

From: Brad Branham <bbranham@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 4/11/2022 2:00:30 PM
To: Brooke Randle <brandle@mountainx.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Mountain Xpress- Questions regarding Asheville's Business Improvement District

Good afternoon, Brooke,

Let me see if I can answer your questions. First, a business improvement district or "BID" is one of a number of special tax districts that municipalities are permitted to establish in order to raise money to provide certain benefits or services to that district. The authority to create these special districts is found in NCGS 160A-536, and it applies to all municipalities in North Carolina. A BID is specifically directed at geographical areas encompassing a municipality's downtown, and the funds raised through the special tax are utilized in order fund downtown revitalization or provide targeted services to that area. This could include additional security, infrastructure enhancement, or even sponsoring festivals and markets. There is no requirement to establish a citizen board to provide an advisory function for the BID, but a city council may establish one. In such a case, the board would be a public body similar to the many advisory boards currently established by a city's governing board.

As for Asheville's BID, I'm not certain about the details as this preceded my tenure with the City by several years. However, a BID remains in place until it is abolished by resolution adopted by the City Council. If this has not been done, and the BID still exists, then Council retains the right to levy a special tax for this district. This is done in the same manner as any other tax, by adoption of such by the City Council.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

On Mon, Apr 11, 2022 at 1:14 PM Brooke Randle <brandle@mountainx.com> wrote:
Hello Brad,

Hope you are well. I'm putting together a short explainer piece about Asheville's Business Improvement District that was established in 2012. From what I understand, the tax wasn't actually implemented and the District's board was later disbanded. Could you please help me with the following questions:

Can you explain what a business improvement district is?

How is it that a certain area of town can be required to pay an additional tax? What's the legal basis for this?

Does the power to create these districts and implement additional taxes exist throughout NC, or is this something unique to Asheville?

The BID board — is this considered to be a nonprofit or a quasi-governmental board (similar to the TDA maybe?)

Since Asheville's BID was created by the tax was never implemented, does the BID still exist? Let's say there was a majority of Council that supported the BID, what actions would Council need to do to make the BID workable?

My deadline is **Friday, April 15.**

Thanks as always,
Brooke



Local Matters.

Brooke Randle

City Government Reporter, Writer | [Mountain Xpress](#)

p: 828.251.1333, 117 m: 904.323.5989

a: 2 Wall St., Asheville, NC 28801



--
Brad R. Branham
City Attorney
City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
828-259-5614

