



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 4/4/2023

New Business

Department: Planning / Legal & Risk

Presenter(s): Nate Pennington

Contact(s): Nate Pennington, Planning Director
Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

Subject: Set a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining

Brief Summary: Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-107, local governments may adopt an ordinance authorizing a temporary moratorium on any development approval required by law. Our current ordinances do not define cryptocurrency mining as a specific use. Cryptocurrency mining has the potential to negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods due to excessive energy use, e-waste, pollution and noise. A temporary pause in any such use will protect the public interest and welfare of the residents of the County until such regulations regarding cryptocurrency mining are adopted. If this Board develops standards and mitigation methods for these intensive land uses, then a public hearing will be required. If approved by the Board, staff recommends a one (1) year moratorium from May 2, 2023 through May 1, 2024.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Set a public hearing for May 2, 2023 to consider an Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining.