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CITY OF STATESVILLE COUNCIL MEETING – October 20, 2014
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS– 7:00 P.M.
STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Mayor Costi Kutteh presiding:

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

Council Absent: Phifer

Staff Present: Pressley, Fugett, Gaines, Harrell, Salmon, Currier, Davis, Hutchens, Ashley, Smyth, Byerly, Styers, Watts, Anderson

Visitors: 13

Media Present: John Hamlin-Statesville Record & Landmark

I **Call to Order**
Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order.

II **Invocation**
The Invocation was given by the City Clerk.

III **Pledge of Allegiance**
Members of Girl Scout Troops #10627, 10518,10781 and 28 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV **Public Comment** - During the second meeting of each month citizens are invited to speak about matters **not** on the current agenda.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Kutteh advised there was one addition to the agenda: To consider a request from Mr. Earl Koester for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2184 Salisbury Highway.

Mayor Kutteh reviewed the process City Council will follow to fill the vacant Ward 6 seat.

Mayor Kutteh stated the BalloonFest was a huge success and thanked City employees for their service.

V **Consent Agenda** – 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 02, 2014 Pre-Agenda meeting and the October 06, 2014 City Council meeting.**

B. **Consider approving second reading of an amendment to the City Code, Chapter 20 – Streets and Sidewalks, Section 20-83, Sidewalks, Curb and Gutter Required, to allow use of an alternate industrial street standard.**

C. **Consider re-appointing David Pope to the ABC Board.**

D. **Consider reappointing Joe F. Blevins to a two-year term on the Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees and appointing David Rogers to a two-year term on the Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees.**

E. **Consider appropriating insurance money in the amount of $10,166 and additional funding in the amount of $20,000 to the Capital Outlay Equipment account of the Police Department and approve Budget Amendment # 21.**

F. Approve a Resolution declaring certain equipment and materials as surplus and authorize the disposal of said property.

G. Consider approving second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article V, Sections 2-117(a) and Section 2-118(c) of the City Code.

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

VI Receive a report on ICATS from Ben Stikeleather, Iredell County Transportation Director.

Ben Stikeleather thanked City Council for the City's partnership with Iredell County of the Balloon Bus Route. He stated the service started running again on July 1st on Monday and Friday and is only used for this purpose. The total cost to the City in the first quarter was $4,325. There were 620 riders during that time period which averages to about 26 riders a day. The service is used primarily by elderly, disabled and low income citizens.

VII Conduct a public hearing and receive a closeout report on the City's 2012 Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development for the Pate Dawson Company.

Lisa Salmon stated the project consisted of the expenditure of $466,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development funds for acquisition, improvements and equipment from Pate Dawson Company of over $9 million. As a result of the project, 67 new jobs were created with at least 60% benefitting persons of low and moderate income.

Mayor Kutteh declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor or in opposition of this item. There being no speakers, he declared the public hearing closed.

Add Consider a request from Mr. Earl Koester for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2184 Salisbury Highway.

Scott Harrell stated this request was received on Thursday, October 16, after the Koesters discovered their well had run dry. Both Mr. Koester and his wife are advanced in age and have health concerns. The property is located on Salisbury Highway and is adjacent to an existing satellite annexation area. The nearest City sewer is approximately 520 feet west of the property. The Koesters currently have City electric service and Mr. Koester submitted a petition for voluntary annexation on Friday, October 17. Staff recommends approving a water connection subject to inside rates and System Development Fees.

Council member Morgan made a motion to approve the request from Mr. Earl Koester for a water tap to serve a parcel at 2184 Salisbury Highway subject to voluntary annexation, inside rates and payment of System Development Fees, seconded by Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII Consider approving a resolution to support the Catawba-Wateree River Basin Water Supply Plan as developed by the Catawba-Wateree Water management Group.

Jerry Byerly stated the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) and its 19-members (including the City of Statesville) have been working for over 3-years on a comprehensive Water Supply Master Plan for the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. Given future water demand forecasts, the current record of drought, and planned operating conditions, the Catawba-Wateree River Basin and the 11-reservoirs that comprise it, are expected to reach capacity limitations by mid-century. As such, the CWWMG has completed this Water Supply Master Plan with a focus on extending the available water yield in the basin. An outside Stakeholder Advisory Team was assembled to provide input into the planning effort. The Water Supply Master Plan includes recommendations for the region that will increase the available water yield into the next century (~ to the year 2105+), including water use efficiency measures by the water utilities. Having a long-term, sustainable water supply plan is important to our current and future

customers, and gives our region a competitive advantage over others. This resolution does not legally obligate the City of Statesville in anyway, but gives notice to the public of the City's support for the plan.

Mr. Byerly introduced Jeff Lineberger, PE with Duke Energy and Kevin Mosteller with HDR. Mr. Mosteller gave a brief background of the group and reviewed a presentation further explaining the Water Supply Master Plan.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to approve a resolution to support the Catawba-Wateree River Basin Water Supply Plan as developed by the Catawba-Wateree Water management Group, seconded by Council member J. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

IX Consider approving the purchase and installation of way finding signs totaling $95,563.00 and approve Budget Amendment #22.

Sherry Ashley stated that Mr. Buzz Bizzell has finalized the locations and messaging for the way-finding sign system for the City of Statesville and has developed 3 options. The first option would be to construct and install the complete way finding sign system which includes a total of 39 signs at a cost of $152,800. Option 2 focuses on entrances from Exit 150 off I-40 and Exit 50 off I-77 with a total of 25 signs at a cost of $95,563 and Option 3 continues to focus on Exits 150 and 50 with a reduction in the number of signs to 22 and includes an added cost to expedite the correction of the NCDOT signs at Exit 49 off I-77. Both Options 1 and 2 include requesting NCDOT to correct the sign at no charge which would be subject to NCDOT's timeframe. Based on the information provided by Bizzell Design, Inc., staff recommends the purchase and installation of Option 2 for 25 signs at a cost of $95,563 and approval of Budget Amendment #22. Staff also recommends requesting NCDOT to correct the signs located at Exit 49 off I-77. Input received from the drop-in session included: more creative/fun messaging such as Broad and Center instead of downtown, inclusion of the Fresco, shopping and dining and minor corrections.

Mrs. Ashley introduced Buzz Bizzell. Mr. Bizzell reviewed his way-finding sign system report.

Council member M. Johnson pointed out that a sign needs to be placed at the Highway 21 and I-40 intersection pointing to downtown.

Council member M. Johnson asked if the $95,563 included using the existing poles. Mr. Bizzell replied it does. M. Johnson asked what the cost is to replace the face on a sign. Mr. Bizzell replied it would be about $350 per sign and it can be replaced without taking the sign down. He said he always instructs the winning bidder to have material in place to replace a sign in the event that a car hits one and it must be replaced. Mr. Bizzell advised that in that case the City should turn that expense into the driver's insurance company and it should be covered.

Council member Schlesinger asked what the life expectancy of the signs are. Mr. Bizzell replied the suppliers guarantee is for 10 years.

Mayor Kutteh asked if some of the poles used will be the ones that currently have the banners on them. Mr. Bizzell said some are and adjustments will need to be made to install the way-finding signs on those.

Council member Schlesinger suggested a sign be added at Exit 50 to point the way to the Soccer Complex. Mr. Bizzell said that NCDOT will not allow the City to install a sign there, but NCDOT will install one if requested. Mr. Bizzell added that a sign should probably be added at the Soccer Complex directing traffic to downtown from there as well.

Council member West asked if the sign is salvageable if it is hit by a car. Mr. Bizzell explained the break-away bolt system used and reiterated that in most cases the driver's insurance company will pay for the replacement.

Council member M. Johnson made a motion to approve Option 2 in the amount of $95,563 and Budget Amendment #22 with the following conditions:

1. **That a committee be appointed to be comprised of 1-City Staff member, 2-DSDC members, 2-City Council members, 1-Chamber of Commerce member and 1-SCVB member during the 30 day determination period for the purposes of defining exactly what goes on the signs, and**

2. **To evaluate whether or not to move two signs from Garner Bagnal Boulevard. One to be placed at the intersection of Sullivan Road and I-40 and the other to be placed at the intersection of Sullivan Road and Davie Avenue.**

Council member Schlesinger seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: M. Johnson, Schlesinger, Morgan, West, Watt
Nays: J. Johnson
Motion carried 5-1

X **Consider approving work authorizations for the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the south parallel taxiway.**
David Currier stated The North Carolina Division of Aviation (DOA) had requested that all new work authorizations be reviewed by the local authorities and by DOA prior to official submission to DOA. The work authorizations for the ALP and EA were approved by the City Council on March 3, 2014 and sent to DOA. DOA has approved the scope and fee for the projects and the Airport Commission unanimously recommended approval of the work authorization. If the City Council approves the work authorizations, the next steps will include a grant application submittal and certification of local funds. Vision 100 funds will cover the local cost (10%: 5% City – 5% County).

Mr. Currier introduced Jeff Kirby with Parrish & Partners to answer any questions Council may have.

Mr. Kirby stated there will be multiple times during the course of the planning process that City Council will be needed for input to the Airport Layout Plan, which can be done through the Airport Commission or a separate committee established by Council. He explained that other than the change made by the Department of Aviation to require an Environmental Assessment rather than an Environmental Overview, the Airport Layout Plan approved by Council on March 3, 2014 has not changed.

Council member M. Johnson asked how our CIP is going to drive us from a marketing perspective. Mr. Kirby explained that this is not a business plan, it is a forecast and that a business plan is not eligible for Vision 100 grant funding. Mr. Kirby further explained the Airport Layout Plan and the requirements set forth by the Division of Aviation of what it should contain.

Council members discussed the differences between a business plan and the Airport Layout Plan. Council member M. Johnson pointed out that we need to explore what is more conducive to an airport like ours and what we need to push for with the DOA to attract more business to the airport. Mr. Kirby said they can be done concurrently. He cautioned Council that a runway extension brings a lot of issues with it. What has been discussed in the Airport Commission meetings is to eliminate the displaced runway threshold. Mr. Kirby further explained this and explained the steps that need to be taken to do this.

Council member J. Johnson made a motion to approve work authorizations for the Airport Layout Plan and the Environmental Assessment for the south parallel taxiway, seconded by Council member M. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

XI **Receive a report from the Fire Department on medical response research and consider a recommendation from department staff to include full emergency medical response as part of fire department services.**
Chief Dennis Hutchens stated Fire Department staff collected additional information on emergency medical response within the City for the months May through August. From the information gathered, staff evaluated call volume, time on scene, fuel/mileage questions, and actual skills used during medical response. Information sources included Iredell County ECOM CAD reports, Statesville Fire incident reports, and fuel invoices.

Chief Hutchens reviewed the results of the data collected. Staff recommends Council authorize the Fire Department to respond to all emergency medical calls within the City.

Council member J. Johnson gave a brief history of his recollection of how this started. He stated he is completely in favor of sending the Fire Department for any call where they are needed, but not sending them on every call. He suggested if the Fire Department wants to do this then a smaller vehicle should be purchased for these calls instead of sending a fire truck.

Council member M. Johnson said he is not against this, but he is concerned that if the Fire Department is beating EMS to the scene 73% of the time it sounds like there is an issue with EMS and the County should bear some of the cost for this. He stated he agrees with Council member J. Johnson regarding using a smaller vehicle for this.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Kutteh asked for a motion regarding this item.

Council member Schlesinger made a motion to include full emergency medical response as part of fire department services, seconded by Council member Morgan. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Schlesinger, Morgan, West, Watt
Nays: J. Johnson, M. Johnson
Motion carried 4-2

Council member West made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor

Attest:

Brenda Fugett, City Clerk