

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at the Municipal Building at 4:30 P.M. Present were: Judy Jennette, Mayor; Ed Gibson, Councilman; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Archie Jennings, Councilman; James Smith, City Manager; Fred Holscher, Acting City Attorney; and Reatha B. Johnson, Assistant City Clerk. Mayor Pro tem Darwin Woolard and Councilman Mickey Gahagan were absent.

Also present were: Carol Williams, Finance Director; Keith Hardt, Electric Director, Allen Lewis; Public Work Director, Gerald Galloway; Interim Chief of Police, Phil Mobley; Parks and Recreation Director, Bobby Roberson; Community Development and Planning Director, Joey Toler; Interim DWOW Director; and Mike Voss of the Washington Daily News.

Mayor Jennette called the meeting to order and Councilman Gibson delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Jennette added Present Safety Award to T & D (Transmission and Distribution) and Electric Department and A Resolution of Support for Grassroots Arts Funding by the Washington City Council.

On motion of Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Gibson, Council unanimously approved the agenda, as amended.

PRESENTATION OF SAFETY AWARD

Mayor Jennette presented the employees of T & D and the Electric Department with a Municipal Electric Safety Award for 2006 no lost work day cases for the City of Washington, ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.

CLOSED SESSION – UNDER G. S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND 143-318.11 (a)(4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At 4:55 p.m., on motion of Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Gibson, Council unanimously agreed to go into closed session under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Attorney/Client and (4) Economic Development.

At 5:15 p.m., on motion of Councilman Jennings, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council unanimously agreed to come out of closed session.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Susan Hodges, Human Resource Director, stated a draft has been place before Council of the suggested revision of the City's Substance Abuse Policy. Susan Hodges stated that it is now being called "CITY OF WASHINGTON ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY." The City has two separate policies in place one for regular employees (that really has not been revisited in a while) and a separate one for CDL drivers in accordance with the Federal regulations. It is recommended that the City have random testing for employees who occupy positions that are deemed safety sensitive and now would be a good time to combine them into one policy. Safety sensitive are positions where employees are impaired and could actually harm the public or other employees. 50% of those employees will be tested for drugs each year and 10% for alcohol.

Some of the things that have been added:

- After accident testing.

- Change in disciplinary leave – before the policy required for 3 days of leave without pay now it will be 5 days (40 hrs. / 48 hrs. for police and fire).
- Revised the threshold for positive alcohol test – policy previously set at .08 and has been changed to .04 (CDL) and .02 for anyone who drives the commercial vehicle.
- New legislation last December that will require an employee (CDL driver) that has a positive drug or alcohol test of .04 or greater, Department of Motor Vehicles will be notified, and the employee could have their license disqualified for a period of time.

Susan Hodges said any changes that Council would like to incorporate to please let her know in the next week or so, and hopefully will be ready for adoption on the June 11, 2007 meeting.

UPDATE ON SKATE PARK

Comments from Phil Mobley, Park and Recreation Director were:

- Costing about \$228,000 and there is roughly \$248,000 on hand.
- Counting a line of credit from an anonymous donor.
- Wally Hollyday will also be the construction supervisor for us.
- Wally Hollyday had to do a redesign – hand out.
- \$210,000 contract had to be sent back to California Skate Park- incomplete when it came in to the City.
- IBX willing to work with them on surveying.
- St. Clair Trucking and B E Singleton have offered to volunteer their time to help with labor, material, and equipment.
- Public Works, Electric, Bill Lurvey, and Recreation will all be assisting.

Mayor Jennette asked that Kristi keep Council up to date by email.

PAVING PAMLICO STREET

Allen Lewis, Public Works Director, passed out information on Special Assessments for Street Improvements. The information included a list of procedures and forms that will have to be completed. This will not be a 30 to 60 day process, just presenting this information to Council tonight so you will have an ideal of how long the process will be. Allen will bring this back before Council in either the June or July Council meeting for action.

Mayor Jennette asked if the property owners were aware they would be paying 60% - Allen said yes they had signed the petition and are agreeable.

PRELIMINARY DRAINAGE STUDY REPORT

Allen Lewis introduced Mr. David Webb and Mr. Durk Tyson with Rivers & Associates. Council received hand-outs from Mr. Webb on the preliminary drainage study performed by Rivers & Associates.

- City allocated \$50,000 for Rivers & Associates to study the existing stormwater drainage infrastructure in the city.
- Council members said implementing the solutions should be done in phases as money becomes available.
- Consider grouping the projects and borrowing money to pay for them.
- Existing stormwater fees paid by city residents and property owners aren't enough to pay for all the projects that would be required to solve the drainage problems.

- Jack's Creek area has 11 areas of concern with 80% of the culverts and/or drainage pipes in that area would not be able to handle the amount of rain generated in 10 minutes during a 10-year rainfall.
- Smallwood has 4 areas of concern with 40% of existing drainage infrastructure doesn't pass the 10-year storm.
- Airport canal has 7 areas of concern- None of the drainage pipes in the airport canal are adequate
- Iron Creek has 3 areas of concern, but drainage problems there are not as severe as they used to be.

Mr. Webb stated the study would conclude with recommendations for pipe sizes and pipe slopes. Mr. Smith asked if Council could be provided with cost estimates and Mr. Webb stated they would be able to look at inflation and produce some sort of estimate. The next step is to make any necessary adjustments and come back to Council with recommendations and estimates.

CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

Bobby Roberson, Community Development and Planning Director, presented Council with hand-outs for CAMA Land Use which included special meeting dates and a synopsis of the report that had been condensed down.

ANNEXATION REPORT

Bobby Roberson stated that John Rodman had formulated all the information on the annexation summaries and will pass a hand-out to Council. Tonight we will present the areas that we feel will comply by standards set forth in the General Statutes. Any report on annexation will require how expenses are met. Water & Sewer cost is one of the most important things. If this can't be determined then we cannot move into annexation. Recommendation from the Planning staff is to adopt a resolution that will advise the public that the area is being studied. This doesn't necessarily mean that we will annex the area; we are looking at the area and will come up with a cost to bring back to City Council.

John Rodman spoke on the (5) areas that been identified and eligible for annexation:

1. Tarheel Drive – 16 parcels
2. West 5th Street / Highway 264 – 12 parcels
3. West 5th Street / Highway 264 a little further west – 48 parcels
4. Highway 17 South on other side of bridge – 14 pieces of property (commercial)
5. Honey Pod Farm-Brick Kiln Road area

These are the ones that are actually large enough to meet standards for annexation and also meet state standards.

Councilman Jennings stated he would like to see a sub-committee of the City Council joined with a sub-committee of the Planning Board to come up with a strategy out of this preliminary report. The sub-committee members will be elected at the regular Council meeting (6-11-07).

DISCUSS OVERLAY DISTRICT, 0 & I, B1H

Tabled until the next Committee of the Whole meeting on 6-25-07.

DWOW DISCUSSION

Tabled until June 4, 2007 continued meeting. Jim Smith pointed out the paperwork work Council had before them included financial and audits report. Dot Moate stated that they are on a time line and the biggest issue before

DWOW now is the Boat Show. The determination will need to be made if there is going to be a Boat Show for 2008.

INITIATIVES STATUS

Tabled until next regular Council meeting 6-11-07. Jim stated he would email the spreadsheet to Council.

REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Tabled until next regular Council meeting 6-11-07.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS ARTS FUNDING BY THE WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL

On motion of Councilman Jennings, and seconded by Councilman Gibson, Council unanimously authorized the Mayor to signed the Resolution of Support for Grassroots Arts Funding.

A Resolution of Support for Grassroots Arts Funding by the Washington City Council

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts funding has been allocated by the North Carolina Legislature for 30 years, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has assisted North Carolina's municipalities and counties to establish strong and meaningful arts programs within their communities, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has created economic development through the employment of artists, sales of art, and the enhancement of tourism through the presentation of countless arts festivals, concerts, dances, theatrical performances, and art classes across the entire state of North Carolina; and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has enhanced the cultural education of our state's children and thereby, has produced more well-rounded and creative students throughout the state of North Carolina, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has nurtured the growth and appreciation of the arts across the entire state of North, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has established a long and strong tradition of being equitably distributed across each of North Carolina's 100 counties based a per capita formula, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding must be spent on arts programs that are reflective of the community's cultural diversity, and;

WHEREAS; Grassroots Arts Funding has forged better relationships within culturally diverse communities, and;

WHEREAS; the proposed increase of \$2,000,000 to North Carolina's Grassroots Arts Funding and \$2,000,000 for basic grants will insure significant growth and stability for the arts in North Carolina,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the City of Washington does most enthusiastically support and encourage the state legislature of North Carolina to increase funding as requested, to the North Carolina Arts Council in the state budget for Fiscal year 2007-08.

Adopted this 29th day of May, 2007.

s/Judy Jennette
JUDY JENNETTE
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Rita A. Thompson
RITA A. THOMPSON, CMC
CITY CLERK

Councilman Jennings left the meeting at this point. He was not excused from the meeting, so any actions would have a vote "for" the issue.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

- DWOW budget was tabled until the 6-4-07 continued meeting.
- Outside Agencies – Locate \$17,500 to add to the Boys & Girls Club

*Request - three Board members (Mitch St.Clair, Joyce Moore, and Arnold Barr) of the Boy's & Girl's Club came before Council to address issues and concerns the Boy's & Girl's Club are facing.

- Lost the Phillip Morris Grant of \$21,000
- Do not have volunteers only paid staff

Mayor Jennette and Jim said the Boy's & Girl's Club have done very well with very little resources over the past years. They were given the building, and have proven to be good stewards of the building.

- Outside Agencies – Council try to find \$1,000 in the budget to give to Purpose of God Annex as a token gift. They are doing a great job in the community.
- Airport Fund – no suggested changes. The enterprise fund is nearly self supporting. Mayor Jennette and Jim are working with Representative Williams on trying to acquire a small airport grant for the next Fiscal Year. Mayor Jennette asked if James could provide her with a list of airports that did get the small airport grant. James Tripp, Enterprise Fund Controller, stated he is aware of more FAA grants and would like to be more competitive in seeking those grants.
- Economic Development Commission – Mayor Jennette asked if it was agreeable with the County in moving the money around. Jim stated the County hasn't finish with their budget, but they do understand what they pay out is the same amount they pay out now. To early to tell at this stage, we will need to wait and see what the County is going to do.
- Special Revenue Funds – No suggested changes.

At 7:15 p.m., the meeting adjourned to June 4, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building.

Rita A. Thompson, CMC
City Clerk

Notes taken by Reatha B. Johnson, Assistant City Clerk