



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 5/16/2023

Consent Agenda

Department: Planning / Legal & Risk

Presenter(s): Nate Pennington

Contact(s): Nate Pennington/Michael Frue

Subject: Second Reading - 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. It will take time and coordinated efforts to develop standards and mitigation methods to regulate this intensive land use. If approved by the Board, staff recommends a one (1) year moratorium from May 2, 2023 through May 1, 2024. The first reading was held during the public hearing at May 2, 2023 meeting and not all the commissioners were present.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Consider an Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Cryptocurrency Mining.