

Worksession

Present: Mayor Charles R. Worley, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Terry M. Bellamy; 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: None

**CONSENT:**

**Contribution from Irene and Dick Covington Foundation**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution recognizing the contribution made by the Irene and Dick Covington Foundation that will result in the construction of a tennis museum and clubhouse at Aston Park.

- In the early 1990's, a Foundation was established in honor of Irene and Dick Covington, both now deceased. The Covingtons contributed greatly to the growth of tennis in Asheville and Western North Carolina. The Foundation resulted in a total of \$278,336.17, and the majority of this amount was derived from the sale of their estate. The goal of the Foundation was to develop a tennis clubhouse at Aston Park, which would benefit the tennis community and display the archives from Dick Covington's tennis career. The Foundation has been working with a local architect to develop plans, which were approved in September, 2002. The Foundation approved giving the above funds to Buncombe County who will oversee the construction of the proposed Aston Park Tennis Clubhouse. The County Commissioners have already approved a resolution accepting the funds and agree to maintain the building as long as Buncombe County has control of the Aston Park property. In the event the property is reverted back to the City of Asheville, all unused funds will be transferred to the City to continue development of the clubhouse or for perpetual maintenance. Buncombe County has agreed to construct the facility to meet the requirements of the Unified Development Ordinance, and the facility should be completed as early as July, 2004.

- The Asheville Parks and Recreation Department requests City Council recognize the contribution made by the Irene and Dick Covington Foundation that will result in the construction of a tennis museum and clubhouse at Aston Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Irby Brinson responded to various questions from Vice-Mayor Bellamy regarding the construction of the tennis museum and clubhouse.

**Budget Amendment for Reimbursement for Bulletproof Vests**

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$11,362, to reimburse the Asheville Police Department for bulletproof vests from a grant by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

In July of 2002, with the approval of the City Manager, the Asheville Police Department applied for partial reimbursement for bulletproof vests through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Asheville Police Department was notified that it would receive the funds and, in September, received 50% (\$11,362) of the funds it expended for bulletproof vests through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998.

- Staff recommends adoption of a budget ordinance amendment appropriating \$11,362 to the Police Department budget.

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**Budget Amendment for Urban Trail**

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$12,347.95, to appropriate additional donated funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the Urban Trail.

- The Parks and Recreation Department has been responsible for the maintenance of the Urban Trail for a number of years. Periodically, funds are secured from interested donors to the Urban Trail. This budget amendment will appropriate additional revenue into an existing account, which will continue the maintenance and upkeep of the stations.

- The Parks and Recreation Department requests City Council approval of a budget amendment for upkeep of the Urban Trail.

**Grant for French Broad River Park IV**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and enter into an agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources to assist with the development of the French Broad River Park IV.

Funds are available through the N. C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation in the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, to assist with the development of parks and greenways. If awarded, grant funds will be used

to assist with the next phase of construction at French Broad River Park IV.

French Broad River Park IV represents the City of Asheville's next phase of a major greenway and park system being developed along the French Broad River on Amboy Road. The next phase includes a picnic pavilion, wetland interpretive/education area, river overlooks, a boat landing, trails and parking.

The Parks and Recreation Department, the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation and RiverLink are in partnership to implement a fundraising plan to raise approximately \$800,000 to build the next phase of the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting \$250,000 in grant funds from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, which requires a dollar for dollar cash match. The cash match is available through a partnership with RiverLink, and in funds allocated by the City of Asheville.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the City of Asheville to apply for and enter into an agreement for grant funds through the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to assist with the construction of the French Broad River Park IV.

Parks and Recreation Director Irby Brinson responded to questions from Councilman Mumpower regarding the dollar cash match.

#### **Grant for Azalea Road Park Phase I**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution to apply for and enter into an agreement with the N. C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources to assist with the development of Azalea Road Park Phase I.

Funds are available through the N. C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, for funds through the Land, Water and Conservation Fund to

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assist with the development of outdoor recreation facilities. If awarded, grant funds will be used to assist with the construction of the first phase of Azalea Road Park.

Azalea Road Park represents the City of Asheville's first phase of a major greenway and park system being developed along the Swannanoa River on Azalea Road. This first phase will include the development of two fields of the four field soccer complex, restrooms, concession, kayak launch, two picnic shelters, a large playground, disc golf, fitness and greenway trails, river observation decks, restoration of the Thomas Wolfe cabin, and parking areas.

The Parks and Recreation Department, Western North Carolina Soccer Foundation and RiverLink are in partnership to implement an ambitious fundraising plan to raise \$3 million to build the first phase of the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting \$500,000 in grant funds from the Land, Water and Conservation Fund, which requires a dollar for dollar cash or in-kind match. The cash match is available through the Western North Carolina Soccer Foundation, and the in-kind match is available in labor, equipment, and project management in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the City of Asheville to apply for and enter into an agreement for grant funds with the Land, Water and Conservation Fund to assist with the construction of Azalea Road Park Phase I.

Parks and Recreation Director Irby Brinson answered various questions from Council.

#### **Contract with Network Data Systems to Provide Security Services**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution to approve a contract with Network Data Systems (NDS) to provide security services at the North Fork Water Treatment Facility.

The City of Asheville requires a security system at the North Fork Treatment Facility. Proposals for a security system were received on November 15, 2002, and NDS was the lowest bidder.

NDS's system will provide secure access to and from gated areas and buildings. It will also provide security outside of buildings and in parking areas through close-circuit cameras. The equipment installed and card entry system will be compatible with current system(s) used at Asheville City Hall, Water Resources Water Maintenance Facility, and the Mills River Water treatment Facility.

The contract will be completed within 45 days from notice to proceed and will not exceed \$60,600.

City staff recommends approval of the contract with NDS to provide security services at the North Fork Facility.

Councilman Mumpower wondered if it would be a good idea to have a comprehensive presentation on terrorism, homeland security and related issues.

Councilman Peterson suggested a joint City/County meeting be arranged to discuss areas in which we are cooperating together on and where we can improve communication.

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### **Financing for Upgrade of Existing Radio System Equipment**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the installment financing of the upgrade of existing radio system equipment.

In 1990 the City purchased and installed an 800 MHz radio system to serve as the City's primary mobile communications system. The existing radio equipment has been in service for approximately ten years. Maintenance is no longer possible on the radios being replaced due to the fact that the manufacturer, or any other sources, no longer makes replacement parts and the proprietary software programming is no longer supported by anyone. The City of Asheville Capital Improvement Plan 2001/03 to 2006/08 included authorization in Fiscal Year 02/03 for the installment purchase of replacement equipment for the City's 800 MHz Radio System.

The Finance Department sought proposals from ten firms to finance the purchase of the above listed equipment. Proposals were received from five firms, the best of which was submitted by SunTrust Leasing Corporation - - 2.63% for five years.

The proposed resolution authorizes an installment purchase contract between the City of Asheville and SunTrust Leasing Corporation for the purchase of the radio system and authorizes the City Manager, City Attorney, Finance Director and City Clerk to execute and deliver any and all necessary documents.

City staff recommends City Council adopt the resolution.

Finance Director Bill Schaefer responded to various questions from Councilman Dunn regarding enhancing the City's communication with Buncombe County.

Councilman Mumpower felt the issue of the two different communication systems should be placed on an upcoming worksession for discussion.

### **Support for Increased Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funding and Revised Eligibility Criteria**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution supporting increased Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding and revised program eligibility requirements.

At the December 17, 2002, meeting, Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an Early Action Compact with other local governments in the Greater Asheville Basin to take voluntary steps to reduce pollution in an effort to delay or avoid designation by the EPA as a non-attainment area, which would trigger the imposition of mandatory pollution control measures.

At that meeting, it was suggested that Council should consider adopting a resolution supporting amendments to various laws that would make federal funding available to assist in the implementation of the voluntary measures emerging from the EAC. Currently, federal funding is only available after the non-attainment designation has been made. This resolution is similar to one adopted by the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition.

If Council approves of the resolution, its adoption is recommended.

Mayor Worley 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.

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### **HOUSING TRUST FUND LOANS**

Community Development Director Charlotte Caplan said that this is the consideration of a resolution allocating \$587,000 in Housing Trust Fund loans for affordable housing development.

The City's 2003 budget included an appropriation of \$500,000 for the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). In addition, there has been \$87,000 in repayments received from prior years' loans. The application process for the third annual offering of HTF loans was opened on October 23, 2002, and seven applications were received by the November 27 deadline. The applications were evaluated by a panel of city and outside professional staff and then reviewed by the Housing and Community Development Committee. The HCD Committee has recommended funding six projects by five developers, as follows:

WNC Housing, Inc. (4 rental units for special needs)	\$75,000
Ron Moser Inc. (21 units for sale)	\$230,000

Neighborhood Housing Services (10 units for sale)	\$150,000
Tim & Wendy Vorst (4 rental units in two projects)	\$100,000
Villas at Cedar Hills, LLC (30 units for sale)	<u>\$32,000</u>
Total	\$587,000

Staff estimate that within two years of the loans closing, approximately \$245,000 will be repaid to the trust fund.

This will be the third year of the HTF program.

City staff recommends City Council approve the HTF loans listed above.

Councilwoman Jones, Chair of the Housing & Community Development Committee, noted that these allocations reflect the balance of the different housing needs in Asheville.

Mayor Worley 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.

#### **ASHEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD**

- City Council narrowed the questions to be sent to eligible School Board candidates.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Worley adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR