

Tuesday - March 31, 1998

William F. Wolcott Jr. Building

161 S. Charlotte Street

2:00 p.m. - Worksession

Present: Mayor Leni Sitnick, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Edward C. Hay Jr.; Councilman M. Charles Cloninger; Councilman Earl Cobb; Councilwoman Barbara Field; Councilman Thomas G. Sellers; and Councilman O.T. Tomes; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; City Manager James L. Westbrook Jr.; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Absent: None

Planning and Development Director Julia Cogburn; along with Mr. Richard Flowe from the Benchmark Inc., the City's consultant on the annexation study; Mr. Ellis Hankins, N. C. League of Municipalities and Mr. Bob Wurst, Administrative Assistant in the Planning & Development Department, held an educational worksession on annexation. Mr. Flowe gave a brief overview of the annexation purposes, a general history of annexation and the annexation laws. Ms. Cogburn then reviewed the annexation history of the City of Asheville from 1797 - 1998 and the issues surrounding past annexations in Asheville. Mr. Flowe then reviewed the strategies for and types of annexation. Mr. Hankins reviewed with Council the N. C. League of Municipalities' views on annexation. Mr. Wurst then reviewed the budgetary impact issues on the City while Mr. Flowe reviewed the impact on the citizens.

Mayor Sitnick adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

7:00 p.m. Community Meeting

The following topics were raised by residents and addressed by City Council and City staff: a recent Board of Adjustment decision to grant a variance for an accessory structure; appreciation for the stabilization and rebuilding of the stone wall on Cherokee Road; lack of attendance at this meeting does not mean citizens are not interested; interest in traffic calming policy; suggestion of hiring truant officers in the community; community reinvestment banking; need for volunteers in the school system; litter control throughout the City; praise on roundtable ideas; and the need for more affordable housing.

Mayor Sitnick was pleased to report that the City has received a Section 108 \$1.5 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, to be leveraged for another \$1.5 million for rental rehabilitation.

Mayor Sitnick adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

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