

Worksession

Present: Vice-Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Councilman Joseph C. Dunn; Councilman James E. Ellis; Councilwoman Diana Hollis Jones; Councilman R. Carl Mumpower; and Councilman Brian L. Peterson; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; City Manager James L. Westbrook Jr.; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Absent: Mayor Charles R. Worley

**CONSENT:**

**Setting a Public Hearing on May 28, 2002, to Designate the South Asheville Cemetery on Dalton Street as a Local Historic Landmark**

**Legislative Request for 2002 Short Session**

Summary: The consideration of a request for legislation to reduce the terms of Housing Authority members.

At Council's retreat in February, there was some discussion regarding reducing the lengths of terms for Housing Authority members from five years to three years. Vice Mayor Bellamy initiated this discussion, and there was general support for the proposal.

The terms of Housing Authority members are established by statute, N.C.G.S. 157-5(d), as five years. Therefore, in order to obtain a reduction in the length of the term, an amendment to the law is required, and only the N.C. General Assembly can do it. The City of Charlotte has already done this in 1990.

The local bill submission deadline for this year's short session of the General Assembly is June 5. Therefore, in order for this request to be transmitted to our delegation and a bill to be introduced, Council action is required before then, and should probably occur on May 28. For short session consideration, local bills must be non-controversial.

Vice-Mayor Bellamy 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.

**METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT UPDATE**

Mr. Tom Hartye, General Manager of the Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) updated City Council on MSD in general. He explained the make-up of the MSD 11-member Board and explained the treatment plant and it's activities.

He gave a brief history of the collection system: (1) prior to 1990 the District was comprised of the Treatment Plant and less than 100 miles of interceptors; (2) in 1990 the District became the proud owner of an additional 750 miles of small collection lines most of them aged and failing structurally and a good portion of them undersized; (3) these lines were mostly run in the 1920's and not a lot of maintenance was performed on them; and (4) the District's in-house design and construction division has "cranked-up" and is rehabbing or replacing an average of 50,000 LF/year.

Mr. Hartye said that residential/commercial users make up 9 million gallons per day; industrial users make up 3 million gallons per day; and ground water (infiltration)/rain water

-2-

(inflow) make up 8 million gallons per day. The said that the Treatment Plan can handle up to 40 million gallons per day.

Mr. Hartye explained the major sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) problems come from major defects, roots and grease and RDI/I. Preventive maintenance efforts include a grease program, preventive maintenance contract, technical services, mapping, and right-of-way maintenance.

He reviewed the Council the capital improvement plan for the next six years (until Fiscal Year 2006): interceptors rehabilitation (\$31.4 million); collection rehabilitation (\$36.8 million); reimbursements (\$4.5 million); plant/pump station/general (\$10.6 million); and Master Plan Wet Weather (\$8.5 million) – totaling \$91.8 million.

Mr. Hartye explained that since the consolidation of 15 different collections systems in 1990, there has been a total of \$66 million of sewer line rehabilitated or replaced and they currently serve 130,000 customers.

Comprehensive issues include future in-fill growth; potential new service area(s) assessment; Buncombe County Land Use Plan; and other jurisdictional planning documents.

Mr. Hartye explained that revenue for Fiscal Year 2003 is anticipated to be \$17.3 million from domestic sewer fees; \$2.8 million from industrial sewer fees; \$900,000 from facility and tap fees; \$991,000 from interest income and other; and \$10.7 million from grants and bonds. Expenses are anticipated to be \$10.7 for operations and maintenance; \$16.4 for capital improvement plan; and \$5.5 for debt payments.

Mr. Hartye and Mr. Brady Blackburn, Chair of the MSD Board, answered various questions from Council, some being, but are not limited to: MSD's extension policy; what is MSD doing for affordable housing; how can MSD work with the City and Chamber of Commerce regarding economic development; how can the City work closer to MSD in planning our growth; and does MSD have any cost-containment efforts.

City Manager Westbrook said that about 3-4 years ago he sent MSD a list of homes in the City that did not have sewer. Mr. Hartye was unaware of that list and asked City Manager Westbrook to send him a copy to review.

On behalf of City Council, Vice-Mayor Bellamy thanked Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Hartye for their informative update.

#### **VETERANS MEMORIAL AT CITY/COUNTY PLAZA**

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Ms. Carol King, Chair of the Pack Place Conservancy, updated City Council on the different phases and designs for the Pack Square and City/County Plaza areas. She stressed that a place has been set aside for a veterans' memorial at City/County Plaza. The timeline for construction to begin is late 2003 with an anticipated finish date of July 4, 2005.

Regarding the veterans' memorial, Ms. King said that earlier Mr. Richard Griffin, representing a group requesting a veterans' memorial, had approached her with a petition for a memorial and she advised him that a place has been set aside for the memorial, but they would have to raise money to pay for the construction of it. She suggested Mr. Griffin contact all the veteran organizations in the City and County to see how much they would be willing to contribute. She said that other groups have requested items to be constructed and they are raising their own money.

-3-

Ms. King noted that the Public Art Board has been working with the Pack Square Conservancy through the entire design of the project and Mr. Griffin will need to contact them regarding the design of the memorial.

Upon inquiry of Councilman Dunn, Ms. King said that there is a lot of support for this project and fund-raising will encompass a combination of governmental, not-for-profits, for-profits, individuals, grants, organizations, etc.

Councilman Ellis moved to allow Mr. Griffin and his group supporting the veterans' memorial time within which to speak at this worksession. This motion was seconded by Councilman Dunn and carried unanimously.

Mr. Tuck Gudger, representing the group requesting a veterans' memorial, was pleased that a prominent place and adequate room has been set aside in the design for a veterans' memorial. He then asked City Council to contribute \$50,000 towards the \$100,000 total design cost. He noted that they have also requested \$50,000 from Buncombe County. He said that they would work through the Pack Square Conservancy to raise the money.

When Mr. Gudger asked how much space would be set aside, Ms. King suggested that Mr. Gudger and Mr. Griffin meet with the architects to discuss the specifics.

Mr. Griffin said that his group is not a 501 (c) (3) organization and they have no ability to raise charitable contributions. In addition, he felt it was awkward to impose their group to raise funds for the memorial. He said they would work with the Pack Square Conservancy to raise funds, but believed the City and the County should fund the veterans' memorial,

Councilman Mumpower said that City Council does endorse the concept and felt that all of Council was pleased that adequate space has been set aside for a veterans' memorial. However, a request has been made for the City and County to contribute \$50,000 each to construct the memorial. He did not want to create any illusions that the City would be able to monetarily contribute to the construction.

Councilwoman Jones felt it was premature to make any commitments since there are so many unknowns the City is dealing with now. She advised Ms. King that in researching for grants, if they find one that would fit for a veterans' memorial that may require a match, to advise City Council.

City Manager Westbrook said that the City would be participating in the project through infrastructure work. Even though it is not a direct contribution to the veterans' memorial, the infrastructure is needed to complete the entire project. He asked Ms. King to let the City know as soon as possible the results of the feasibility study so the City may begin to fund their responsibilities.

Vice-Mayor Bellamy thanked Ms. King for her presentation and hoped to hear from the Pack Square Conservancy again on another update.

### **CONTRACT FOR TRANSIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Transit Services Director Bruce Black said that this is the consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract for the provision of transit operations management services to the City of Asheville.

Because of a conflict between state and federal law, the City is required to hire an operations management company who in turn will employ the drivers, mechanics, supervisors,

-4-

and other personnel necessary for the operation of the transit service. The current contract will expire on June 30, 2002. The Transit Services Department issued a Request for Proposals for the operations management of the transit system beginning July 1, 2002. This is a three-year contract, with two one-year renewal options.

Five management companies respond. Of those five, three were interviewed by a committee consisting of the Chair of the Transit Commission, representatives from the Finance Department and Risk Management Division, the Transit Planner, and the Director of Transit Services.

The committee awarded the top scoring firm, Professional Transit Management (PTM), from Cincinnati, Ohio, 343 points out of 400 possible (85%). The other two management companies interviewed were MV Transportation, from Fairfield, California, which received 295 points (74%); and CCL Management, from Jacksonville, Florida, which received 242 points (61%).

The fees proposed in the PTM proposal have been negotiated to be sure that the City has their best offer. The total contract fee cost for the first three years is \$395,595, the two remaining one year option fee costs being \$131,424 for the fourth year, and \$136,068 for the fifth year.

The second choice, MV Transportation, fees pre-negotiation are very similar. If the proposed contract is not acceptable to PTM, discussions will begin with MV Transportation.

City staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign the transit operations management agreement with either Professional Transit Management or MV Transportation.

Vice-Mayor Bellamy asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place this item on the next formal City Council agenda.

### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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It was the consensus of City Council to instruct City Clerk Bureson to prepare the proper paperwork to reappoint Ms. Sophie Dixon to the Civil Service Board to serve an additional two-year term.

It was the consensus of City Council to readvertise for a vacancy on the Public Art Board, as the Board's request.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

It was the consensus of City Council to hold a budget worksession (after the regular worksession) on Tuesday, June 4, 2002. In addition, it was the consensus of City Council to hold a special meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the City Hall Building, to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Annual Operating Budget.

Discussion surrounded an upcoming visit to our local delegation regarding the Governor withholding monies generated in Asheville for Asheville. Councilman Mumpower has arranged the meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2002, and discussion was held on how the City could raise public awareness by possibly soliciting letters from those affected that could be hand delivered to our delegates. After discussion, it was the consensus of City Council to not solicit letters from

-5-

those affected at this time, but to meet with our legislators and ask them what they need from us. In addition, it was the consensus of Council to add this topic to the next formal meeting agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice-Mayor Bellamy adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR