

**MINUTE BOOK 24, PAGE 300
CITY OF STATESVILLE COUNCIL MEETING – November 07, 2011
IREDELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – 7:00 P.M.
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mayor Costi Kutteh presiding:

Council Present: Gregory, Steele, J. Johnson, Eisele, M. Johnson, Matthews, Huggins, Stallard

Council Absent: 0

Staff Present: Fugett, Davis, Ashley, Anderson, Bullins, Salmon, Currier, Pressley, Gaines

Media Present: Jim McNally-Record & Landmark, Dave Veiser-Charlotte Observer

Others: 12

Call to Order

Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order.

Invocation

The invocation was given by the City Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kutteh led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

CONSENT AGENDA – All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered with the other items listed in the Regular Agenda.

- A. Approve the minutes of the Pre-Agenda meeting of September 29, 2011, the Council meeting of October 03, 2011, the pre-agenda meeting of October 13, 2011 and the Council meeting of October 17, 2011.**
- B. Consider approval of a resolution authorizing the annual renewal of an Inter-local Agreement between the City of Statesville and the Statesville Housing Authority for the provision of community development and revitalization services**
- C. Consider approval of SCBA equipment purchase in the Fire Department and authorize sole source purchase.**
- D. Approve 2nd reading of an ordinance to annex the 158 Intercraft Drive, LLC Property located on the east side of Intercraft Drive.**

Council member J. Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council member Eisele. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

Presentation by the NC Department of Transportation on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

Sherry Ashley introduced Bjorn Hanson, Transportation Planner for Centralina Council of Government and is the City's representative on the RPO, David Keilson the City's Project Coordinator from NCDOT for the Comprehensive Plan and Jamal Alavi with NCDOT Statewide Planning.

Bjorn Hanson gave a brief review of how the data for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan has been gathered.

David Kielson reviewed a power point presentation of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (incorporated into the minutes by reference-Attachment A). He explained alternatives would be analyzed while working with City Planning staff and the Steering Committee. Eventually a draft map will be presented to Council for their review then it will go to the public involvement stage. A revised map will

then be presented to Council and Iredell County for adoption, the RPO will be asked to endorse the map then it will be presented to the Department of Transportation for adoption.

Recognize the Statesville Housing Authority for a statewide award.

Mayor Kutteh stated the City of Statesville has enjoyed a long and rewarding relationship with the Statesville Housing Authority. Council member Eisele accompanied David Meacham and other members of the Statesville Housing Authority to Raleigh on November 01, 2011 to receive this award from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. This is a statewide award and was received primarily for their efforts with the Allison Summit residential housing development.

David Meacham stated he was very proud to be a part of this achievement and on behalf of the SHA thanked the City for their partnership and all others that have been involved in this project.

The Chairman of the Statesville Housing Authority presented the "Housing North Carolina Award" for the Allison Summit affordable residential housing development from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to Mayor Kutteh for the City of Statesville.

Approve 2nd reading of TA1 1-09 filed by the City of Statesville to amend Article 6 – Development Standards, Section 6.07 - Sign Regulations, I. Exempt Signs, #3. Flags.

David Currier reminded Council that at the first reading of this ordinance Council had suggested that staff pursue some modification and clarifications to the ordinance. Mr. Currier explained there are two parts to the ordinance. One deals with school campuses and the other deals with the CB, CBP and Municipal Service zoning districts. On school campuses this was to allow schools to hang 4' ft. x 6' ft. banners that display the school name and mascot, welcome and other similar subject matter. There was some concern by Council that six banners on smaller campuses would be too many. Staff is proposing allowing the number of banners to be proportionate to the size of the campus. For example 0-5 acres would be allowed 2 banners, 5-10 acres – 4, 10-20 acres – 6, and 20+ acres would be allowed 8 banners. Of the entire school system there are only three campuses that are over 20 acres.

Mr. Currier stated the second part of the ordinance would allow businesses in the CB, CBP and Municipal Service District to erect flags that represent "open, welcome, sale, or decorative without advertisement". The flags cannot exceed 3' ft. x 5' ft. and is limited to one per business. There must be at least seven (7) feet of clearance from the bottom of the flag and it cannot project more than six (6) feet from the building. If an "open" flag is erected, then no other "open" sign is permitted. Advertising events or products on such flags is also prohibited and the height of the flagpoles is limited to the zoning district in which they are located.

Council member Stallard made a motion to approve 2nd reading of TA1 1-09 filed by the City of Statesville to amend Article 6 – Development Standards, Section 6.07 - Sign Regulations, I. Exempt Signs, #3. Flags, seconded by Council member M. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve the submission of a grant request to ElectriCities for a "Smart Communities" grant of \$4,000 in order to contract for design services for a way- finding system and approve BA# 13.

Rob Hites stated that Electri-Cities provides a small grant program in the fall of each year for its member cities. The grants are require a 50/50 match; they grant \$4,000 and we match with an additional \$4,000. The City and Quasi Governmental Organizations have spent considerable funds over the past six years attempting to develop a way-finding system for our community. We have over \$50,000 in artwork between the Convention and Visitors Bureau way-finding effort and that of our recent "branding" program. The issue we have faced time and time again is developing a design that will meet the approval of NCDOT. Mr. Hites stated he and Larry Pressley have been taking pictures of way-finding systems over the State and found that they vary greatly. The key appears to be a successful negotiation effort with the DOT Division Traffic Engineer. Mr. Pressley has spoken with a retired DOT traffic engineer that has created a business centered on negotiating different elements of private sector behavior with DOT Traffic Divisions. Mr. Pressley believes that he can take what we have developed, meet with stakeholders in the CVB and DSDC and develop a way-finding design that is attractive, easy to construct and maintain. His main service will be to negotiate the design with DOT in Shelby and gain their approval. He believes that he can carry out this program on an \$8,000 budget. With the new Streetscape moving to its final phase and our Greenway system needing directional signage, it would be very helpful to develop, approve and construct at least the first phase of a way-finding system by midsummer.

Council member Steele made a motion to approve the submission of a grant request to ElectriCities for a “Smart Communities” grant of \$4,000 in order to contract for design services for a way- finding system and approve BA# 13, seconded by Council member Stallard. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider approving the following changes to the organization of the Police Department: Reclassify the position of Assistant Police Chief into an “Assistant Chief for Administration and Assistant Chief for Operations; Delete a Captain’s position and approve the creation of a Sergeant for Training and Recruitment.

Chief Tom Anderson reported the current Assistant Chief has duties in both administration and operations; essentially a mirror image of the chief’s job description. The growth in the department and the increase in administrative (bureaucracy) from state and federal government, have created additional demands on the department. Creating two “Assistant Chiefs”, one for Administration and the other for Operations, permits them to specialize in those areas and give those areas full time command level supervision. The Assistant Chief for Administration will have oversight of Communications, IT, Police Records, Recruitment, Training, Certification, Promotion, Grant Administration, and Personnel. The Assistant Chief for Operations will be responsible for Patrol, Narcotics, Special Operations, Detective and Evidence Divisions. This division of program responsibility will permit the Captains to supervise the day to day operations of their functional areas.

The Training and Recruitment Captain will be deleted and his duties moved to the Assistant Chief for Administration and a training officer position reclassified to “Sergeant for Training and Recruitment. The changes again reflect the increase in both specialized and mandatory training and extremely competitive area of officer recruitment. Large cities are bringing well organized, well trained recruiters to the BLET programs in the area and challenging our recruitment efforts with considerable success. Staff needs to devote the time and talent to our recruitment effort to enhance our recruitment programs.

This specialization of both the administrative and operational functions’ will add effectiveness, efficiency and quality management span-of-control to the Department. These changes will also add additional abilities and opportunities for the Recruitment and Training Sergeant to recruit qualified personnel while maintaining the professional training standards of our department. The total annual cost to reorganize the aforementioned positions will have little impact on the Police Department Salaries budget. The pre-reorganization total of the existing salaries considered is \$166,942.50. The final reorganized cost of the positions will be less, \$166,564.11, a difference of \$378.39.

Chief Anderson recommended that the Assistant Chiefs be classified at the current pay grade 26. The impact of the change on the budget should be minimal given the current pay differential between the salaries of the officers that may compete for the position and the starting salary of Assistant Chief. The current officer position will be moved to the current Sergeant pay grade, 19. Again the reclassification will have little impact on the budget given the differential between the Training Officer’s salary and that of Sergeant.

At the request of Mayor Kutteh Chief Anderson explained the process of selection for these positions if this item is approved by Council.

Council member Eisele asked if the number of patrol officers would be reduced by this reorganization. Chief Anderson replied the number would remain as it is.

Council member Steele made a motion to approve changes to the organization of the Police Department as follows: Reclassify the position of Assistant Police Chief into an “Assistant Chief for Administration and Assistant Chief for Operations; Delete a Captain’s position and approve the creation of a Sergeant for Training and Recruitment, seconded by Council member Gregory. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon a motion by Council member Steele, seconded by Council member Matthews, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

ATTEST:


Brenda Fugett, City Clerk




Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor