

**MINUTE BOOK 24, PAGE 312
CITY OF STATESVILLE COUNCIL MEETING – December 05, 2011
IREDELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – 7:00 P.M.
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mayor Costi Kutteh presiding:

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

Council Absent: 0

Staff Present: Hites, Fugett, Gaines, Smyth, Salmon, Watts, Anderson, Cox, Cornelison, Bullins, Cranford, Currier, Triplett, Hutchens, Pressley

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

Others: 10

Call to Order

Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order and asked that everyone rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

The Invocation was given by the City Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kutteh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kutteh explained there would be two meetings held. One to conduct Old Business with the current City Council, then a new meeting will be called to order and the newly elected and re-elected Council members will be sworn in and this new City Council will continue with New Business.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA-OLD BUSINESS

Approve the minutes of the Pre-Agenda meeting of November 17, 2011 and the Council meeting of November 21, 2011.

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

REGULAR AGENDA-OLD BUSINESS

Approve 2nd reading of an ordinance making Cooper Street a one way street.

Assistant Chief Watts stated that in an effort to address the concern expressed by Council regarding parking on Cooper Street, the ordinance had been amended to entirely prohibit parking on Cooper Street

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to approve 2nd reading of an ordinance making Cooper Street a one way street, seconded by Council member Stallard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kutteh – Acknowledge exiting Council member Steele

Mayor Kutteh thanked Council member Steele for her guidance, support and faithful public service. He stated she would continue to oversee the City Hall renovation till its completion and presented her with a small gift of appreciation.

Adjournment

Council member Steele made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council member Matthews. The motion carried unanimously.

Call New Meeting to Order.

Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order and invited Superior Court Judge Christopher M. Collier to the podium.

Judge Collier thanked Mayor Kutteh and City Council for inviting him to preside over this ceremony and for their service and sacrifices to the community.

Swearing in of re-elected Council members Michael Johnson and Flake Huggins and newly elected Council member Roy West by Judge Christopher M. Collier.

Judge Christopher M. Collier administered the Oath of Office to Michael Johnson, Flake Huggins, and Roy West.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Council member Matthews nominated Council member M. Johnson.

Council member J. Johnson nominated Council member Stallard.

Council member J. Johnson made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Council member Matthews. The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was as follows:

**For M. Johnson: Matthews, West, Eisele, M. Johnson, Huggins
For Stallard: J. Johnson, Stallard, Gregory**

Council member M. Johnson was re-elected Mayor Pro-Tempore

Re-appointment of City Manager

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to re-appoint the City Manager, seconded by Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

Re-appointment of City Attorney

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to re-appoint Edmund "Eddie" Gaines as the City Attorney, seconded by Council member Gregory and Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider approval of a Resolution adopting the 2012 Statesville City Council Regular meeting Schedule.
- B. Approve the renewal of Edmund Gaines contract as City Attorney for the year 2012.
- C. Receive a report of a non-depreciable capital purchase of a heating unit for the Public Grounds and Cemeteries office.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Accept a grant award of \$4,000 from Electri-Cities and acknowledge a 50% match from the General Fund Contingency to develop a conceptual design for a "Wayfinding" signage system.

proposed in the past, DOT's "Wayfinding design standards", hold stakeholder meetings with interested parties and develop a conceptual model for Statesville. One of the central pieces of his contract would be to negotiate an acceptable design with the traffic engineering division of DOT in Shelby.

Council member Stallard made a motion to accept a grant award of \$4,000 from Electricities and acknowledge a 50% match from the General Fund Contingency to develop a conceptual design for a "Wayfinding" signage system, seconded by Council member Huggins. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve a sign design for the Statesville Business Park and Budget Amendment #19.

Rob Hites reviewed photos of the sign designs. He explained the colors are chosen from the template approved for the City's new logo. The main color is brick red with a "knocked down texture" which will serve to retard both dust and fading. The white will be slightly off pure white to reduce oxidation. The bloom in the main sign on US70 will be internally lit and the balance of that sign and the secondary entrance sign on Old US 70 will be illuminated externally with new technology LED fixtures provided by the City Electric Department. There will be small Wayfinding signs inside the park with empty ones for future businesses. The monument sign on Old US 70 will be re-used by placing a new sign on it. The appropriation of \$52,500 includes all signage, permits and installation. The electric service will be provided by our Electric Department as part of the above cost.

Council member M. Johnson suggested painting the brick monument sign the same brick red color as the sign located on US70. Mr. Hites agreed and will implement this suggestion.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to approve the sign design for the Statesville Business Park and Budget Amendment #19, seconded by Council member Matthews. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve the purchase of a Resistograph PD500 from IML Wood Testing Systems in the amount of \$9,005 and approval of BA #18 to establish funds for the purchase.

Shawn Cox displayed the Resistograph that staff borrowed from the North Carolina Urban Forestry Council and have been using for the past year. He explained how the machine works and what information it provides to staff to assess the likelihood of a failure in the support structure of a tree. Mr. Cox reviewed the new technology that is available in the Resistograph PD500 such as digital reports and the ability to electronically send the information. In addition to trees, the Resistograph can be used to monitor the soundness of poles and other wood structures.

Council member M. Johnson stated he did not have a problem purchasing this item but was concerned with how the machine tests. He asked Mr. Cox to present at a future meeting his methodology for mapping a defect and determining whether a tree should be cut down or not. He stated mapping a defect would require multiple shots and plotting those shots. He was concerned that trees may be cut down without it being thoroughly determined that the tree is not worth saving. He asked that the City Engineer review some of this data because some of the greatest structural elements in the world are hollow. It is also known that a tree falling is a function of wind load in addition to the kangaroo structure. Council member M. Johnson stated that if we are going to start cutting down 100-150 year old trees he would like to see the methodology. Mr. Cox explained he puts pin flags around the tree indicating where he is taking his sample from and takes a picture of this. Samples are taken from different angles to avoid getting a cylinder read.

Council member West asked how often bits break and what is the cost to replace them. Mr. Cox replied the bits are replaced after every ten bores and cost \$.75 cents each.

Council member Stallard made a motion to approve the purchase of a Resistograph PD500 from IML Wood Testing Systems in the amount of \$9,005 and approve Budget Amendment #18, seconded by Council member Eisele. The motion carried unanimously.

Receive an update on "Statesville Connects."

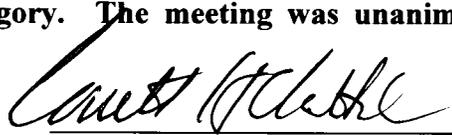
Lisa Salmon briefly described the Statesville Connects program and the ways citizens could donate to the program. She reported to date there has been over \$22,200 donated and there are 93 customers who donate regularly as part of their utility bill. The average amount of assistance is \$86.00 and over 250 customers have received assistance. There are over 500 customers a month that are subject to disconnect.

Council member Stallard stated this is a wonderful program. He recognized and thanked Mayor Kutteh and his wife for their generous donation to Statesville Connects in honor of City Council and City staff.

Receive the City's audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011.

Bob Taylor with Potter & Company auditors reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. The firm of Potter & Company has issued an unqualified opinion, which means the City's financial statements are free from material misstatements and are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The City continues to be in sound financial condition over all.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon a motion by Council member West, seconded by Council member Gregory. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.



Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor



ATTEST:



Brenda Fugett, City Clerk