

Tuesday - October 3, 2000 - 3:00 p.m.

Worksession

Present: Mayor Leni Sitnick, Presiding; Vice-Mayor M. Charles Cloninger; Councilwoman Barbara Field; Councilman Edward C. Hay Jr.; Councilman Brian L. Peterson; Councilwoman Terry Bellamy; and Councilman Charles R. Worley; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; City Manager James L. Westbrook Jr.; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Absent: None

CONSENT:

Senior Opportunity Center Roof Replacement Contract

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a roof replacement contract for the Senior Opportunity Center.

In an effort to maintain City facilities, City staff, through the capital improvement process, has determined the Senior Opportunity Center requires a new roof. City staff solicited sealed bids from eleven roofing contractors, three of which were minority contractors, to supply and install a new roofing system. City staff received bids from four qualified bidders as follows:

Construction Advantage , Inc. \$43,715.00

Service One, Inc. \$42,483.00

Stroup Sheet Metal Works, Inc. \$42,459.00

Carolina Mountain Roofing and Const. , Inc. \$42,187.00

City staff has reviewed all bids and determined that Carolina Mountain Roofing and Construction, Inc. is the lowest bidder. City staff recommends acceptance of the total bid amount of \$42,187.00.

Approved funding is available in the capital improvement project account to pay for this roof replacement for Senior Opportunity Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department requests City Council approve the City Manager to enter into a contract for \$ 42,187.00 with Carolina Roofing and Construction, Inc., for the roof replacement contract at the Senior Opportunity Center.

Budget Amendment for 2000 Senior Center Appropriation

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$12,194, for the annual appropriation from the State of North Carolina, Department of Health and Human Services, Division on Aging, to establish a budget for the next phase of improvements at the Senior Opportunity Center and Harvest House.

The City of Asheville applied for funds in September 2000 for the 2000 Senior Center Allocation from the State of North Carolina, Department of Health and Human Services, Division on Aging. The allocation was recently awarded in the amount of \$12,194 and designated for facility improvements and purchasing equipment at Senior Opportunity Center and Harvest House.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the management and operation of two senior centers. The annual allocation from the State of North Carolina will assist the department in implementing facility improvements or purchasing equipment and supplies.

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The Parks and Recreation Department recommends City Council approve the budget amendment, in the amount of \$12,194, to establish a budget for the next phase of improvements at Senior Opportunity Center and Harvest House.

Motorola Renewal Maintenance Agreement on City's Radio System

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a service agreement renewal with Motorola Communications and Electronics Inc. to provide maintenance of the City's radio communication system for another year at the cost of \$12,611.30 per month.

Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc. has provided maintenance services for the City's radio communications system since installation of the system in 1992. Effective with the service agreement covering the period of September 1994 through August 1995, the maintenance cost per unit of equipment has been fixed. The service agreements are renewed annually. The maintenance cost per unit of equipment for the renewal period of September 1, 2000, through August 31, 2001, remains fixed at the original cost per unit.

This renewal agreement reflects a monthly increase of \$156.85, which covers additional equipment purchased by the City that has come out of warranty during the past year. The monthly cost of this service is \$12,611.30.

Funds have been appropriated in the Finance Department, Information Services Division, in Account No. 110-1005-415-3001 C44108 to cover the monthly cost of this agreement.

The Finance Department requests City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a renewal of the service agreement with Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc. to provide maintenance of the City's radio communication system for another year at the cost of \$12,611.30 per month.

Support for the Pack Square Renaissance Project

Summary: The consideration of a resolution expressing endorsement of and support for the Pack Square Renaissance Project.

The Pack Square Task Force, a public/private partnership created to direct the project, is requesting the approval and adoption of this resolution. Along with numerous other letters of support, the resolution would be used to garner additional public support for the project as well as to aid fundraising efforts. The conceptual plan, which resulted from a three-day public design workshop involving the participation of hundreds of citizens, has previously been presented to Council.

City staff recommends City Council adopt the resolution expressing endorsement for the Pack Square Renaissance Project.

Upon inquiry of Mayor Sitnick, City Manager Westbrook said that adoption of this resolution does not commit the City to the expenditure of any additional funds.

Mayor Sitnick asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place these items on the next formal City Council agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 00-191 – RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF NON-STOP COMMERCIAL AIRLINE SERVICE BETWEEN ASHEVILLE AND NEW YORK CITY

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Ms. Kathryn Solee, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Asheville Regional Airport, explained their efforts to establish regular non-stop commercial airline service between the Asheville area and the New York City area. She said that their purpose is to energize regional economic development through the improvement in air services offered at the Asheville Regional Airport, for the mutual benefit of the region and the airport. With the use of overheads, she explained what the New York City connection would mean to Western North Carolina. She then explained why Continental Airlines would fit that need for Asheville and how Delta Air Lines, US Airways and American do not. She pointed out that the Airport is limited by the FAA on what it can use it funding for, however, they are committed to providing funds for advertising support and cost reductions. She explained how the community could support the service including in-kind support. She then reviewed the action plan and assignments of various groups. She said that she and the Airport Director have an appointment in Houston, Texas, on October 5, 2000, to meet with Continental Airlines to discuss the possibility of them serving Asheville and asked for City Council's support.

Ms. Solee answered questions from Mayor Sitnick about Mid-West Airline and their travel opportunities.

Councilman Worley moved to waive the rules and take formal action. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bellamy and carried unanimously.

City Attorney Oast read the following resolution: The Asheville Regional Airport desires to establish regular non-stop commercial airline service between the Asheville area and the New York City area. New York City is the number one travel destination for users of the Asheville Regional Airport. Surveys conducted by the Airport Authority indicate sufficient interest in travel between Asheville and New York, for business and for pleasure, that establishment of regular non-stop commercial airline service will have a ready market, and is likely to be economically feasible. The Airport Authority is currently negotiating with Continental Airlines to provide regular non-stop commercial airline service between Asheville and New York, and Continental Airlines has the opportunity and ground facilities to provide said service. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that the efforts of the Asheville Regional Airport and the Airport Authority to work with Continental Airlines to provide non-stop regular commercial airline service between Asheville and New York City are hereby endorsed and supported. Be it further resolved that if regular non-stop commercial airline service is established between Asheville and New York, the City of Asheville will make every reasonable effort to encourage the use of said service.

Councilman Worley moved to adopt Resolution No. 00-191. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bellamy and carried unanimously.

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REPORT ON SHELTERED WAITING AREA AT TRANSIT CENTER

Transit Services Director Bruce Black said that City Council requested staff look at possible alternatives to the issue of passengers being exposed to weather while they wait at the Transit Center.

As such, an attempt was made to lower the existing heating units. This was not successful. The possibility of finding some sort of heating unit that would work in the present configuration was addressed and there appears to be no such unit. Therefore, an architect was hired and asked to address the issue. The conceptual plans include a recommendation that a waiting room be constructed by adding to the existing ticket building. The conceptual plans are for an addition of a 540 square foot heated room with seating for 41

people.

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If Council wishes to pursue this alternative, staff requests authorization for the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract with the architect to design and bid this project. Following receipt of bids, the consideration of award will be presented to Council for action. To move forward with final design, staff estimates a cost of \$10,000 - \$15,000.

City staff recommends City Council evaluate the proposed alternative and if desirous of moving forward with this alternative, authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract to prepare final plans and bid the project.

Councilwoman Field asked why the City went to a different architect to address the heating issue other than the one who designed the building. Mr. Black said that the architect who designed the building said that the heating system wouldn't work and he advised the Transit Authority not to proceed. However, the Transit Authority elected to proceed anyway and the architect wanted nothing more to do with the project.

Councilwoman Field pointed out that since the fee for the final design is approximately \$10-15,000, then the structure will cost between \$100-150,000. As an architect, she felt that \$100-150,000 was too much to build a 540 square foot building.

There was discussion about other possible ways to try to shelter people from the elements at the Transit Center.

Mr. Black said that the architect was advised that the City wanted to maintain the look of the current transit center. However, he would contact them to see if they would meet with City Council to explore other options and still achieve Council's desire to have a warm, safe and dry place for transit customers at a lower cost.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Vice-Mayor Cloninger, Chair of the City Council Boards and Commissions Committee, briefly reviewed with Council the next quarterly appointment process and vacancies.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

It was the consensus of City Council to cancel the worksession for the week of October 16, 2000, due to the N.C. League of Municipalities Annual Convention in Fayetteville, N.C.

It was the consensus of City Council to appoint Councilwoman Bellamy (delegate) and Councilman Hay (alternate) as the voting delegation at the National League of Cities Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in December, 2000.

CLOSED SESSION

At 4:14 p.m., Councilman Hay moved to go into closed session to establish or to instruct the City's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City in negotiating the terms of a contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease. The statutory authorization is contained in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). This motion was seconded by Councilman Worley and carried unanimously.

At 4:35 p.m., Councilwoman Field moved to come out of closed session. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bellamy and carried unanimously.

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Brief discussions were held about (1) the proposed television system in the Council Chamber; (2) an article that appeared in the newspaper regarding the Sayles Bleacher site Board of Adjustment decision and Dennis Hodgson's service on said Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sitnick adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

CITY CLERK MAYOR
