

RESOLUTION NO. 12- 37

RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

Whereas, natural human beings are entitled to citizenship and the rights, privileges, and benefits thereof; and

Whereas, corporations, while generally constructive and providing important benefits, are not human beings, but "artificial immortal beings," as defined by Chief Justice John Marshall; and

Whereas, the 2010 Supreme Court decision, Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission, declared corporations to be persons and eliminated legal limits on corporate political spending; and

Whereas, corporate money may be spent limitlessly to influence elections at the federal, congressional, state, county, and municipal levels thereby diluting the power of the people; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution has been amended many times in response to a groundswell of public opinion, it is the responsibility of local representatives to give voice to the concerns of its citizenry and advise Congressional representatives of these concerns; and

Whereas, a growing number of people and municipalities across the nation have joined together to call for an Amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

On behalf of the citizens of our municipality, calls on our elected representatives in the United States Congress to initiate the process to amend the Constitution of the United States to abolish corporate personhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The City of Asheville calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

Read, approved and adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

Magdalen Boulton  
CITY CLERK

Ingrid Bellamy  
MAYOR

Approved as to form:

[Signature]  
CITY ATTORNEY

Magdalen Boulton  
CITY CLERK