

RCHHC Meeting Agenda, 01/14/2026, 7pm

For location and Google Meet link, see our home page at bit.ly/rchhc.

A. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: Steve Rasmussen, RCHHC Chair

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: from 11/12/2025 meeting

N.B.: PLEASE READ MINUTES BEFORE MEETING AT WEBSITE
(<https://sites.google.com/view/rcc-neighborhood> OR bit.ly/rchhc)

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Recycling:** Guest presentation by Ashley Lavender, City of Asheville Waste Reduction Program Manager. Last November, Ashley led a pilot cart-tagging project on several blocks of our neighborhood to find out we're putting in our blue recycling bins and let us know what should and shouldn't be going there. She will share results from this study and answer your questions about recycling. Below under "Addenda" are her answers to a couple of these, which our chair, Steve, took the opportunity to ask her. For the 2026 trash/recycling/yard-waste calendar for your address, see <https://www.ashevilenc.gov/service/find-your-trash-or-recycling-schedule/>.

2. **Asheville Police Department's West Resource Station:** The police station next to the library on Haywood Road will be "expanding" to the Tanger Outlet Mall on Brevard Road, as described in the news article below under "Addenda". Will this affect our neighborhood? What are the City's plans for the building – and should they include reopening the community center on its ground floor, given that the City's "Action Plan" for spending its post-Helene disaster-recovery funds includes as a priority "developing localized [community] resilience hubs, which serve as emergency response centers during disasters and provide long-term community support"? (See <https://www.ashevilenc.gov/news/hud-approves-city-of-asheville-action-plan-for-225-million-in-cdbg-dr-funds/>.)

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Sand Hill and Sulphur Springs traffic studies:** Update on the status of these, and how to request traffic studies for other streets.

2. **City of Asheville Matching Grant**

- a. Community Gatherings
- b. Tree replanting

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Plan on a Page Committee
2. C.A.N. Committee
3. School Committee

F. ADDENDA

1. RE Recycling:

“Recycling contamination guidelines do vary; however, in general, most recycling companies keep their accepted contamination level below 10%, meaning if the total contamination in a given stream (e.g., corrugated cardboard) stays below this threshold, the separated material batch will in fact be recycled. With this being said, the actions we collectively take upstream to reduce contamination makes a difference downstream and impacts the entire system.”

[What about items that are made of mixed recyclable materials that can't be separated, like a foil-dispenser box which has metal teeth welded to the cardboard?]

“Recycling packaging with mixed material types: Cardboard cartons with waxy liners are accepted by Curbside Management (City's recycling service provider). Cardboard boxes with serrated edges such as those used to package aluminum foil are also accepted, but it's preferred that the cutting edge is removed prior to placing the packaging in the recycle cart whenever possible.”

[What about discarded PPE like medical masks and gloves, if they are not tainted with hazardous materials?]

“The Transfer Station, which is operated by Buncombe County, accepts some sharps. PPE such as masks and gloves that have not been exposed to infectious agents may be disposed of in curbside trash carts. As with all non-bulky trash, please place such items in a tied bag. PPE with blood or other bodily fluids needs to be disposed of per local health department guidelines.”

2. RE Police Resource Center:

Police plan expansion to Tanger Outlets

Sarah Honosky, Asheville Citizen Times, 12/19/2025

ASHEVILLE – The police department has plans to locate an office and resource center in a space at the Tanger Outlets, a shopping mall on Brevard Road.

It was previously described as a 'relocation' in some city documents and by officials, moving from its current Haywood Road location in West Asheville. But a police spokesperson said despite initial phrasing, it is not 'abandoning' the current center, but 'expanding services' to the mall.

Spokesperson Rick Rice said this does not represent a change in the proposal.

'The word 'relocation' was used previously, so we understand why this may be perceived that way. However, APD will maintain a presence at the 970 Haywood Road Resource Center,' Rice said via email Dec. 12.

The building adjoins the fire station and West Asheville Public Library.

Asheville City Council was initially scheduled to ratify the lease with Tanger Nov. 18. The decision was delayed, with discussion referred to the city's public safety committee and then to the Dec. 9 City Council meeting agenda, where it was again removed from consideration.

It will be taken up by council in January, Rice said.

He said the vote was delayed to provide additional time to engage with West Asheville businesses and residents and so staff could share more information about the future use of the West Asheville property.

Regarding news of a possible relocation, West Asheville resident Daniel Shetley said he responded almost with 'disbelief.' He said the resource center was a 'staple' of that area. He was concerned about losing a visible presence there and how it would impact response times. Shetley said the neighborhood has experienced issues with car break-ins, drug activity and reports of violence, including a recent alleged rape at gunpoint in a wooded area near Pisgah View Apartments.

Responding to fears about a loss of police presence in West Asheville, Rice said the new location would not change patrol coverage or response levels in West Asheville. He said the deployment model assigns officers to specific geographic areas, intended to ensure consistent service regardless of where resource officers are physically located.

The Haywood Road corridor is staffed by two officers, which would remain the same, he said.

Resource centers primarily serve as a 'support facility' where officers can take breaks, complete paperwork and regroup, not as a primary public interface or operational hub, according to a Nov. 17 memo.

Interim Police Chief Jackie Stepp said during the public safety meeting that it is not like the Broadway Public Safety Station where a staff member is sitting to wait on community members to come in and file reports and meet with officers.

Why the outlet mall?

During the November public safety meeting discussion, then City Manager Debra Campbell, who retired Dec. 5, said while the new location was being perceived as 'something being taken away,' staff felt it was 'additive.'

'That (Haywood Road) building is just not appropriate for the kind of resources and services that we want to provide to the community,' she said, noting that the city owned space was formerly a library. It was built in 1953 and repurposed as a police resource center in 1999.

A Dec. 9 staff report said the facility no longer meets modern public safety requirements and presents 'critical risks,' like security vulnerabilities from large windows and old doors. It does not meet structure standards for police stations and a renovation would be costly.

Its current size also presents an issue, the report said. The mall location would more than double its square footage.

Tanger Outlets will donate \$1 million for upfit costs. The memo described it as 'extraordinary savings' to allow the city to 'secure immediate, high-quality operational space' without significant capital funds.

The lease is \$6,000 a month for the first year, with a total cost not to exceed \$837,339 over the 10-year term. Funding for the first year is available in the department's operating budget, Rice said. Future years will be planned during the annual budget development process.

Though City Council has not yet adopted the resolution to ratify the execution of the lease, Rice said the city fully executed its agreement with Tanger Oct. 9. APD has already paid the required \$12,000 security deposit and will begin paying rent once the project is completed, likely in March.

Rice said council approval is just part of the process. Ratification is necessary because of a contracting policy that requires it for leases exceeding a certain threshold. Council approval for property acquisition is not required by statute, he said.

The Dec. 9 staff report also said if approved, the public facilities management division, along with the Asheville Fire Department, would consider a project to reprogram the space to meet the fire station's long-term capital needs.

Until that project is developed, staff would evaluate options for using the space for a 'limited police presence' and to meet other police programming needs, the report said.