

Tuesday – March 29, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
T.C. Roberson High School

Community Meeting – South Asheville

Present: Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Brownie W. Newman; Councilman Cecil Bothwell; Councilman Jan B. Davis; Councilwoman Esther E. Manheimer; Councilman William A. Russell Jr.; Councilman Gordon D. Smith; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; and City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.

Absent: None

Mayor Bellamy opened the meeting and welcomed the audience. She then introduced City Council members and explained the questions and answer process.

Director of Administrative Services Lauren Bradley explained the City's strategic goals and financial realities. She then explained the constraints to which the City is subject, as well as the level of service delivery we provide and the volume of citizens and visitors to whom we provide them. She said that Asheville has taken advantage of significant grant opportunities, including, but not limited to: (1) 15 buses replaced; (2) an investment of \$7.5 million from ARRA funds into capital (7 sidewalk projects); (3) two new fire stations; (4) Livingston Street Center; (5) Sullivan Act capital allocation; and (6) Azalea Road project. Despite the challenging financial picture, there are reasons for optimism. We have diverse, engaged and innovative citizens, we are taking advantage of partnerships and grant opportunities, and we are actively involved in the capital improvement planning.

Public Works Director Cathy Ball outlined the stormwater management structural improvements in Fiscal Year 2011 (1) Ditching on Caribou Road; (2) Ditching on London Road; (3) Installing under drains on Park Avenue; (4) Replacing culvert on Taft Avenue; (5) Repairing ditch line on Allen Street; (6) Replacing trench drain on Peachtree Street; and (7) Dingle Creek Wetlands and Stream Restoration. Regarding good housekeeping for stormwater, staff has cleaned 1124 storm drains and have swept 70 miles of curb. Future initiatives include the implementation of additional recommendations of the Dingle Creek Master Plan, along with the continued good housekeeping measures. She showed videos on the Dingle Creek Wetland Creation Project and the importance of stormwater management.

Director of Transportation Ken Putnam discussed transportation related projects and provided Council and the audience with a sidewalk update. He said the transportation (mobility) is found in the N.C. Dept. of Transportation Streets & City Streets; MPO Transportation Plans; Bicycle Master Plan; Transit Master Plan; Parking Plan; Greenways Master Plan; and Pedestrian Master Plan. Sound Transportation objectives include integration, Balance, Multi-Modal, Long-Range Planning, Partnerships and Multi-Year Funding. He provided statistics from the 1999 Pedestrian Plan, which was updated in 2005. He then explained the prioritization process criteria used, which is Priority Zones (Zoning Jurisdiction); Proximity to Community Destinations; Proximity to Transit Stops; Needed Linkages; Feasibility of Construction; and Major Thoroughfares and Connector Streets. Recently completed projects include (1) Hendersonville Road, from West Chapel Road to Forest Street – 2,700 linear feet; (2) Linden Street, from Birch Street to Royal Pines Drive – 1,100 linear feet; (3) Pinchot Drive/Springside Road, from existing greenway to T.C. Roberson High School – 1,000 linear feet; and (4) Long Shoals Road, from Hendersonville Road to I-26 – 16,100 linear feet. Potential projects in the South include (1) Brevard Road, Ridgefield Boulevard to Rocky Ridge Road (Biltmore Square Mall area); (2) Overlook Road, Springside Road to Briarcliff Drive; (3) Overlook Road, Long Shoals Road to Springside Road; (4) Hendersonville Road, I-40 to the Blue Ridge Parkway (U-5189); and (5) Springside Road. He will continue the Documentation Process, continue implementing the Pedestrian Plan, formalize Prioritization Process (Point Values), "score" the Top 50 Potential Projects, plot Projects and Link to Website and continue working towards integrating all the master plans. As Asheville continues to redefine transit, it will (1) listen to the community; (2) focus on sustainability; (3) provide more frequent and reliable service; and (4) supply more and better Information.

Mayor Bellamy then opened up the meeting for questions and answers explaining that all answered questions would be delegated to City staff for response and posting on the City's website. Questions/comments responded to consisted of : Looking 5-10 years forward, what strategic action is the city considering to develop and diversify revenue streams; what are the current plans for expansion of NC 25-A (Sweeten Creek Rd) to four lanes; concern of Springside Drive traffic safety and road conditions; any chance Sanitation could return to twice monthly brush pickup; need for sidewalks from Carolina Day to Long Shoals; and since Airport Road is a gateway to the city, why is there always excessive signage and no enforcement.

Mayor Bellamy and Council members expressed their appreciation for the community involvement.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Bellamy adjourned the meeting.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR