

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

5:35 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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, without objection, the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda. Council Member Leight requested to pull Item C-2. 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. CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION ON THE CITIZEN'S MEMORIAL WALL LOCATED IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY - *Clark S. Brown, Sr. and Clark Campbell.*

- C-3. PETITION TO CLOSE AND ABANDON AN UNNAMED ALLEY OFF OF HATTIE AVENUE IN THE EAST WARD (Council Member Johnson) – *Petition of Sam Ogburn Real Estate Co., Inc. Public Hearing: May 18, 2009.*

- C-4. RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN COMMUNITY BANK AND TRUST (EAST WARD) – *Petition of Southern Community Bank and Trust.*

- C-5. MONTHLY REPORT ON ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT.

- C-6. CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

- C-7. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *March 10, 2009.*

C-2. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED WILKES COUNTY WATER EXTRACTION AGREEMENT.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, stated that the City and Wilkes County entered into an agreement with the Army Corp of Engineers to increase the height of the dam at Kerr Scott Lake, and a requirement was placed on the entities that if they were to remove water for purposes of selling it to another entity, would have to get approval of the other party. Wilkes County has indicated it would like to sell water to Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. Upon the Utility Commission's review, there is currently no provision to stop the County from getting water downstream from the dam, so it is sensible to allow the removal of water. This should not cause a threat to the City's 30 feet of water above the 1,000 foot level. There will be a study to evaluate the possibility of raising the level of the dam to increase lake levels by five feet.

In response to Council Member Clark's question, Mr. Turner stated that he would provide the amount of water Wilkes County plans to withdraw.

In response to Council Member Clark's statement regarding the amount of water let off by the Army Corp of Engineers, Mr. Turner stated that the City has never had to request a release from the lake to meet consumption needs. He also stated that the City has requested a decrease of the release rate to preserve water within the lake. In response to Council Member Clark's statement that there is a proposal to build a hydroelectric plant below the dam, Mr. Turner stated that the position of the City and Utility Commission is that only normal flow can be used to supply the hydroelectric plant. Whoever is permitting the hydroelectric request has held a public comment period that the City has responded to.

GENERAL AGENDA

G-1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE RENAMING A PORTION OF "WHITAKER ROAD" TO "WHITAKER RIDGE DRIVE". *[Item continued from the February Public Works Committee meeting.]*

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

In response to Chair Johnson's question regarding street name changes, Mr. Paul Norby, City/County Planning Director, stated that there was a misunderstanding, but it is now clearly defined which staff are responsible to give notice for public hearings at Committee meetings. He also stated that there will be a return of the proposed name change for Falcon Point Drive at the May Public Works Committee meeting.

G-2. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT:

- a. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY CONSERVATION FUNDING PROGRAM.

- b. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF FORMULA FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT. [\$2,262,000.]
- c. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, City Manager, noted that under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the City is entitled to receive \$2.26 million in Federal funding under the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program. To obtain the funding, the program will be reviewed as far as the City's plan to spend the money, and draw-downs will be allocated on the amount the City is eligible to receive. The first \$250,000 will be received upon submission of appropriate documentation, the proposal will be reviewed with the request for initial funds and once the proposal is accepted, the first half of the amount will be released, minus initial \$250,000. Once projects are completed, the remaining money will be released. The Federal government will be reviewing how funds are leveraged to extend over multiple years to provide reductions in energy consumption within the community. In staff's proposed program, the City can take half of its savings from energy consumption and roll that funding into an account for additional energy reduction programs, as outlined on page two of agenda packet. Eight initial projects are proposed and the energy savings from these projects for the first ten years will be put into the General Fund and the City Energy Reduction Fund. The City Energy Reduction Fund will allow for additional projects, which will meet government regulations. This item will approve the establishment of the program, authorize the prioritized list of projects, and a budget amendment to authorize the receipt of the money. The Federal government will review the program and may not provide the entire allocation if they do not agree with the City's proposal.

In response to Council Member Terry's question, Mr. Turner stated that this is a formula based grant. He also stated that there was a recent webinar demonstrating software to track stimulus funding, and while efficient, it would be very costly. He further presented an updated chart of formula funded projects that have been proposed and will provide an update each month.

Chair Johnson noted that there may be an opportunity for intern support from Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University and Salem College to help track formula funded projects and dollars spent. This project could begin in September when the scope of work begins.

In response to Council Member Clark's question, Mr. Turner noted that staff is reviewing areas within Utilities where electricity consumption can be reduced, such as areas where more energy efficient pumps may be put in place or replaced more frequently. He also noted that there is no reliable information for high-mount light emitting diode (LED) technology streetlights that will provide adequate lighting. He further noted that a fee structure would need to be put in place with Duke Energy, as they currently own the street lights and the City pays a monthly maintenance fee.

Council Member Terry requested that staff review institutions that do not pay taxes to assist the City specifically as it relates to energy conservation.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Turner stated that the current amount of light emitted by street lights is significantly more than can be provided with LED technology. He also stated that it is part of the LED design to utilize reflectors and a lens system within each LED bulb.

Chair Johnson questioned if it would be possible to place LED technology in an area of the city for residents to view prior to a possible city-wide implementation.

Council Member Clark requested any published articles or documentation regarding the success of LED technology be provided to Council.

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

G-3. REPORT ON OTHER FORMULA FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT.

Mr. Turner noted that the report demonstrates formula funds for two additional categories: the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and how funds will be utilized, noting that WSTA would like to maximize the amount of preventive maintenance than can be performed and TAC would like to fund additional resurfacing projects.

G-4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:

- a. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE AND WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY - \$190,400.
- b. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT UNIVERSITY PARKWAY AND HANES MILL ROAD - \$66,400.
- c. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SPRAGUE STREET AND KERNERSVILLE ROAD - \$53,680.

- d. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANES MALL BOULEVARD AND GRIFFITH ROAD - \$25,840.
- e. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT STRATFORD ROAD AND FRONTIS STREET - \$22,400.
- f. RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT FERRELL AVENUE AND NEW WALKERTOWN ROAD - \$96,000.

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

In response to Council Member Besse's question regarding intersection improvements at the corner of Stratford Road and Frontis Street, Mr. Turner stated that the intersection is an accident prone area.

In response to Chair Johnson's question, Mr. Turner stated that there are no challenges with the State to perform the improvements, although Stratford Road is a State-maintained road.

The motion carried unanimously.

In response to Chair Johnson's question regarding implementation dates, Mr. Turner noted that the completion dates for each project were different and that information would be provided to Council.

G-5. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 26 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO COLLECTION FROM RESIDENTIAL PREMISES.

Mr. Turner noted that this ordinance will bring equity between the amount of garbage collected from those citizens participating in curbside collection and those getting backyard collection. He also noted that there is a provision whereby citizens with excess garbage can request an additional pickup or additional trash receptacles.

In response to Council Member Clark's question, Mr. Turner stated that he would provide fee information for an additional pickup. He also noted that there is a cost of \$25 per year for an additional 96 gallon cart.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Mr. Turner stated that the limit on backyard collection is 96 gallons, but currently, citizens can place as much trash at the curb as they want.

In response to Council Member Terry's concern, Mr. Turner noted that smaller trash receptacles can be requested as a single small bag of trash may not weigh down a 96 gallon container and it may turn over, as was the case with one of Council Member Terry's constituents.

In response to Council Member Clark's question regarding the single container experimental recycling program, Mr. Turner stated that two neighborhoods are currently participating and he will provide an update to the Council.

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

Mr. Turner noted that at the top of page 18 in the agenda book, the underlined section on the second line from the top, should read 26-6(k)(1) rather than 26-6(1)k.

This change was approved by consensus.

Chair Johnson noted that Duke Energy and its contractors will be clearing trees from power lines in coming weeks and suggested that Council Members notify property owners in their wards. Prior to any cutting, Duke Energy will notify property owners.

Council Member Clark expressed concern that the City's portion of the potential \$2.2 million in grant funding to purchase or repair foreclosure homes in the area is a relatively small amount and staff should ensure that as many homes are repaired to help as many families as possible. He also suggested that local financial institutions be approached and requested to demonstrate the level of funding needed for foreclosed home repair.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:25 p.m.