

**MINUTE BOOK 25, PAGE 500
CITY OF STATESVILLE COUNCIL MEETING – November 02, 2015
CITY HALL – 227 S. CENTER STREET, STATESVILLE, NC – 7:00 P.M.
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Mayor Costi Kutteh presiding:

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

Council Absent: M. Johnson

Staff Present: Pressley, Gaines, Fugett, Davis, Harrell, Triplett, Miller, Cornelison, Ferguson, Gregory, Houpe, Currier, Hutchens, Barone, Cornelius,

Others: 24

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.

Mayor Kutteh reported that Item VI has been postponed, therefore item VII has been removed from the agenda, and Item X has been removed at the request of the applicant.

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 October 19, 2015 Pre-Agenda meeting, and October 19, 2015 Council meeting.

B. Receive and concur with the financial report of the Statesville Convention and Visitor Bureau as of September 30, 2015.

C. Consider approving a request from the Statesville Fire Department to apply for three FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG).

Mayor Kutteh stated this is a request by the Fire Department to apply for three grants that total approximately \$220,000. The funds will be used for equipment and training and would require a 10% City match.

D. Consider approving the bid from Siemens Industry, Inc. for the purchase of six solid state protective relays in the amount of \$24,324.

Mayor Kutteh pointed out that the low bid submitted by Beckwith was not accepted because the bid was not responsive to the request. The bid was incomplete and it did not bid on the specific items that were requested.

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

Regular Agenda

V Receive an update of the Statesville Housing Authority programs and future goals from Darbah Skaf.

Darbah Skaf reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that outlined funding problems being experienced by the Authority due to the budget deal recently passed by Congress, what the Authority has done over the last five years and future goals. Ms. Skaf asked Council

members to advocate on behalf of the Statesville Housing Authority and lobby state and federal leaders.

Mayor Kutteh thanked Ms. Skaf and the members of the Statesville Housing Authority for their work in the community.

VI Consider approving 2nd reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 4, Aviation; Article II, Statesville Regional Airport; Section 4-28(b), Municipal Airport Commission of the City Code related to the number of members on the Statesville Regional Airport Commission.

A motion to postpone this item until the final Marketing Study and the Airport Layout Plan is presented to Council by the consultants was made and approved at the Pre-Agenda meeting.

VII Appoint two new members to the Airport Commission.

This item was removed from the agenda due to Item VI being postponed.

VIII Consider approving the construction of a dog park and restroom at Grace Park, the regulations, rules and fees associated with the dog park and to allow staff to apply for a Lowe's Hometown grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of a dog park and a restroom.

Brent Cornelison stated that there has been an increase in interest for a dog park in Statesville. A dog park is a fenced in area that allows owners to unleash their pets and let them run freely around the area and socialize with other dogs. He said that Council member Watts and West have been working closely with staff on this project. Mr. Cornelison displayed photos of parks in other municipalities. Grace Park has been identified as a suitable location due to its proximity to downtown, ample parking and large shaded area. It is recommended that the park have separate areas for large and small dogs, have controlled gate access, water access, dog bag/trash stations, benches for the owners and a restroom on site. The estimated total cost to construct a dog park and restroom at the Grace Park location is \$57,500. Staff recommends that all owners must register their dogs at the Recreation and Parks Department administrative offices and provide proof of up to date shot records each year. Staff also recommends an annual per dog fee of \$20 for city residents and \$40 for non-residents. Included is a list of recommended rules and regulations for the dog park. The Lowe's Hometown grant request would be for the maximum of \$50,000, leaving a match of \$7,500. Staff recommends using Grace Park as a suitable location for the construction of a dog park and restroom and approval of the regulations, rules and fees included and approval to apply for the Lowe's Hometown grant in the amount of \$50,000.

Council member J. Johnson asked if there is any kind of special insurance needed for this. Mr. Cornelison replied there is not, the City's liability insurance will cover this, but the required waiver forms required from the pet owners also alleviates any risk to the City.

Council member Schlesinger asked what the operating hours would be. Mr. Cornelison replied it would be available 24 hours a day for those signed up for it, but staff does not anticipate that it would be used in the middle of the night and having the gate access controlled by the key fobs will help. Maintenance will be performed by the Recreation and Parks department. Council member Schlesinger asked how staff would handle grievances. Mr. Cornelison replied just like any other grievance. Staff would investigate the complaint and proceed from there.

Mayor Kutteh asked if the restroom would be available to the entire park. Mr. Cornelison replied it would be, but access would be by key fob. Mayor Kutteh asked if this could be used at other parks. Mr. Cornelison replied it could and this would be a good learning curve to see if it works before proceeding with installation at other parks.

Council member Schlesinger asked how that would work at the soccer complex during soccer tournaments. Mr. Cornelison explained the key fob would only be used at unmanned parks. The soccer complex has staff there that opens and closes the restrooms during large events and shelter rentals.

Council member West asked when staff would find out if the grant had been awarded. Mr. Cornelison replied by the end of this calendar year.

Council member West made a motion to approving the construction of a dog park and restroom at Grace Park, the regulations, rules and fees associated with the dog park and to allow staff to apply for a Lowe's Hometown grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of a dog park and a restroom, seconded by Council member Watt. The motion carried unanimously.

Council member Phifer asked what other parks were considered. Mr. Cornelison replied staff considered Mac Anderson Park, the Statesville Fitness & Activity Center site, Grace Park, Kimbrough Park, and Alice Cooper Park. Parking and a large grassy area were big factors considered when choosing a site. Grace Park has a large grassy area, plenty of parking and is underutilized right now. Staff hopes this will be the first of many dog parks located in the City.

Council member Schlesinger clarified that Council is only approving staff to apply for the grant, not approving the City match. Mr. Cornelison replied that is correct.

IX Consider approving the use of contingency funds from the Phase II Streetscape Project in the amount of \$12,500 to purchase the main sculpture for the new pocket park.

Brent Cornelison recognized the Committee that researched this project. He stated the Community Appearance Committee has chosen a sculpture that would be the main piece of art for the pocket park. The cost of the piece is \$12,500 including installation. Contingency funds are available in the Phase II Streetscape Project and can be used to purchase the sculpture. The Design Review Committee unanimously approved the sculpture. Staff recommends approving \$12,500 from Phase II Streetscape Project contingency funds for the purchase of the sculpture.

Council member Schlesinger asked Mr. Cornelison to explain what contingency funds are. Mr. Cornelison stated these are funds that were budgeted for and left over from Phase II of the Streetscape project. The extra funds were used to build the pocket park and these are funds that are still remaining.

Council asked what the dimensions of the sculpture are. Mr. Cornelison replied it is about 9 ft. tall and will sit on a 2 ft. pedestal so it will be 11 ft. tall total.

Council member Morgan made a motion to approve the use of contingency funds from the Phase II Streetscape Project in the amount of \$12,500 to purchase the main sculpture for the new pocket park, seconded by Council member Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kutteh thanked the Community Appearance Commission for their work on this project.

X Consider approving a request from Ms. Mary Cook for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2934 Newton Drive.

This item has been removed from the agenda at the request of the applicant.

XI Consider approving a request from Mr. Jesse Hedrick for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2425 Shelton Ave.

Scott Harrell stated Mr. Hedrick indicates the well at this property, located at 2425 Shelton Avenue, approximately two miles south of the existing contiguous City limits, is not functioning properly. The nearest City sewer is approximately 6,900 feet north of the property but the property currently has City electric service. Staff recommends Council approve a water connection subject to inside rates and System Development Fees, contingent upon receipt of a petition for voluntary annexation.

Council member J. Johnson asked if garbage pickup is available at this location. Mr. Harrell replied it would be available if the owner requests it, as the City will be serving the Wildwood Subdivision upon its completion and this property is fairly close.

Council member West made a motion to approve a request from Mr. Jesse Hedrick for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2425 Shelton Ave, seconded by Council member Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Mayor Kutteh asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council member West made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council member Phifer. The motion carried unanimously.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Constantine H. Kutteh", is written over a horizontal line.

Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Fugett", is written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Fugett, City Clerk