

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

5:55 P.M., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson, Chair*
Council Member Evelyn A. Terry, Vice Chair
Council Member Dan Besse
Council Member Robert C. Clark (in at 6:00 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: *Council Member Molly Leight*

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed to be pulled for discussion. Council Member Leight requested to pull Item C-9(c). No other items were removed for discussion.

Council Member Besse made a motion to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Terry and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 74-91 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS OBSTRUCTIONS.
- C-2. ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 74-17 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO BARBED WIRE FENCES.
- C-3. REPORT ON FLOODED PROPERTIES.
- C-4. RESOLUTION APPROVING CITY PARTICIPATION IN A DRAINAGE PROJECT ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY – *130 North Poplar Street.*
- C-5. RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ABBEY PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. TO MAINTAIN DECORATIVE STREETLIGHTS IN ABBEY PARK.
- C-6. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO THE AIRPORT BUSINESS PARK PROJECT.
 - a. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER TO TRIANGLE GRADING AND PAVING, INC. - *\$165,000.*

- b. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.
- C-7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO THE WEST CLEMMONSVILLE ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT:
- a. RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF 48" DUCTILE IRON PIPE - *U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co., LLC* - \$312,082.22.
 - b. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.
- C-8. PETITION TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF MOZART AVENUE IN THE SOUTHWEST WARD (Council Member Besse) – *Petition of Richard and Donna Garrett. Public Hearing: December 1, 2008.*
- C-9. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO ANNEXATION PETITIONS:
- a. PETITION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 102.44 ACRES LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST INTERSECTION OF TEMPLE SCHOOL ROAD AND UNION CROSS ROAD (EAST WARD) – *Petition of Brian Nash. Public Hearing: November 17, 2008.*
 - b. PETITION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 36.5 ACRES LOCATED OFF OF CRESTLAWN TRAIL, BEING PART OF LONG CREEK VILLAGE, SECTION 1, PHASES 2 & 3 (NORTH WARD) – *Petition of Isenhour and Hubbard, Inc. Public Hearing: November 17, 2008.*
- C-10. CITY/COUNTY UTILTY COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.
- C-11. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *September 9, 2008.*
- C-9. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO ANNEXATION PETITIONS:
- c. PETITION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 0.85 ACRE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY OF FLEETWOOD CIRCLE (WEST WARD) – *Petition of the City of Winston-Salem. Public Hearing: November 17, 2008.*

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, stated that the Police Department has reviewed the potential street renaming and it will be considered separately from the annexation.

Council Member Besse made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Terry and carried unanimously.

GENERAL AGENDAG-1. UPDATE ON ELECTRIC DRIVE STREET CLOSING PETITION. *[Item continued from the September Public Works Committee meeting.]*

Council Member Terry made a motion to deny the request to close Electric Drive. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Besse.

Ms. Juanita Ramsey, 945 Dize Drive, read a letter from citizens within the community in opposition to the proposed street closing.

Council Member Clark in at 6:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

Mr. John Bryan, 211 E. 3rd Street, and Mr. Mitchell Britt, 106 S. Poplar Street, presented information regarding composting and waste diversion programs. Mr. Britt noted that he is composing a business model and has developed a website (www.compostexchange.org) to outline a potential composting program within the city of Winston-Salem. He also noted that there has been positive feedback and interest from the community encouraging a composting initiative. North Carolina currently composts 6% of its food waste which is twice the national average. Compost can be used to format soil amendments and other products. He further noted that there is a city-wide composting program in Orange County.

Mr. Bryan stated that landfills are overflowing and running out of space, and as fuel prices are uncertain, composting is a conservative use of resources.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Britt stated that there is information on the website regarding the separation of food products. He also stated that there will be a workshop at Krankie's Coffee on Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m., led by the head of the North Carolina Composting Council.

Mr. Bryan noted that composting provides cost savings, there is community interest and it is a fiscally responsible option as well as environmentally beneficial.

In response to Council Member Clark's question, Mr. Britt stated that there is not currently a plan for compost pickup service, but the website provides advocacy and educational options for interested citizens and the City could review options for contracting a pickup service.

Mr. Bryan noted that a composting program could begin on a voluntary basis within the community and the City could initially provide a five-gallon bucket and worms to get citizens started with a central drop-off location, then, as participation increases, a pickup service could be contracted to pickup from participants' homes.

Mr. Britt noted that there is a large-scale composting site at the State Building in Raleigh. In response to Council Member Terry's question, he noted that worms will compost food and yard waste, and that

Orange County sells its compost and compost generated products.

Council Member Terry requested to know if there was a compost education program through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Chair Johnson inquired about the preservation and expansion of landfills as well as educational services and budgetary impacts.

Mr. Turner stated that the life of a landfill is based on the level of participation and that there is currently no data on composting impacts on a landfill lifespan, but staff will review it. He also stated that the impact on the capital budget will be based on whether or not a composting program is managed by the City. He further stated that when the City collects leaves, they are composted and used by the Vegetation Management Department. Mr. Turner also noted that there is some opportunity for the private sector to be involved in the aspect of food waste composting.

Council Member Besse requested to know if Waste Management was a county-wide service in Orange County or if it was based within its municipalities.

In response to Council Member Besse's question, Mr. Britt stated that municipalities within Orange County have made changes to accommodate the pickup of compost waste but new regulations within stormwater and wastewater have made it difficult for the startup of composting facilities and programs.

Council Member Besse requested to know the ratio of food waste to solid waste in Orange County.

In response to Council Member Besse's question, Mr. Britt stated that permits are required to transport food waste from a pickup site to a composting facility.

Council Member Clark requested more information regarding the compost program in Orange County.

Council Member Besse suggested that Mr. Bryan and Mr. Britt meet with members of the Utility Commission Review Committee to discuss composting ideas and options for encouraging business recycling, offering a discount to businesses, for example.

Chair Johnson requested that minutes from the Utility Commission Review Committee be provided to Mr. Bryan and Mr. Britt.

Mr. Britt noted that there have been conversations with Waste Management and there is interest in working with the City on a composting program as they already have several programs along the West Coast and the startup capital.

Chair Johnson requested an update at the December 9 Public Works Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:23 p.m.