

**MINUTE BOOK 25, PAGE 428
CITY OF STATESVILLE COUNCIL MEETING – June 01, 2015
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS– 7:00 P.M.
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mayor Costi Kutteh presiding:

Council Present: J. Johnson, Watt, Morgan, Schlesinger, M. Johnson, Phifer, West, Williams

Council Absent: 0

Staff Present: Pressley, Fugett, Gaines, Davis, Triplett, Harrell, Smyth, Currier, Watts, Hutchens, Ferguson, Houpe, Cornelius

Visitors: 2

Media Present: Jim McNally-Statesville Record & Landmark

I Call to Order

Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order.

II Invocation

The City Clerk gave the invocation.

III Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kutteh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV Consent Agenda

Mayor Kutteh stated that all items below are considered to be routine by 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. Consider approving the minutes of the May 14, 2015 Pre-Agenda meeting.**
- B. Request approval to write-off parking tickets that are 7 years or older in the amount of approximately \$37,765.**
- C. Make a formal request that the City of Statesville be an official co-sponsor of the *Statesville Criterium Bike Race*, providing in-kind services.**
- D. Consider approving a motion to close selected streets in Downtown Statesville for the Statesville Criterium Bicycle Race on Friday, July 31, 2015. It is also requested that a temporary towing enforcement of vehicles along the race route be in effect during the closure period.**
- E. Consider approving a request by Pastor Lonnie Harper, Miracle Tabernacle of Deliverance, to close a portion of Monroe Street between Clay Street and Rickert Street, on Saturday, June 13, 2015, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in order to host a community fellowship event.**
- F. Receive a report of an emergency non-depreciable capital purchase of a Hydraulic Tamp and a Battery/Hydraulic Crimp Tool by the Electric Utilities Department.**
- G. Consider approving a request from Mr. Fred Heath for a sewer tap to serve a parcel on Northside Drive.**
- H. Receive and concur with the 2015-2016 Budget for the Statesville Convention and Visitors Bureau.**
- I. Consider approving 2nd reading of ZC15-05 filed by the City of Statesville on behalf of Energy United for the property located adjacent to 567**

Mocksville Highway; Tax Map 4765-34-5432 from IC-R-20 to the City of Statesville's B-4.

- J. Consider approving 2nd reading of ZC15-06 filed by Dr. Michael Simmons & Sullivan Road Partners, LLC to rezone the three parcels located on Arlington Avenue between Lee and Carolyn Streets, Tax Maps 4745-61-3275, 4745-61-5301, and 4745-61-6420, from R-10 (Urban Low Density Residential) to O-1 (Office Single Lot) for professional and medical offices.**

Mayor Kutteh asked if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that Council wished to be moved to the Regular Agenda. There being none, he asked for a motion.

Council member J. Johnson asked that Item B be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council member Morgan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council member Watt. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

- B. Request approval to write-off parking tickets that are 7 years or older in the amount of approximately \$37,765.**

Council member J. Johnson made a motion to table Item B further review.

Council member J. Johnson said he would like to know if collections have been improved over the last two years because if the system has not improved we need to just do away with it or come up with a better plan.

The motion was seconded by Council member Phifer.

The vote was as follows:

**Ayes: J. Johnson, Phifer, West, M. Johnson, Williams
Nays: Morgan, Watt, Schlesinger
Motion carried 5-3**

Mayor Kutteh clarified that staff is to provide an updated report at the next meeting as to how the program is working since the policy was changed.

Council member Schlesinger said he felt it is important to have the discussion but that it most likely will not change the City's ability to collect the \$37,000.

- V Consider approving first reading of an ordinance establishing a 25 mph speed limit on Beverly Drive with appropriate signage to accompany the change.**

Chief Mike Watts stated the motoring public has now established Beverly Drive as a cut through route to NC Hwy 115. In recent years, the volume of traffic has increased. The Traffic Safety Director recently studied the traffic conditions on Beverly Drive after receiving a residential complaint concerning vehicular speed. The study revealed a high volume of traffic for a residential area. The Traffic Safety Director found that Beverly Drive consists of curves, hills, and numerous drive cuts. The street is narrow, with an average width of 18 feet, and has little to no shoulder, with limited sidewalks for pedestrian foot traffic. As a matter of public safety, it recommended that a 25 mph speed limit be established for Beverly Drive.

Council member Watt asked if Museum Road should be changed to 25 mph also. Chief Watts replied that Museum Road is a little wider and is not as heavy of a residential area so it makes it a little easier to navigate at 35 mph.

Council member Watt made a motion to approve first reading of an ordinance establishing a 25 mph speed limit on Beverly Drive with appropriate signage to accompany the change, seconded by Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

VI Consider approving a semi-annual write-off of approximately \$117,311.34 in utility accounts.

Gene Triplett stated that since December 1994 the City has performed a semi-annual write-off of utility accounts that had been placed for collection eighteen to twenty-four months prior to the write-off date. These accounts were returned to the City by the collection agency after no significant progress had been made on the accounts and they had ceased collection activity. At this time, staff plans to perform a semi-annual write-off of utility accounts that had been placed for collection between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$117,311.34. This amount may decrease slightly should we collect monies on an account prior to the actual write-off date. These accounts will still show in our computer system for a minimum of three years after the write-off with a zero balance and a notation of the amount we have written off. The City recovered \$14,481 in utility bad debts during this period. Mr. Triplett advised that the City billed over \$27 million during this six month period and this write-off amount is a 1/2 of a percent of those revenues.

Council member Schlesinger asked what is being done to improve these collections. Mayor Kutteh stated the City collects 99.5% of its utility bills so that is a pretty good collection rate when you are dealing with \$60 million a year in sales. Council member Schlesinger said he understands this, but this is a significant amount of money. Mayor Kutteh said those that do pay their bills or parking tickets are definitely being disadvantaged by those who do not.

Council member Williams made a motion to approve a semi-annual write-off of approximately \$117,311.34 in utility accounts, seconded by Council member West. The motion carried unanimously.

VII Consider authorizing Strategics Consulting to prepare a Federal Action Plan and approve Budget Amendment #40 in the amount of \$5,000.

Larry Pressley reminded Council that Leslie Mazingo of Strategics Consulting spoke briefly at the Council Retreat concerning Federal Funding of local projects. To pursue that avenue the first task is to prepare a Federal Action Plan which will give us a better feel for how to move forward after the Federal Action Plan is complete. Topics that might be considered are: the Foreign Trade Zone Designation, interchanges off of the interstate to provide access to areas we do not currently have access to, the South Parallel Taxiway Extension project, revitalization of the 115 corridor, census tract boundaries, and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding for the sewer oversizing project at the rest area. Staff recommends authorizing an agreement with Strategics Consulting in the amount of \$5,000 and approval of Budget Amendment #40.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to authorize Strategics Consulting to prepare a Federal Action Plan and approve Budget Amendment #40 in the amount of \$5,000, seconded by Council member Phifer. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII Consider authorizing additional work by CCOG and approve Budget Amendment #39 in the amount of \$25,000.

Mr. Pressley stated staff is pleased to present a proposal to engage Jim Prosser and his staff to move forward with Downtown Development. Staff recommends including the following items listed in Exhibit D which details proposed services and costs.

Item III \$5,000 as indicated on page 3 of Exhibit D.

Items from Appendix D:

Phase VII	\$ 5,900
Phase VIII	\$12,000
Contingency	<u>\$ 2,100</u>
TOTAL	\$25,000

This approach allows us to choose services we need and additional services can be authorized at a later date as needed. Staff recommends authorizing Centralina Council of Government work in the amount of \$25,000 and approve Budget Amendment #39.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to authorize additional work by CCOG and approve Budget Amendment #39 in the amount of \$25,000, seconded by Council member Watt. The motion carried unanimously.

IX Receive a report and consider approving oversizing options for the I-77 Rest Area sewer.

Scott Harrell stated the City's agreement with the NC Department of Transportation to provide sewer service to the proposed I-77 rest area includes the opportunity for the City to increase the capacity of the sewer system beyond what DOT needs for the rest area. This increased capacity, or oversizing, will allow the City to provide sewer service to additional customers along the I-77 corridor north of Statesville. NC DOT is reimbursing the City for the cost of the base system; the cost of any oversizing is the responsibility of the City.

The proposed sewer system consists of a pump station on Mitchell Farm Rd. which will pump flows to a second pump station adjacent to Fifth Creek near Exit 54. This pump station will pump to the City's existing sewer system on Christopher Lane. In order to handle the projected flows from the rest area, both pump stations will pump through six-inch force mains at a rate of 180 gallons per minute (gpm). At this pumping rate, there is some additional capacity available. Staff has worked with our engineering consultant to develop oversizing options that would further increase the available capacity of the new system. These options are described below:

Option 1: Increase the Fifth Creek pump station from 180 gpm to 890 gpm with a 10-inch force main. Estimated cost: \$325,000.

Option 2: Option 1, plus increase the Mitchell Farm Rd. pump station to 315 gpm with an 8-inch force main. Estimated cost: \$480,000.

Option 3: Option 2, plus a section of 16-inch gravity sewer near Exit 54. The gravity sewer will facilitate customer tie-ins and future system expansion. Estimated cost: \$940,000.

Option 4: Option 3, with the 16-inch gravity sewer extended to the west side of I-77. Estimated cost: \$1,512,000. Additional development of just over 2,000 housing units could be served.

Staff recommends proceeding with design and construction bidding for all options. The final decision on which oversizing components to fund can be made once construction bids have been received.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to proceed with design and construction bidding for all options, seconded by Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

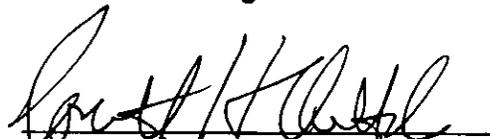
Council member M. Johnson stated he would like Council to examine the Land Use Plan for this area concurrently.

There being no further business, Council member West made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Schlesinger. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:




Brenda Fugett, City Clerk


Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor