

Tuesday – March 18, 2014- 1:00 p.m.
First Floor North Conference Room

Special Meeting

Present: Mayor Esther E. Manheimer, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Marc W. Hunt; Councilman Cecil Bothwell; Councilman Jan B. Davis; Councilman Christopher A. Pelly; Councilman Gordon D. Smith; Councilwoman Gwen C. Wisler; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; Interim City Attorney Martha Walker-McGlohon; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Absent: None

RESOLUTION NO. 14-40 - RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF LAUREY MASTERTON

Mayor Manheimer read the resolution in memory of Laurey Masterton, and presented it to Heather and Lucinda Masterton, Laurey's sisters, who were touched that the Mayor and City Council wanted to honor her sister.

Resolution No. 14-40 was adopted by acclamation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 14-41 - RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF MARTIN L. NESBITT JR.

Mayor Manheimer read the resolution in memory of Martin Nesbitt, and presented it to his son Martin Nesbitt, who was touched that the Mayor and City Council wanted to honor him.

Resolution No. 14-41 was adopted by acclamation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 14-2 - RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBIN TATUM CURRIN AS CITY ATTORNEY OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Mayor Manheimer read the resolution appointing Ms. Robin Tatum Currin as City Attorney of the City of Asheville. She then administered the Oath of Office.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Manheimer thanked Interim City Attorney Martha Walker-McGlohon for her excellent service in filling in during the search process.

Councilman Smith moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 14-42. This motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

On behalf of City Council, Councilman Smith thanked Interim City Attorney Martha Walker-McGlohon for her hard work and dedication in filling in during this interim period.

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Worksession on Legislative Program

Mr. Jack Cozort provided to Council information on members of the legislature, for easier communication with them. He said that the Short Session starts on May 14; however a lot of work for the Short Session has already begun.

He reviewed with the Council the following interim study committees of interest (1) House Property Owner Protection Study (H632); (2) House Public Enterprise System and Use of Funds Study (H708); (3) House Land Development Study; and (4) House Unmanned Aircraft Study. The interim committees of interest at work (which can produce bills for the short session) (1) Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government; (2) Revenue Study Laws; (3) Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight; (4) Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee; (5) Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee; and (6) Environmental Review Commission. Bills still eligible of note are (1) Design Controls (H150 sitting in Senate Rules); (2) Continuing Regulatory Reform (H677, S112, H94); (3) Rental Inspection Bill (H773); and (4) Electronic Notice (S287).

Mr. Cozort then gave a brief status report on the following specific City of Asheville bills (1) HB 74 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2013 (likely legislation in the short session to amend the part on environmental ordinances); (2) HB 568 - Asheville Deannexation; and (3) HB 150 - Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls.

Mr. Cozort then provided City Council with a sample legislative program format from the Town of Cary that included Advocacy Principles, Legislative Agenda, and their Position Statements. He suggested Asheville might wish to approach their legislative agenda in the same format.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the Governance Committee charged with drafting Advocacy Principles, not for the Short Session due to the timeframe, and to bring it back to the full Council for consideration.

At the suggestion of Councilman Davis, Mayor Manheimer said that there has been preliminary discussions about a joint meeting with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners and we could add to the list of topics joint planning efforts.

Throughout discussion, the following topics were identified for the Governance Committee to review for position statements for the legislative program: review of last year's Legislative Program prepared by former City Attorney Bob Oast for any possible updates; a detailed position on House Bill 74 (Regulatory Reform Act of 2013) to support the legislation that would restore some environmental controls; in the Revenue Study Laws Committee regarding the privilege license tax issue; coal ash clean-up issue; I-26 funding; concealed carry in parks bill (highlight that we opposed the bill); a position on Senate Bill 287 for Electronic Notices; effort on the part of the Airport Authority to amend the bill that created the independent authority and to require that the City transfer title; and the topless issue.

Vice-Mayor Hunt stressed the importance of engagement and communication with our legislative representatives to help them understand the issues and to hopefully have positive outcomes. When he suggested a point person in the City Manager's Office to help coordinate the legislative engagement and communication with the Council and the legislators, City Manager Jackson said Mr. Alex Carmichael in the City Manager's Office, and Interim Deputy City Manager Mike Morgan have been performing in that role. It was the consensus of Council to instruct City Manager Jackson to have his legislative staff begin a more active role in prompting City Council to engage with our legislative delegation on our legislative program.

Councilwoman Wisler felt it was a good idea to coordinate with other cities and towns in Buncombe County. Mayor Manheimer responded that at the next monthly meeting of the Mayor's in Buncombe County she would raise that issue to see what level of interest there is. She felt it would be important to be able to show them our legislative agenda to see if they had any interest in any of the issues.

It was the consensus of Council that at the Governance Committee's next meeting that they discuss position statements as outlined above and draft a legislative program for Council's full consideration. In addition, they would discuss our delivery of the legislative program and relationship

component to our legislative delegation. She felt that due to our short timeframe until the Short Session, we may only be able to pull together one meeting with our legislators.

At 2:29 p.m., Mayor Manheimer recessed the meeting.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR