

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2012

COMMITTEE ROOM

Room 239, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Robert Clark, Chair
Council Member Derwin L. Montgomery, Vice Chair
Council Member Dan Besse

MEMBER ABSENT: Council Member Denise D. Adams

Chair Clark called the meeting to order, and stated that the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda. He asked if anyone wished to remove any items for discussion. No items were removed.

Council Member Besse made a motion for approval of items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1. RESOLUTION APPROVING CITY PARTICIPATION IN A DRAINAGE PROJECT ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCORDING TO SECTION 75-35 OF THE CITY CODE- 912 and 914 Woodcote Drive.
- C-2. RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH STIMMEL ASSOCIATES, PA TO COMPLETE A STREETScape MASTER PLAN AND DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SALEM CREEK CONNECTOR FROM RAMS DRIVE (OLD STADIUM DRIVE) TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE. [*\$140,000.*]

GENERAL AGENDA

- G-1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN ACCESS EASEMENT AND A PORTION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO TWIN CITY LODGE #3283 GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA. (North Ward) - *Property located off of Shorefair Drive.*

Assistant City Manager Greg Turner gave the staff report on this item and responded to questions from members of the Committee. He stated that the property will be restricted to cemetery use by State Statute, and after conveyance, the property will be maintained by the Odd Fellows. He advised that this site is no longer being used as a leaf storage site. The City property which is not a part of this proposed conveyance will continue to be used for Fair parking.

Council Member Besse made a motion for approval of the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried.

G-2. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL POSITION ON PUBLIC TRANSIT.

Mr. Turner presented this item to the Committee and explained that staff is requesting the City Council to establish its position regarding public transit. He stated that regular reports have been presented in the past regarding the diminishing Mass Transit Fund, but no Council consensus opinion has been sought or established. He presented empirical information regarding the definition and justification for public transit and how it affects urban air quality and economic development. He explained how public transit or its absence affects a city's infrastructure needs, and noted that all transit – public or private – is subsidized through tax dollars.

Council Member Besse commented that in his opinion, public transit is an important component of services offered by a major city, and he understands that this item is not intended to address specifics of a transit program such as route frequencies and service levels, but rather is a request for the City Council to establish its position on whether Winston-Salem should have a comprehensive public transit system. He stated that he supported public transit and he would support directing staff to move forward with efforts to accommodate this public service and propose sustainable financial strategies to support it.

Chair Clark remarked that aside from the broader question of a City offering public transit, he has specific concerns regarding whether the demand justifies the subsidy. He stated that he has observed very little bus ridership in the West Ward; at the same time, he is aware of widely varying demographics within the city limits. Chair Clark commented that he would like to see a cost analysis per transit route, as well as some method for allocating fixed costs. He stated that he was not convinced of a sufficient demand for Sunday service.

Council Member Besse noted that there are a number of practical issues with regard to routing and similar issues which result in periodic adjustments in service. However, he added that the item before the Committee is to establish whether Winston-Salem will have a public transit system.

Council Member Montgomery commented that he views this as a general commitment to public transit. He stated that he has received requests for expanded service which can be addressed at a later time.

Council Member Besse made a motion for approval of the item. The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Montgomery. Opposed: Council Member Clark. This item will be forwarded to the City Council on a vote of two in favor, one opposed.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:23 p.m.