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Tuesday - September 5, 1989 - 4:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Present: Mayor W. Louis Bissette, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Kenneth M.

Michalove; Councilmen Mary Lloyd Frank, Norma T. Price, Wilhelmina Bratton, Russell Martin and A. Robert York; Corporation Counsel William F. Slawter; City Manager Douglas O. Bean; and Associate City Manager/City Clerk

William F. Wolcott, Jr.

Absent:

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Bissette.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Bissette announced the approval of the minutes of the

August 29, 1989 meeting as submitted.

I. PROCLAMATIONS:

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Third reading of an ordinance amending the City Charter of

the City of Asheville pursuant to North Carolina General Statute Sec. 160A-102 to provide for election of the Asheville City Council by the nonpartisan election and runoff election method as set forth in North Carolina General Statute Sec. 163-293.

Mayor Bissette read the following statement:

"The City Council has made a determination that, rather than

proceed with adoption of the ordinances amending the City Charter to provide for nonpartisan and district elections, both issues will be tabled in order to allow further study. The question of district elections became an issue among City Council only as a result of a petition has been effectively withdrawn. This withdrawal of the petition eliminates the necessity that the City Council take immediate action.

We have, therefore, determined that prior to placing either

issue on the ballot, further study should be undertaken. The City Council will, therefore, appoint a task force to study the issues of district elections and nonpartisan elections, as well as the possibility of additional revisions in the City Charter affecting municipal elections as provided by the North Carolina General Statutes. It is our hope that with the input from the task force, the City Council will make a determination within approximately one year on what issues, if any, should be submitted to the voters with regard to such changes. We feel that this additional period of study, including the input of the general public at public hearings, will resolve this matter in keeping with the best interests of the citizens of the City of Asheville."

Councilman Price said the statement shows that the City Council has been aware of the concern of the public relative to the nonpartisan election issue. She said that in passing a motion to table the ordinance, City Council would show a need for further study and review of the issue.

Councilman Price moved to table the nonpartisan election ordinance. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bratton and carried unanimously.

B. Third reading of an ordinance amending the City Charter of

the City of Asheville pursuant to North Carolina General Statute Sec. 160A-102 to provide for election of members of City Council by district as authorized by North Carolina

General Statute Section 160A-101(6)c.

Councilman Price said the statement shows that the City

Council has been aware of the concern of the public relative to the district election issue. She said that in passing a motion to table the ordinance, City Council would show a need for further study and review of the issue.

Councilman Price moved to table the district election ordinance. This motion was seconded by Councilman Frank and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette said he felt the concerns relative to the above two issues regarding elections had been worked out to the best interest of the City of Asheville.

Councilman Bratton said this is a perfect example that when the Council and community work together on an issue of what can happen in the best interest of the City of Asheville.

Councilman Price said the Council appreciates those involved with the petition, particularly Ed Schell, for the way they have cooperated.

Mayor Bissette said a task force would be appointed to study all types of elections systems, including staggered versus set terms, partisan versus nonpartisan elections, length of terms, and various forms of districting and at-large elections.

C. Resolution calling for a special election for the purpose of

submitting to a vote Ordinance No. _____ regarding amendment of the City Charter of the City of Asheville to provide for elections by the nonpartisan election and runoff election method.

Mayor Bissette said consideration of this resolution would be moot since no ordinance has been adopted. Therefore, he said, the resolution would be deleted from the agenda.

D. Resolution calling for a special election for the purpose of

submitting to a vote Ordinance No. _____ regarding amendment of the City Charter of the City of Asheville to provide for

election of members of City Council by district.

Mayor Bissette said consideration of this resolution would

be moot since no ordinance has been adopted. Therefore, he

said, the resolution would be deleted from the agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution No. 89-134 - Resolution of endorsement of

widening Broadway Avenue from Catawba Street to Chestnut Street with a Bikeway extending from Catawba Street to Interstate 240.

Mayor Bissette said this resolution will indicate the City

Council's support of the Broadway Project being included in the North endorsement of widening Broadway Avenue from

Catawba Street to Chestnut Street with a Bikeway extending from Catawba Street to Interstate 240 as part of the development of the Broadway highway project. He said this resolution would urge the N. C. Board of Transportation to include this project in the FY 1990 Transportation Improvement Project.

Mayor Bissette said copies of this resolution had previously been distributed to members of City Council and that the resolution would not be read in its entirety unless there was a specific request to do so.

Upon motion of Councilman Frank, seconded by Councilman Martin, Resolution No. 89-134 was unanimously adopted.

Resolution Book No. 17, Pages 490-491

V. CONSENT:

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. George Tisdale - Property Acquisition for Broadway Project

George Tisdale of 65 Shorewood Drive inquired whether or not

there were any precautionary measures the City Council could take to keep the right-of-way costs for the Broadway Project from accelerating with speculators. He indicated that Anthony Lord was willing to donate some right-of-way for this project.

Mayor Bissette said contacts had been made with the owners of the property to see if the owners were willing to donate the necessary rights-of-way for the project. However, he said, the owners were not willing to contribute.

Councilman Frank said Mr. Lord is interested in selling right-of-way to the Department of Transportation, but has contributed a small piece of property to the City of Asheville for a greenspace.

B. Councilman Bratton - National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Month

Proclamation

Councilman Bratton requested that a proclamation relative to National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Month be placed on the agenda for the September 12th meeting.

C. Ralph Bishop - Gambling in the City of Asheville

Ralph Bishop addressed the City Council relative to his concerns about gambling in the City of Asheville and his right to seek redress.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bissette adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

MAYOR CITY CLERK
