

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

6:20 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

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

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. She requested to pull Items C-3 and C-4. No other items were removed for discussion.

Council Member Clark 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. RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH SHERWOOD FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC. TO MAINTAIN A DECORATIVE STREETLIGHTING SYSTEM IN CAMELOT.
- C-2. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ABANDONMENT OF A GREENWAY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 1384 BEAVERTON TRAIL (SOUTHWEST WARD) – *Petition of Karl Anthony Pleasant.*
- C-5. ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR STREETCAR PROJECTS.
- C-6. REPORT ON MAJOR ROADWAY PROJECT SCHEDULES AND COORDINATION.
- C-7. CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.
- C-8. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *December 9, 2008.*
- C-3. PETITION TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF ELEVENTH STREET IN THE EAST WARD (Council Member Johnson) – *Petition of Jeff Hudspeth.*

Chair Johnson stated that Item C-3 was inadvertently pulled. Council Member Besse made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Terry and carried unanimously.

C-4. UPDATE ON PLANS TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE AROUND THE WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, stated that the proposed item would aim to prevent students from crossing Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (MLK) at unsafe points. There will be one dedicated pedestrian signal, several vehicular pedestrian/driving signals, the outside lanes will be widened, and a fence will be installed. These enhancements will improve pedestrian visibility and encourage pedestrians from crossing the street at unsafe locations. The City is pursuing funding for the project from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and it is also listed on the economic stimulus package wishlist. In response to Council Member Terry's question regarding whether or not the medians will be installed in front of Gleason Hall, Mr. Turner noted that the medians will be placed at Reynolds Park Road to the main entrance of Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), to Stadium Drive, to Cromartie Street, out to the Business Interstate-40 ramp. He also noted that much of the median already exists and will be extended and fencing will be placed along the entire area.

Council Member Terry requested to know if anything can be installed to provide direction for vehicular traffic into the Anderson Center from Reynolds Park Road, where pedestrian traffic crosses Reynolds Park Road.

In response to Council Member Besse's question, Council Member Terry stated that there are protected right signals, but not left.

Chair Johnson noted that there is a dedicated left turn signal at MLK turning onto Reynolds Park Road, but there is no dedicated left signal out of the Anderson Center. She also noted that there needs to be more control of pedestrian traffic at that intersection.

In response to Council Member Clark's concern, Mr. Turner stated the fencing option being considered is five feet tall and will resemble decorative wrought iron.

Council Member Clark requested that staff ensure WSSU approves the aesthetic look of any fencing.

Chair Johnson noted that it is imperative for the project to be completed by August, prior to the start of the fall semester at WSSU.

Mr. Turner stated that the Department of Transportation has been asked to review all funding sources for the project and that transportation safety funds will most likely be used. He also noted that the project was included in the economic stimulus package funding list and that it could possibly be funded by direct apportionment funding from the Transportation Advisory Committee that would not be available until after July 1.

Chair Johnson noted that staff met with the Chancellor of WSSU as well as the president of the Student Government Association to discuss the needs of the campus.

Mr. Turner noted that the project will be presented to WSSU staff for their review before final approval.

Council Member Besse indicated it was his understanding that the President Elect's stimulus package preference would not include earmarks and so we should not expect stimulus funding to be a guaranteed funding source.

In response to Council Member Terry's question, Mr. Turner stated the project will cost approximately \$250,000.

Council Member Terry questioned whether or not the project was listed on WSSU's economic stimulus package request to the State for the possibility of sharing the cost of the project.

Chair Johnson stated that staff is optimistic that the State will pay for the project in its entirety. She also noted that staff met WSSU designees and the NCDOT indicated funding would be available through its highway safety program, as it is set aside from the regular budget. She requested a status updated from that conversation.

In response to Council Member Clark's concern, Mr. Turner stated that curb and gutter is already present to prevent vehicles from leaving the road and impacting the fence.

GENERAL AGENDA

G-1. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Mr. Turner stated that the resolution is generic and that two grant applications have been submitted to staff. The proposed revision to the resolution will add additional language in specific support of the two grant applications.

Council Member Clark noted that Council voted on a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program for Sherwood Forest that did not come to fruition.

Ms. Myra Stafford, Senior Engineering Technician, stated that the resolution eliminated a portion of the neighbors who did not want sidewalks placed in their yards for the program and noted that sidewalks would be installed along Kirklees Road, Hertford Road and Chester Road, with crosswalks being installed where needed. She also noted that there was an update to the Infrastructure Budget Worksheet in the packet of information distributed to Committee members. In response to Council Member Besse's question, Ms. Stafford noted that a summary of items within the project list would be the installation of sidewalks from Hertford Road to Kirklees Road, crosswalks and bulb outs at Hertford Road and Kirklees Road, crosswalks in front of the school, in front of Doncaster Road and Hertford Road, Saxon Road and Hertford Road, Hertford Road and Chester Road, and Doncaster Road and Yorkshire Road.

In response to Council Member Besse's concern, Mr. Turner noted that there was no critical information in the packet distributed to the Committee during the meeting, rather it was just more detailed information.

In response to Council Member Terry's question, Mr. Turner noted that SRTS is a component of SAFETEA-LU, which will expire as a federal program next year, so it is undetermined what will be

included in the next multi-year transportation federal funding program.

Council Member Terry noted that to continue the SRTS program, it is imperative that SAFETEA-LU be continued.

In response to Chair Johnson's question, Ms. Stafford stated that there has not been much input from the DOT because this is a non-infrastructure project, but there has been some input from Clemmons and Kernersville schools.

Council Member Besse noted that it seemed a general call was placed to surrounding schools and the ones including in the packet are the ones who provided a response.

Chair Johnson expressed concern with supporting a resolution for schools that are not in the City.

Council Member Terry questioned whether or not the funding would be provided to any school, irrespective of its location.

Mr. Turner noted that the City will likely be the grant recipient and serve as a pass-through for the funding.

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

Chair Johnson requested that staff ensure other schools are aware of the funding opportunity.

G-2. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PIEDMONT TRIAD SEAMLESS MOBILITY STUDY.

Mr. Turner noted that this was a resolution in support of a study that was conducted which evaluated the need and appropriateness of a seamless public transportation system throughout the triad. The study was conducted by private consulting firm URS working for Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) with input from City agencies, including Winston-Salem Transit and DOT staff, Greensboro Transit and DOT staff, and other communities. The result indicates benefits to a consolidated transit system throughout the region, the opportunity for more funding, and more effective coordination of transit systems. In response to Council Member Terry's question regarding land usage, Mr. Turner stated that the study reviews how transit should be provided regionally, separate and apart from other studies and noted that it is more reactive to the land use that has already occurred.

Council Member Terry requested that staff be more vigilant regarding how projects interact and impact one another.

Council Member Besse expressed concern with the study's determination that all local transit systems be consolidated under PART, and the endorsement of the conclusions within the study. He noted that it would be better to continue with the local management of local buses and focus on inner-city transportation.

Mr. Turner noted that the study could be accepted with a condition indicating areas of concern.

Council Member Besse noted that the future shared use of facilities and construction of any new facility should be subject to a joint use analysis, with consideration of the local transit center, regional fare structure, and financial responsibilities shared between PART and the City.

Chair Johnson expressed concern in supporting the resolution which may impact structures and systems that have a strong history in the community.

Council Member Clark noted that the Committee could hold the item until the February 10 meeting and request that staff write a resolution indicating receipt of the study but that the Council does not specifically endorse or not endorse its findings.

G-3. RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE TO THE RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING ZONE POLICY. *[This item was approved by the Public Safety Committee and continued by the Public Works Committee in December.]*

Mr. Turner stated the item has been revised to allow additional flexibility for someone who doesn't own a property to prove they live at that property. He also stated that the southern border has been extended to Academy Street.

Council Member Besse made a motion to approve the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Clark.

In response to Council Member Besse's question, Mr. Turner noted that the revised version provided to the Committee includes the revised resolution and policy.

The motion for approval carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:05 p.m.