

Friday - August 15, 1997 - 12:00 Noon

Grove Arcade Building

Special Meeting

Present: Mayor Russell Martin, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Barbara Field; Councilman M. Charles Cloninger; Councilman Edward C. Hay Jr.; Councilman Thomas G. Sellers; and Councilman Charles R. Worley; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; City Manager James L. Westbrook Jr.; and Deputy City Clerk Phyllis Corns

Absent: Councilman James J. Skalski

Mayor Martin recognized federal, state, and local officials. He stated that the Grove Arcade Building was constructed in the 1920's as a shopping arcade, and was actually used as one until taken over by the federal government during World War II. The federal government used it as an office building for about 50 years, and moved to the new federal court house in 1995. The Grove Arcade Building has historical, architectural, and cultural significance to the City of Asheville and its citizens, as evidenced by the placement of the Arcade on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of its importance to us, in 1994 the City began working to acquire the Grove Arcade Building from the United States government. The City was successful in that effort. On April 30, 1997, the General Services Administration transferred title of the Grove Arcade to the City of Asheville under the National Monument Act.

During the time the building was vacant, the City and other organizations have been exploring ways to preserve, restore and reuse the building. And, since January, the City and the GROVE Arcade Public Market Foundation have worked diligently on an agreement to rehabilitate and use the Arcade as a public market, with a mixture of commercial/office/residential uses on the upper floors.

Earlier this week, City Council authorized the lease of the Grove Arcade to the Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation - finding that the Foundation is a qualified organization to receive the Arcade and will preserve and use the Arcade in a manner that recognizes its significance while complying with the terms of the conveyance from the United States.

Mayor Martin then presented the Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation Chairman Chuck Reiley with a key to the Arcade along with a check in the amount of \$100,000 to be used toward the rehabilitation of the Grove Arcade Building. Mayor Martin then signed a lease agreement and operating agreement to lease the Grove Arcade Building to the Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation.

Foundation Chairman Reiley announced and introduced Mr. Rick Skelton from Skelton Development as the selected developer for the project.

Mayor Martin closed the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

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