

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Archie Jennings, Mayor; Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilman; Ed Moultrie, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; Gil Davis, Councilman; Jim Smith, City Manager; Cynthia Bennett, City Clerk; and Franz Holscher, City Attorney

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Chief Financial Officer; Robbie Rose, Fire Chief; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; Gloria Moore, Library Director; John Rodman, Planning Director; Keith Hardt, Electric Director; Philip Mobley, Parks & Recreation Director; Mick Reed, Police Chief; Ray Midgett, Information Technology Director; Mike Voss, of the Washington Daily News and Delma Blinson, of the Beaufort Observer.

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order and Councilman Moultrie delivered the invocation.

#### **APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Councilman Davis added Softball League Tournament discussion as item 1a.

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Moultrie, Council unanimously accepted the agenda as amended.

#### **PRESENTATION – WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS**

Mayor Jennings honored wrestlers Justin “Weasel” Moore and Marquin Hill for winning state wrestling titles. Mr. Justin Moore, a senior who is the Pam Pack’s all-time win leader with a 164-19 record, won the 171-pound Class 3-A title. Mr. Marquin Hill, a junior who holds a 114-28 career record, won the 285-pound title. Mr. Moore and Mr. Hill were accompanied by WHS principal Russell Holloman and WHS coach Dan Riggs.

#### **DISCUSSION – SOFTBALL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT**

Representatives from the Softball League came forward to address Council concerning the upcoming Relay for Life Softball tournament. It was stated a travel ball tournament would be coming to Washington and there have been some adjustments in the number of teams playing. The representative would like to request financial assistance from the City concerning the fee structure for use of the McConnell Softball Complex. Mayor Jennings informed Council that all the proceeds from this event would be going to ‘Relay for Life’ and also advised that this year the tournament is down from 22 teams to 11 teams.

Councilman Mercer inquired as to the usage of the complex with 11 teams. If space was reduced then it would reduce the staff preparation time, if that is the case, he would request a revised use fee for the facility. Councilman Pitt inquired as to the length of time for the planned event. Mayor Pro tem Roberson asked how much are the fees now and Council was informed that the original fee was \$770 for 20-25 teams.

By consensus, Council agreed to pay for half or no more than a maximum of \$385 from contingency and from the original fee structure.

#### **DISCUSSION – INTERSECTION OF WEST MAIN STREET & STEWART PARKWAY AND EAST MAIN & PARK DRIVE**

Public Works Director, Allen Lewis provided Council with an update regarding the temporary closing of some turning movement at the above mentioned intersection. Mr. Lewis explained that the city doesn’t currently have any jersey type barriers but did check on the prices, both to rent and/or purchase. Plastic, water-filled barriers rent for \$15/foot/month and would require a minimum of 48 feet at this intersection or \$720. They sell for approximately \$500 each (6 feet long) but could be used several times throughout the course of a year on various project/events.

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The short radius at this intersection is also an issue, less than 5 feet. Anything larger than a full size passenger vehicle or truck will have difficulty making this turning movement without crossing the center line of Stewart Parkway. Mr. Lewis stated if necessary, they can erect a "No Right Turn Trucks" sign to prevent this from being a possible conflict. In the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting it was mentioned that some Fire Department apparatus would need a minimum of a 24 feet radius. In order to install that size radius, the traffic signal standing in the quadrant will need to be relocated. There would be quite a bit of work involved due to the electric service for the light. The concrete work alone, curb and gutter and sidewalk will cost approximately \$26,000. Mr. Lewis explained that the intersection on the east end of Main Street near Park Drive and Hudnell Street has an opening of slightly more than 90 feet and will take a minimum of 15 jersey type barriers.

The turning radius in the southeast quadrant is less than 15 feet and since Park Drive is NC 32, a state-maintained highway, NCDOT will need to be involved. At a minimum, there is a traffic signal pole that will have to be relocated and the radius mentioned above will need to be increased. The proximity of this end of Main Street to the railroad track will necessitate coordination with Norfolk-Southern Railway.

Councilman Mercer suggested when he mentioned this last month; the concept was to pursue temporary closings with wooden barricades and doesn't understand how we arrived to concrete work and jersey type barriers as a necessity. Mayor Jennings stated he does not want to see the barricades for months and months like we have at the bridge on Brown Street.

Mayor Jennings and Council directed Mr. Lewis to gather more data regarding both intersections. Options and action will be addressed at the regular Council meeting in April.

#### **DISCUSSION – INPUT FROM WASHINGTON ELECTRIC UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

Chair of the Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Commission, Ric Miller addressed Council and shared that reliability of service in the Bath area has improved. Mayor Jennings stated that Council would appreciate if the Advisory Commission could attend the Town Hall meeting on April 26. Mayor Jennings also stated there will be representatives from ElectriCities.

#### **Items of interest for the Town Hall Meeting**

- Energy Depot on line
- Have check list for customers (hand out and in electric bills)
- Compact fluorescent lights (CFL)
- Energy efficient appliances
- Using Space Heaters
- Reading meters
- Programmable thermostat for heating and water heaters
- Shut down computers
- Presentation for Load Management Systems
- Build a campaign
- Public housing
- ElectriCities discount on light bulbs
- Implementation of a Conservation Program
- Off peak and On peak energy
- Tutorial on reading the utility bill (water & sewer piece included on the bill)
- Study provided and will show background on how we arrived at where we are now
- Invite Ken Raber

#### **DISCUSSION – AGENDA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD/TOWN HALL MEETING**

Mayor Jennings stated he combined this discussion with the input from Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Board. Councilman Moultrie would like to see the advertising piece included in the above and Councilman Mercer would like to see a

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break out session where Council and members of the Advisory Board can speak with the residents.

**DISCUSSION – FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Chief Financial Officer, Matt Rauschenbach recapped the financial report summary. Mr. Rauschenbach addressed Councilman Mercer's observations by reviewing the technique used in acquiring the numbers. Mayor Pro tem Roberson had a concern with the investment earnings on the revenue side sharing the projection of \$75,000 and we only made \$945, how do we close the gap. Mr. Rauschenbach shared that the investment is of a longer term nature and we don't accrue the interest during the year. Interest is recognized when a CD is cashed or at year end. Mr. Rauschenbach addressed the concern Mayor Pro tem Roberson had on miscellaneous revenue side and stated he would look into the other \$300,000.

City Manager, James C. Smith shared they are looking into setting up a cemetery trustee group and to set up a cemetery trust fund similar to the library trust. Mr. Smith asked direction of the City Council. Mayor Jennings stated it would be worthy of exploring but we need to be very careful. Council was in agreement.

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Mercer, Council unanimously extended the meeting to 7:30 pm.

Council recessed for a break and reconvened @ 7:00 pm.

**DISCUSSION – RECOVERY ZONE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BONDS**

Chief Financial Officer, Matt Rauschenbach requested Council refer to the document that was included with the agenda paperwork. This is a snapshot and highlights so Council will have a clearer direction of going down this road.

**Document attached:**

**Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond Overview**

1. Adopt a resolution declaring the City a recovery zone.
  - a. Raleigh, Wake, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Forsythe, Alamance, New Hanover, and others have done so.
2. City requests allocation
  - a. No obligation to use. Issue bonds within 90 days of allocation, request an extension, or allocation reverts to the State.
  - b. Total State Allocation \$418 million
  - c. Unallocated Capacity 1/1/10 \$290 million
  - d. Unallocated Capacity 3/22/10 \$100 million
  - e. Next Allocation meeting 4/19/10 (City of Durham will have requests of \$130 m and New Hanover \$30m). Requests to Department of Commerce by April 12.
  - f. \$120 million unused bond capacity for previous allocations will be reallocated in early May
3. Possible projects for allocation request:
  - a. Police Station
  - b. City Hall maintenance
  - c. Old City Hall maintenance
  - d. Waterfront restroom facilities
  - e. Haven's Garden walkway
  - f. Festival Park
  - g. Storm water drainage improvements

Mr. Matt Rauschenbach explained this will give the City additional financial alternatives without any obligations and also it is a good opportunity for GO Bonds. Mayor Jennings and members of Council along with Mr. Rauschenbach discussed different scenarios and Mr. Rauschenbach was directed to bring this back to Council as an action item on the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**DISCUSSION – QUESTIONNAIRE FROM MARTIN STARNS & ASSOCIATES,  
CPA'S P.A.**

Direction was given to Council to turn these in to Mr. Smith or Mr. Rauschenbach. Mayor Jennings instructed Council to please get them in as soon as possible.

**DISCUSSION – \$1.7 MILLION CHARGE BY NCDOT TO THE CITY OF WASHINGTON**

City Manager, James C. Smith shared that NCDOT review of the \$1.7 million resulted in decrease charges. This review resulted in the following:

- \$8,509.20 for removing and filling an abandoned 10" PVC sewer line on 15<sup>th</sup> street, item 320 on the cost breakdown where there were prior rights. The replacement line was not in the price calculations, only the removal and fill.
- \$46,778.40 for the design of all city water and sewer lines related to this project that had to be moved.
- After removing these costs and revising the percentages for administration, profit, insurance and bond, the total for water work is \$1,089,452.25 and the total for sewer work is \$597,997.94 for a grand total of \$1,687,430.19.
- NCDOT is willing to discuss other options/proposals such as a graduated pay back schedule or a schedule including a balloon payment.

**NCDOT COST BREAKDOWN**

Mayor Jennings reported he shared this cost review to our latest legislative contingent and was advised to sustain from any action until we hear back from legislation. Councilman Mercer inquired as to what constitutes prior rights. Mr. Hardt explained they were all encroachments.

**ADJOURN**

By motion of Councilman Moultrie, seconded by Councilman Pitt, Council adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm until April 12, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building for the Regular Council Meeting.

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**Cynthia S. Bennett**  
City Clerk