnsville
Budget Amendment # 4
FY: 24/25

Funding Source: Described below

THE FY: 24/25 BUDGET ORDINANCE IS HEREBY AMENDED TO REFLECT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES, AND TO REFLECT THESE LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Fund: General Fund

DEPT: 450 *Community Promotions*

Revenue:

Increase Line Item numbers: 10-376-0000: Helene Donations: \$7,654.00

EXPENDITURE:

Increase line item numbers: 10-450-3500: Helene Charitable Expense: \$7,654.00

Total of all changes: \$7,654.00

Acknowledge revenues and increase expense account for the donations from MAPS and individuals for Hurricane Helene relief. These have to be passed through to a non-profit.

Requested by:

Authorized by:

Finance Officer

Mayor

Council Vote: ___yes ___no

Date approved by council:

Doug Matheson
Chair of the Board

Dennis Aldridge
Vice-Chair



Larry Fontaine
Secretary

Jeff Whitson
Treasurer

468 New Market Blvd.
Boone, NC 28607

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Phone: 828-265-5434

Fax: 828-265-5439

**Executive Board Meeting
December 16, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.
High Country COG Board Room**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Doug Matheson, Executive Board Chairman

II. CONSIDERATION OF NOVEMBER 2024 MINUTES [ACTION]

Doug Matheson, Executive Board Chairman

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Caroline Briggs, Finance Officer

- Budget Amendment #2 [ACTION]

IV. HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

- Senator Ralph Hise – District 47
- Representative Dudley Greene – District 85
- Representative Ray Pickett – District 93
- Representative Blair Eddins – District 94
- Justin Somers – Office of U.S. Senator Ted Budd
- Rebecca Powell – Office of Congresswoman Virginia Foxx
- Tommy Laughter – Office of Congressman Chuck Edwards
- Drew Christy – Office of Governor Roy Cooper

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT [ACTION]

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met November 18, 2024, 7:00pm, in the HCCOG Board Room in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Brenda Lyerly, Todd McNeill, Greg Minton, Timmy Evans, Kelly Melang, Otis Church, Bill Wheeler, Jeff Whitson, Larry Fontaine, Chandler Reece, Harley Masters, Teresa McCoy, Rocky Buchanan, Tom Hartman, and Dennis Aldridge. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Sharlene Abbott, William Hain, Andrew Cutler, Ed Ellis, Jeff Hedrick, Caroline Briggs, Chris Grubb, Zack Green, Cory Osborne, and Victoria Oxentine.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Aldridge called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Vice Chairman Aldridge noted that Chairman Matheson had shoulder replacement surgery recently and could not attend. Jeff Whitson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Otis Church offered the invocation.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Todd McNeill moved to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting, seconded by Charles E. Vines. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Finance Officer, Caroline Briggs presented the Financial Highlights as of October 31, 2024 (Attachment A) and discussed revenues versus expenditures. Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of October 31, 2024. Otis Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HUD & FEMA STATE RECOVERY PLAN

Sharlene Abbott, Senior CPD Representative for HUD presented a few talking points to the Executive Board regarding disaster relief needs in the wake of Hurricane Helene. Ms. Abbott said that she was there to listen to the Executive Board member's needs. Executive Board members discussed current needs/obstacles including bridge/road repair, emergency communications, data regarding FEMA Individual Assistance, FEMA Housing, cold weather/housing concerns, a better understanding of resources, and too many duplicated efforts by smaller organizations. William Hain and Ed Ellis from FEMA also joined in on discussion points. Mrs. Abbott will work on finding resources and getting answers for Executive Board members regarding housing recovery.

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR UPDATE

Zack Green, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director introduced Fred Wilson, the new Digital Navigator. Mr. Wilson is a Watauga County native with years of experience in the digital realm and will be working on the Digital Navigator program on a one-year grant through the Division of Aging. Mr. Green noted that Mr. Wilson has already hit the ground running and has had 75 iPads donated to HCCOG in the wake of Hurricane Helene to assist with disaster recovery applications. Mr. Green also noted that the AAA staff has been working tirelessly in the wake of

Hurricane Helene with older adult supplies, volunteering, etc. Mr. Green announced another 2-year grant the AAA recently received which is \$132,000 for home safety/repair and modification for older adults.

CEDS ANNUAL REPORT RESOLUTION

Chris Grubb, Planning & Development Director gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is a 5-year document that was last adopted by the HCCOG Executive Board in 2022. Mr. Grubb presented the CEDS Annual Report (Attachment B) and the CEDS Annual Report Resolution (Attachment B1) for the Executive Board to consider. Mr. Grubb noted that most of the priorities in the current CEDS will stay the same in the wake of Hurricane Helene but some could shift. Brenda Lyerly made a motion to approve the CEDS Annual Report Resolution. Kelly Melang seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director discussed the 2024 Legislative Priorities list (Attachment C) and noted that the process has begun to start a 2025 priorities list. Ms. Wiggins announced that the Advisory Committee has proposed to have a longer meeting in December and invite State and Federal representatives for a roundtable discussion on disaster relief recovery. We will plan to have dinner 5:30-6:00 PM and the meeting will run from 6:00-8:00 PM. Ms. Wiggins also announced that the 49th Annual Banquet has been rescheduled for Friday, March 7th. We will also have the 50th Annual Banquet in October 2025. Ms. Wiggins handed it over to Cory Osborne, Economic Recovery & Resilience Director for an announcement. Mr. Osborne noted that his department of two has pivoted almost completely to assisting towns/counties with FEMA Public Assistance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Todd McNeill congratulated Dennis Aldridge, Jeff Whitson, and Harley Masters for their reelection in early November. Otis Church announced an upcoming festive event in downtown North Wilkesboro.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Aldridge discussed disaster relief concerns and lessons learned along with the compassion he has seen.

OTHER BUSINESS

Victoria Oxentine, Communications Manager noted that if anyone needs their monthly reimbursement checks mailed to a different address to please let her know. Mrs. Oxentine also asked the board if getting back to the 7:00 PM meeting time was ok for everyone, Chairman Matheson wanted to be sure everyone could arrive and get home safely in the coming months.

Executive Board members agreed that the 7:00 PM meeting time is fine. Mrs. Oxentine will email the complete list of disaster relief needs (Attachment D) the Executive Board submitted to her in October.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Otis Church made a motion to adjourn. Todd McNeill seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Chairman, Doug Matheson

Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date _____

BUDGET AMENDMENT #2

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of High Country Council of Governments that the following amendment be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 1: REVENUES BY SOURCE

PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT FUND

Local	\$ 20,000.00
TOTAL PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT FUND	\$ 20,000.00

AREA AGENCY ON AGING FUND

Local	\$ 45,000.00
TOTAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING FUND	\$ 45,000.00

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Federal	\$ 200,000.00
TOTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND	\$ 200,000.00

TOTAL REVENUES BY SOURCE	\$ 265,000.00
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SECTION II: EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Planning/Development Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Area Agency on Aging Fund	\$ 45,000.00
Workforce Development Fund	\$ 200,000.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$ 265,000.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM	\$ 265,000.00
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FY2024-2025 ORIGINAL BUDGET	\$ 5,719,154.00
Budget Amendment #1 10-21-2024	\$ 499,051.00
Budget Amendment #2 12-16-2024	\$ 265,000.00

TOTAL AMENDED BUDGET FY2025	\$ 6,483,205.00
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BY VOTE OF THE HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS UPON MOTION BY:

_____ AND SECONDED BY _____

THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2024.