

Tuesday - May 18, 1999 - 3:00 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

CONSENT:

Budget Amendment re: Improvements to Joint City/Library Facilities

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$6,497, to appropriate funds received from the Asheville-Buncombe Library System back into the capital account for improvements to joint City/Library facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Department has made improvements at the North Asheville Community Center/Library. The Asheville-Buncombe Library has agreed to pay for 1/3 of the cost for these improvements. In addition, the Parks and Recreation staff will be making modifications to the Murphy-Oakley Community Center/Library to include a wheelchair ramp and handrail. The library has agreed to pay for 1/3 of these improvements as well. A budget amendment totaling \$6,497 is requested to appropriate these funds into the proper account so that staff can proceed with this work.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council's approval for the appropriation of \$6,497 received from the Asheville-Buncombe Library System into the capital account for improvements to joint City/Library facilities.

Budget Amendment regarding City Hall Fire Bell Automation Project

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$15,000, for the Fire Bell Project.

The Friends of the Fire Bell/Chimes Committee has instituted a project to automate the Fire Bell atop the Asheville City Building. Once electrified the bell will strike the hour and the half-hour. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$15,000 with funding to be provided entirely from private donations/grants. This budget amendment will establish a Grant Project Budget totaling \$15,000 to allow for the undertaking of the project.

City staff recommends that the budget for the Fire Bell Project in the amount of \$15,000 be approved.

Budget Amendment relative to Improvements to Magnolia Park

Summary: The consideration of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$15,000, for improvements to Magnolia Park.

The Asheville-Buncombe Historic Resources Commission has received a grant from the Janirve Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 which is planned for improvements to Magnolia Park. These improvements consist of (1) constructing and installing 250 feet of classic-styled handmade metal fencing around the front periphery of the park; and (2) constructing a concrete -2-

stair and corner entrance to the park at the southeast corner of the park on Magnolia Street. This budget

amendment establishes a project budget in the amount of \$15,000 for the improvements.

City staff recommends that the budget amendment for the Magnolia Park Project in the amount of \$15,000 be approved.

Waiving right-of-way Permit Fees for Adopt-A-Spot Program sponsored by Quality Forward

Summary: The consideration of waiving the right-of-way Permit Fee for "Adopt-A-Spot" Program sponsored by Quality Forward.

Quality Forward is in the process of working with other agencies to beautify Asheville by planting landscaping in various locations in the City on City right-of-way. Quality Forward has completed two projects and has plans to complete two additional locations at the intersections of Market and Walnut Streets and O.Henry and Haywood Streets during this year. According to our policy, the approximate cost of the permit for each of the locations would be \$150. Based on the total number of projects projected, the estimated revenue reduction would be \$600. Quality Forward has requested that the fee for these permits be waived. Due to the wording of the ordinance this fee can only be waived by City Council.

and disturbing activity within the right-of-way requires a right-of-way cut permit from the Engineering Department per City Ordinance Section 16-36. The fee for this permit is based upon the amount of area disturbed in the right-of-way.

It is important for Quality Forward to obtain a permit so that the Engineering Department staff can inspect the site to insure that no harm will be done to the infrastructure. Additionally, it is important to obtain records about work that has been performed in the right-of-way in the event problems occur in the future.

Staff recommends waiving the fee but still requiring that Quality Forward obtain a right-of-way permit so that the sites may be inspected by City staff.

Staff recommends that the City Council waive the right-of-way Permit Fee for "Adopt-A-Spot" Program sponsored by Quality Forward, to include the two projects that have been completed, the two projects planned and any future projects that are included in this program.

Possession & Consumption of Malt Beverages and/or Unfortified Wine at Asheville Downtown Association's 1999 Events

Summary: The consideration of a resolution making provisions for the possession and consumption of malt beverages and/or unfortified wine at the Asheville Downtown Association's 1999 events co-sponsored by the City of Asheville.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the possession of open containers of malt beverages and/or unfortified wine and the consumption of malt beverages and/or unfortified wine be allowed for the 1999 events of the Asheville Downtown Association at the locations and times specified in the resolution.

For many years, the Asheville Downtown Association has co-sponsored with the City of Asheville events to bring both the public and visitors to the Downtown area. These events include: Moonlight Over Downtown, Honda Hoot Public Rally, and four Downtown After Five -3-

activities. The Asheville Downtown Association has requested permission to allow possession and consumption of beer and wine during these events as they have been allowed in the past.

The Asheville Parks and Recreation Department recommends City Council approve the resolution.

Mayor Sitnick asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place these items on the next formal City Council agenda.

ASHEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

Ms. Susan Fisher, Chair of the Asheville School Board, reviewed with City Council the following goals and objectives from their Strategic Plan for Excellent Schools for 1998-99: (1) increase student achievement in Asheville City Schools; (2) provide orderly, safe, clean, drug-free schools; (3) recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled workforce; and (4) enforce strong partnerships through effective communication. She reviewed with Council achievements made at the schools along with the various programs the schools are undertaking.

Councilwoman Field suggested and Mayor Sitnick agreed that City Council should recognize good kids in the community and the teachers who help them along.

Ms. Fisher answered various questions and comments from Council, some being, but are not limited to: magnet schools, computers for students, internet use in the schools, and the cultural academy.

Councilman Tomes applauded the energy of the school toward working with African American males to graduate, however, of the 120 African American males that started high school in 1995, only maybe 30 will graduate this year. He felt passionate that any student can achieve their goals if they have the kind of support system around them.

Mayor Sitnick thanked the School Board members for their service. She personally asked the School Board to not tear down Claxton School. She said that in September she will be scheduling a youth roundtable so City Council can hear from the children in our community what their concerns are, what is working and what is not working, etc. She encouraged the more time than two days set aside for parent/teacher conferences. She also suggested that the School Board obtain a copy of the video of the Citizen-Times meeting held on school violence. They will be hosting four follow-up meetings that she urged the members to attend. She strongly encouraged the Board to look for ways to reduce the class size.

PEDESTRIAN THOROUGHFARE PLAN

Ms. Suzanne Molloy, Assistant Director of Public Works, said that this is the consideration of adoption of the *Pedestrian Thoroughfare Plan*.

Over the past several months, the Public Works Department in conjunction with the Metropolitan Planning Organization has hosted a series of public comment sessions, spoken to various civic organizations, and presented the draft *Pedestrian Thoroughfare Plan* to a varying audience. The primary goal of the comment period was to solicit input on financing strategies and final "action step" recommendations to City Council. The secondary goal was to assure that all critical pedestrian needs were identified.

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General public comment (written and verbal) on the plan was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of respondents recognized the importance of good pedestrian planning and facilities for the community. As with most plans, controversial public comment was received about suggested funding strategies.

After careful review and compilation of public comment by staff (including Public Works, Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation, and Engineering Departments), final recommendations for implementation and "action steps" were developed by consensus. Based on comments, many financing strategies are no longer being recommended.

The final plan identifies approximately \$38.5 million of pedestrian facilities and improvements needed in the City of Asheville. As with any comprehensive plan, a long-term approach to implementation must be realized. Following is a synopsis of the recommended action steps:

- Revise the *Asheville Standard Specifications and Details Manual* and the *Unified Development Ordinance* to expand the requirements for sidewalk installation to include: all new subdivisions (with more than 2 homes), all new multi-family dwellings, all new commercial developments, and all non-residential improvements where the costs of improvements exceeds 50% of the existing structure value;
- Amend the *Fees and Charges Manual* to include a 'fee in lieu of construction' option for developers;
- Revise the *Asheville Standard Specifications and Details Manual* to incorporate updated criteria for the design of pedestrian facilities;
- Promote the usage of the special assessment process and encourage the development of local districts for pedestrian and streetscape improvements; and
- Aggressively pursue funding from the NCDOT, and other federal, state, and private sources.

Making Asheville a more pedestrian friendly environment will require the support of local citizens, businesses, and public and private organizations. While some negative criticism has been received about the recommended action steps, staff believes that the chosen action steps will provide the most equitable tools for the City to fully realize this plan and develop a holistic transportation system.

Councilman Cloninger said that he would like to see the 'fee in lieu of construction' option for developers put on a fast track.

Upon inquiry of Vice-Mayor Hay, Ms. Molloy said that criteria will be developed for projects regarding the "fee in lieu of construction", stressing that that "fee" will be the exception to the requirement. Staff will develop the criteria which will in turn be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Planning & Zoning Commission will then make their recommendation to City Council, which will have final approval. After City Council approves the criteria, City staff will be the ones who make the determination of whether to approve the request or not. The petitioner will continue to have the opportunity to requesting City Council to waive the requirement, however. All fees collected will go into a designated fund for pedestrian facilities.

Mayor Sitnick encouraged Ms. Molloy to look into the Better America Bonds.

Mayor Sitnick asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place this item on the next formal City Council agenda.

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RESOLUTION NO. 99-71 - RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS ROYAL PINES POOL AND PARK PROPERTIES

Mr. Irby Brinson, Director of Parks & Recreation, said that the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization which works with communities to acquire parks for people, is working with Jake Rusher, owner of approximately 5.5 acres of property located on Sweeten Creek Road and Peach Tree Street known as the Royal Pines Pool and Park Properties, to make Royal Pines a public park for the children of south Asheville.

Mr. Rusher said he has received numerous offers to sell Royal Pines for commercial development but he has

always wanted the property to become a public park. With the help of The Trust for Public Land, Mr. Rusher will donate Royal Pines to two charitable remainder trusts. The Trust for Public Land intends to purchase the land from the charitable remainder trusts and then sell the property to the City over three to five years. The proceeds of the sale of the land to The Trust for Public Land will be kept in charitable remainder trusts and will provide income to Mr. Rusher (who is 79 years old) for the rest of his life.

Upon Mr. Rusher's death, he intends to leave a portion of his estate to the City of Asheville to help the City pay for and manage the new park. Mr. Rusher stated his intention to make The Trust for Public Land the beneficiary of the charitable remainder trusts. Upon his death, The Trust for Public Land will receive the money left in the trusts. The Trust for Public Land has stated that it will share its gift from Mr. Rusher with the City of Asheville to ensure that the City receives a total gift in an amount equal to the purchase price of the property.

Mr. Brinson said that the Parks and Recreation Department is interested in the purchase of properties known as the Royal Pines Pool and Park Properties. This property is valuable as protection of open space land and has been identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an area needing future park development. The purchase of the property is expressly contingent on The Trust for Public Land entering into a contract for the purchase of the property from a trustee.

An appraisal has been completed by the City of Asheville and the purchase price is estimated to be between \$920,000 and \$970,000. The Parks and Recreation staff is recommending that the purchase of the property be made by installment payments under an installment contract authorized by N. C. Gen. Stat. sec. 160A-20. A public hearing must be held and is scheduled for May 25 in order to discuss the terms and conditions of the installment contract and to receive input from the public regarding this decision.

After the public hearing on this matter, the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council's approval to authorize the Mayor to execute an installment contract and a memorandum of installment contract for the purchase of real property located on Sweeten Creek Road and Peach Tree Street, known as the Royal Pines Pool and Park properties, to be used for Parks and Recreation programs, contingent upon The Trust for Public Land entering into a contract for the purchase of the properties from a trustee.

Mr. Russ Martin, Vice-President of Merrill Lynch, discussed with Council Mr. Rusher's generous proposal and urged City Council to take advantage of this generous offer to the citizens of Asheville and to The Trust for Public Land.

With the aid of a flow-chart, Assistant City Attorney Patsy Meldrum explained the financial aspects of this transaction. She said that The Trust for Public Land normally charges 10% of the purchase price for their service fee, however, because of their on-going relationship with the City, they would only charge the City \$50,000. -6-

Mayor Sitnick said that members of Council have been previously furnished with a copy of the resolution and it would not be read.

Councilman Cloninger moved to adopt Resolution No. 99-71 setting a public hearing to consider the purchase of Royal Pines Pool and Park properties on May 25, 1999. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Hay and carried unanimously.

Upon inquiry of Vice-Mayor Hay, Mr. Brinson said that the first thing his department will do if the property is purchased will be to assess and evaluate the property.

When Councilwoman Field noted that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan noted a need for a park facility in the south, Mr. Brinson said that this area was identified as begin a good location early in the process.

Mayor Sitnick thanked Mr. Rusher for his generosity to the citizens of Asheville for his foresight in creating a permanent place for children to play and a beautiful green park to be enjoyed forever.

RESOLUTION BOOK NO. 25 - PAGE 205

STATUS OF BILTMORE VILLAGE TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Ms. Cathy Ball, Engineering Director, said that representatives from Day/Wilburn Associates, Inc. will be making a presentation on the recommendations from the Transportation Study for Biltmore Village.

As an addendum to the Comprehensive Parking Study for the Downtown, Biltmore Village, and West Asheville areas, the traffic engineering firm of Day/Wilburn Associates, Inc. was asked to study the Biltmore Village area and make specific recommendations for transportation improvements. These improvements were to include vehicular, pedestrian, bicyclist and rail transportation improvements.

A meeting is scheduled for May 27 in Biltmore Village to allow for public comment.

Mr. Rick Day, Consultant, reviewed with Council the project goal which is to provide a phased transportation plan for Biltmore Village that (1) meets the mobility needs of the Biltmore Village; (2) services both short and long trip lengths; (3) incorporates a variety of travel modes (automobile, pedestrian, rail and transit); and (4) enhances the historic nature of the area.

Project objectives are to (1) support recommendations in the Biltmore Village Development Plan; (2) enhance way-finding and signage; (3) encourage increased pedestrian movement; (4) address seasonal parking needs; (5) improve safety at high accident locations; (6) accommodate north/south traffic movement; (7) separate through traffic from local traffic internal to the Biltmore Village; and (8) incorporate planned passenger rail facility.

The Biltmore Village Development Plan Goals include (1) economic development goals - (a) phased program for immediate public improvements; and (b) development program geared toward pedestrians/historic plan; (2) land use planning goals - (a) re-establish and strengthen image of original historic character; (b) recognize and restore the historic examples of Olmstead's plan; (c) develop a transportation plan; and (d) mitigate the negative impact of vehicular traffic on the historic plan and the pedestrian; and (3) historic preservation goals - (a) protect and maintain existing historic resources; and (b) reclaim lost elements of the Hunt/Olmstead plan.

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The Biltmore Village Development Plan Recommendations include (1) redirect traffic flow on Village side streets to facilitate access to shops; (2) examine the need for three vs. four lanes on Biltmore Avenue and All Souls Crescent; (3) synchronize traffic signals to facilitate commuter traffic; (4) redirect through traffic around the Village on Lula Street by-pass and extension to Swannanoa River Road; (5) discourage through traffic along pedestrian oriented streets; (6) recapture original right-of-way along Brook Street; and (7) repair and upgrade local streets.

By use of maps, Mr. Day reviewed with Council the recommended improvements.

Recommended short-term improvements (1999-2004) include: (1) provide sidewalk improvements and ADA compatibility; (2) provide pedestrian crossings at several locations along Lodge Street/Brook Street; (3) consider the use of zebra striping to clearly indicate crosswalks; (4) provide way-finding signs to tourist destinations; (5) perform signal warrant study for Biltmore Avenue at Thompson Street intersection; (6) provide shuttle/trolley connection to downtown Asheville; (7) implement parking improvements recommended in Comprehensive Parking Study (consider surface parking lot along Brook Street in place of surface lot

along All Souls Crescent); and (8) modify signal operations to favor Biltmore Avenue/McDowell Street concurrent movements.

Recommended mid-term improvements (2005-2010) include: (1) provide pedestrian connections across railroad tracks to north; (2) install raised pedestrian crossings of Lodge Street/Brook Street; (3) provide directional signage from I-40 to Asheville and Biltmore Village; (4) create a "gateway" entrance to Village area on Biltmore Avenue to All Souls Crescent and Lodge Street; (5) reduce number of travel lanes on Biltmore Avenue to two lanes with a pedestrian refuse area at intersections; (6) provide parking structure north of Brook Street at All Souls Crescent as recommended in the Comprehensive Parking Study; (7) provide access to parking structure from Sweeten Creek Road; (8) install I-40 at Sweeten Creek interchange; (9) improve Sweeten Creek Road from I-40 to Biltmore Village; (10) install connection from Sweeten Creek Road to Swannanoa River Road; and (11) provide connection of Sweeten Creek Road to Brook Street for local access only.

Recommended long-term improvements (2010-2020) include: (1) replace concrete sidewalks with brick or paver sidewalks; (2) provide passenger rail terminal with parking in the structure planned for the east side of the Village; (3) facilitate pedestrian connections to passenger rail terminal and commercial areas to the north; (4) provide a parking structure on the west side of the Village as recommended in the Comprehensive Parking Study; and (5) provide express transit service between Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville during peak travel periods.

Mr. Ray said that he would look into the question raised by Councilwoman Field about whether the new signalization for the new bridge on McDowell Street will make it more difficult to drive on McDowell Street.

It was the consensus of City Council to direct staff to proceed with gathering input from the public.

AMENDMENT TO SIDEWALK VENDOR REGULATIONS

Ms. Terry Clevenger, City Development Manager, said that this is the consideration of approving revised changes to the ordinance regulating pushcarts and outdoor dining areas and adding regulations for outdoor merchandise.

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The City of Asheville has an ordinance permitting outdoor dining, pushcarts, and outdoor entertainment in the Central Business District and Biltmore Village. A Sidewalk Usage Team was established to recommend updates to this ordinance and private uses of public sidewalk space in the Central Business District. Since Biltmore Village has different guidelines for its historic district, staff will meet with HRC and the businesses as part of the public process to ensure the recommended changes to this ordinance comply with Biltmore Village's guidelines.

The Sidewalk Usage Team includes representatives from Planning and Development, Police, Public Works, the Downtown Commission's Streetscape Committee and the Asheville Downtown Association. Input from permit holders, downtown businesses, residents and users was gathered through surveys (direct mail and interception), a public input session and comments from the public documented during the past year. The Sidewalk Usage Team has been meeting during the past several months to make recommendations to update the ordinance and propose fees that closer reflect administrative costs.

The Team recommendations pertaining to sidewalk usage include:

- requirement that merchants/vendors apply for and obtain an encroachment agreement authorizing the structure or merchandise on the sidewalk or public space;

- requirement for permits for pushcarts, sidewalk entertainment, and outdoor merchandise areas;
- all signage for such uses must comply with the Sign Ordinance (Article XIII of Chapter 7); and
- implementation of fees associated with permits for use of such right-of-way and other public spaces.

As downtown continues to thrive, pedestrian traffic and the demand on public space has increased. Given these dynamics, the City should clearly define pedestrian passageway and establish boundaries of private use of public space. In addition to the changes in the ordinance, the team also studied the use of A-frame (sandwich board) signs, which are currently prohibited by the current sign ordinance, and is recommending they continue not to be permitted by the sign ordinance.

Following presentation of these recommendations to City Council, staff proposes to conduct a public input session to solicit input on the recommendations. This item is proposed to then be presented to City Council on June 22, 1999, for adoption, with an effective date of July 1, 1999.

The Sidewalk Usage Team and Planning and Development staff responsible for implementing the program recommends a public process to gather input from the stakeholders regarding the proposed changes to the ordinance. Any comments or proposed changes can then be brought back to City Council for consideration of approval on June 22, 1999.

Discussion surrounded the fees associated with permits for use of such right-of-way and other public spaces and also the responsibility of the merchants who have outdoor dining areas.

Mayor Sitnick asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place this item on the June 22, 1999, City Council agenda.

CABLE RATE REVIEW

Ms. Patsy Meldrum, Assistant City Attorney, said that this is the consideration of a resolution issuing a written decision in response to the filing of an FCC Form 1240 by Brenmor -9-

Cable Partners, L.P. (d/b/a InterMedia) for monthly rates for the basic service tier on its cable system for the time period of June 1, 1999, to May 31, 2000.

Pursuant to federal law and the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the City of Asheville ("City") is certified to regulate basic service rates and charges of Brenmor Cable Partners, L.P. ("InterMedia") in the franchised area of InterMedia within the corporate limits of the City. By letter dated February 26, 1999, received by the City on March 1, 1999, InterMedia filed FCC Forms 1205 and 1240, both dated February 25, 1999, for the purpose of justifying its monthly rates and hourly service charges for cable services on the basic service tier on its cable system for the time period of June 1, 1999, to May 31, 2000.

The new maximum permitted rate calculated for the monthly rate on the basic service tier by InterMedia on the FCC Form 1240 is \$10.3579. InterMedia proposes to continue charging the current monthly rate of \$11.91 for the time period of June 1, 1999, to May 31, 2000, which amount exceeds the maximum permitted rate, by relying upon the filing of an FCC Form 1235 ("abbreviated cost of service" filing) submitted to the City on May 16, 1997. The FCC Form 1235 determined that an increase in the basic service tier rate of \$1.96 per month would be permitted as of the time of filing, based upon an upgrade or rebuild of the cable system. The maximum permitted rate of \$10.3579 and the increase in the rate of \$1.96 per month based upon the filing of the FCC Form 1235 would combine to be a monthly rate of \$12.32, which is in excess of the current basic service tier rate charged in the amount of \$11.91 per month.

The filing of the FCC Form 1235 by InterMedia with the City on May 16, 1997, predated the completion of the

upgrade or rebuild of the cable system and was filed for "pre-approval" purposes. FCC requirements for the FCC Form 1235 are that, if the pre-approval option is exercised, the cable system operator must file the FCC Form 1235 again following the end of the month in which the upgraded cable services become available and are providing benefits to all customers of regulated services in the filing entity, using actual costs where applicable. The upgrade or rebuild of the cable system was completed some time during the summer of 1998, but InterMedia has not yet filed with the City another FCC Form 1235 after the completion of the upgrade or rebuild of the cable system.

After the filing of the FCC Form 1235 by InterMedia on May 16, 1997, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 97-213, which directed InterMedia to keep an accurate account of all amounts received by reason of the rate increase requested pursuant to its FCC Form 1235 filing, in order that the City may, at its option, subsequently issue a written decision regarding the rate request and determining whether or not refunds should be provided to subscribers after completion of the upgrade or rebuild of the cable system. This resolution would order InterMedia to file another FCC Form 1235 in order for the City to complete its review of the monthly rate attributed to the rebuild of the system.

City staff recommends City Council adopt the resolution which would order InterMedia to file another FCC Form 1235 in order for the City to complete its review of the monthly rate attributed to the rebuild of the system.

Ms. Sabrina Jackson, Customer Service Representative of InterMedia, said that even though the rebuild was completed in August of 1998 with the channels being activated, they continued to incur the expenses of the rebuild up until last month.

Mayor Sitnick asked that the record show that City Council has received this information and instructs the City Manager to place this item on the next formal City Council agenda.

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CONVERSION OF WALNUT STREET TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

Councilwoman Field voiced strong opposition to the conversion of Walnut Street to one-way traffic, especially without any input from the Downtown Commission, downtown merchants, or the Merchants Action Coalition. She said that two particular problems include (1) trucks not being able to make the turn into a driveway for dumpster pickups, and (2) people coming out of the Walnut Street side of the Civic Center Parking Garage have a difficult time in reaching the front of the Civic Center. She also expressed concern over one-way signs being placed in the middle of the sidewalks. She felt that Walnut Street has had two-way traffic on it for 50 years and was concerned that there was no process followed prior to making this change.

City Engineer Cathy Ball said that the City has been looking at this for some time and felt that from a public safety standpoint, changing Walnut Street to one way was the appropriate action to take.

Traffic Engineer Mike Moule said that they had planned to go through a full public input process, however, because a sidewalk barrier was installed, they had an immediate concern for site visibility at that intersection. He said that he would proceed with the public input process on whether to make the change permanent or not.

REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Vice-Mayor Hay, Chair of the Board & Commission Committee, said that the Committee met and recommends the following:

Reappointment of Sally Rhoades, Susan Dodson and Michael Hyatt to the Carriage Permit Advisory Board,

subject to their meeting the attendance requirements and their interest in being reappointed.

Reappointment of John Ingersoll and Jimmy Hungerford to the Citizens/Police Advisory Committee, subject to their meeting the attendance requirements and their interest in being reappointed. Lonnie Blair and Janice Van Dine have both served two full successive terms and are not eligible for reappointment. Their positions will be filled through the interview process.

Reappointment of Robert Swan and Richard Bowman to the Civic Center Commission, subject to their meeting the attendance requirements and their interest in being reappointed. Tom Muncy has served two full successive terms and is not eligible for reappointment. His position will be filled through the interview process.

Reappointment of Nancy Kauffman to the Civil Service Board, subject to her meeting the attendance requirements and her interest in being reappointed.

Reappointment of Tommy Sellers to the Crime-Stoppers Board of Directors, subject to his meeting the attendance requirements and his interest in being reappointed. Steve Curtis and Grant Osborne have both served two full successive terms and are not eligible for reappointment. Their positions will be filled through the interview process.

It was the consensus of City Council instruct the City Clerk to prepare the proper paperwork to appoint Carol King as Chair to the Asheville Downtown Commission until her successor has been appointed.

Reappointment of John Hayes to the Buncombe County Drug Commission, subject to his meeting the attendance requirements and his interest in being reappointed.

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With regard to the two vacancies on the Film Board, Councilman Cloninger (member on the Film Board) was instructed to check with the Film Board at their next meeting to see if they want to reduce their membership to 13 or for City Council to interview for the two vacancies.

Reappointment of Jody Kuhne and Fred Eggerton to the Historic Resources Commission, subject to their meeting the attendance requirements and their interest in being reappointed.

With regard to the Housing Authority, these are the Mayor's appointment and she noted that there are three positions to be filed, with one reappointment possible.

Reappointment of Charles Bullman to the Recreation Board, subject to his meeting the attendance requirements and his interest in being reappointed. William Estes and Lewis Isaac have both served two full successive terms and are not eligible for reappointment. Their positions will be filled through the interview process.

Reappointment of Margaret Tinkler, Ann Babcock and Jerry Bailey, subject to their meeting the attendance requirements and their interest in being reappointed. Peter Loewer has served two full successive terms and is not eligible for reappointment. His position will be filled through the interview process.

With regard to the vacancy on the Regional Water Authority of Asheville, Buncombe and Henderson, it was the consensus of City Council to appoint a City Council member to this Authority, noting that both the Buncombe County Commissioners and the Henderson County Commissioners each have a Commission member appointed to the Authority. Since Councilmen Cobb and Sellers were both interested in serving on this Authority, they would talk with the City Manager (who is Secretary to the Authority) and others to find out the detailed responsibilities of the Authority. Mayor Sitnick said that she supported a City Council member

being appointed to the Authority, however, now is also a good time for an appointment of someone who has scientific knowledge about water quality, etc., and thought that Dr. Rick Maas, even though he is a County resident, would be a good appointment.

Councilman Cloninger agreed to serve as the City Council liaison to the Broadway Corridor Plan Advisory Committee.

GROVE ARCADE PARKING

Mr. Aaron Zaresky expressed concern over the newspaper article that said the Grove Arcade Parking was an unfunded request in the 1999-2000 budget. He asked City Council to reaffirm that there is a commitment to build a parking deck adjacent to the Grove Arcade.

City Manager Westbrook said that City Council has an obligation with the Grove Arcade and has not yet considered how to fund the parking. This issue will be discussed as part of the budget worksession. Staff will report back to City Council with a final recommendation on the funding recommendations before September 30, 1999.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sitnick adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

CITY CLERK MAYOR
