

City Council Minutes

Work Session

23 September 2013

PRESENT

Mayor James D. O'Geary, Presiding; and Council Members Sara M. Coffey, Michael C. Inscoe, D. Michael Rainey, Brenda Peace-Jenkins, Garry Daeke, Vernon L. Brown and George M. Daye.

ABSENT

Council Member Kearney, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

Assistant City Manager Frank Frazier, City Clerk Esther McCrackin, Planning and Community Development Director Erris Dunston.

CALL TO ORDER

The 23 September 2013 Work Session of the Henderson City Council was called to order by Mayor James D. O'Geary at 6:48 p.m. in the R. G. "Chick" Young, Jr. Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 134 Rose Avenue, Henderson, NC.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll and advised Mayor O'Geary a quorum was present.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor O'Geary asked if there were any adjustments to the Agenda. *Consideration of Approval of Ordinance 13-56, Creating No Parking Zones on Peachtree Street* was added to this Work Session. It was the consensus of Council to accept the agenda as adjusted.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

Update on Various Projects (*Reference: CM 13-22*)

Assistant City Manager Frazier summarized the following projects:

- 1. Beckford Drive/ US 158 Business Water Main Projects** – Design is near completion and application for grant/loan funding through DWSRF is set to be submitted by McGill Associates by the 30 September 2013 deadline.
- 2. Sandy Creek Pump Station Improvement Project** – Design is nearing completion based on comments from the city and state review. This project is to be bid in November.
- 3. Elmwood Cemetery Outfall** – McGill addressing comments received from state relative to submittal of PER and Sandy Creek. Approval was received today from the State to move forward with this project.
- 4. Beckford Drive Widening Project** – Appraisal proposals received and are under review. Will receive appraisal within three weeks of signed contract.
- 5. Chavasse Avenue Widening Project** – Four easements were needed. Two have been signed, one is in the process of being mailed, and the last one is under review by the owners.

Mayor O'Geary asked if Mr. Frazier felt good about being able to obtain easements for the Beckford Drive project. Mr. Frazier said he was uncertain.

There were no other questions. Mr. Frazier will keep Council apprised.

Balance of Checks Returned Due to Insufficient Funds. (*Reference: CM 13-24*)

Assistant City Manager Frazier said this report results from Council requests regarding outstanding funds.

Council Member Rainey asked why some of the checks had been held for so long and when they should be written-off. He also asked what value (dollar amount) was needed before legal action could take place.

Finance Director Kathy Brafford said she would have to look into these questions and report back. She did say the deposits required in the Water Department help to cover insufficient funds in that area.

Council Member Coffey felt bad checks were illegal and legal action should be taken.

Mayor O'Geary asked Ms. Brafford to report back to Council at the next Regular Meeting.

Talent Enhancement Capacity Grant Update. *(Reference: CM 13-23)*

Assistant City Manager Frazier asked Planning and Community Development Director Dunston to provide this update. Ms. Dunston said this grant is in the training stage which will cover all stages of completing an application. She has attended one required training class and training classes are scheduled monthly until April. Then writing grant applications will begin. Ms. Dunston added the scope of this grant may need to change as the grant focus for 2014 is in the infrastructure category.

Council Member Daeke asked about the formation of an advisory board. Ms. Dunston said she is currently working on formalizing the scope of both an advisory board and a neighborhood committee which will be brought before the Boards and Commissions Committee in the near future. She is working on this with the City Manager to ensure clear responsibilities.

Potential Grant Funding Through the CDBG Program for Infrastructure Improvements. *(Reference: CM 13-25)*

Assistant City Manager Frazier said notice has been received of possible funding for infrastructure improvements through the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program. Although no action is necessary at this time, he said the following areas may be considered for such a grant and more information will be brought to Council at a later date. This is just information that it may be possible to receive funding in the future and perhaps in conjunction the work Ms. Dunston is doing with the CDBG grant. Areas under possible future consideration are: 1) Newton Dairy Road Pump Station Elimination Project; 2) Birch and Bobbitt Street Sewer Extension project; and 3) Water Main Distribution Replacement project (Railroad Street & Thomas Lane).

Mr. Frazier will bring more information as these projects develop.

Creating No Parking Zones on Peachtree Street. *(Reference: CAF 13-100, Ordinance 13-56)*

Assistant City Manager Frazier asked Interim Police Chief Barrow to present this request. Chief Barrow said this is a very narrow street (27 ft. wide) that is experiencing ingress/regress problems that are exacerbated by parking on both sides of the street. His request is for no parking 161 feet on the North side of the street from William Street as the business owner on that side of the street has problems entering the property. On the South Side of the street he is requesting no parking for 127 feet from William Street as residents of the apartment complex tend to park on the street.

There was no discussion. It was the consensus of Council to bring this forward to the next Council meeting.

Council Member Rainey asked the Assistant City Manager to look into the overhanging tree limbs on S. Chestnut Street near the library.

Council Member Brown thanked Assistant City Manager Frazier for taking care of several issues of concern, including a hole that was potentially dangerous to children playing in the area.

Council Member Coffey thanked Assistant City Manager Frazier for the prompt action of installing a *One Way* sign near the Election office.

Mayor O'Geary asked when the new street light project on Garnett Street would be completed. Assistant City Manager Frazier said he expected within the next couple of weeks.

With no further discussion Mayor O'Geary asked if Council was prepared to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Coffey moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Council Member Rainey and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

James D. O'Geary
Mayor

ATTEST:

Esther J. McCrackin, City Clerk