

Regular Meeting

Present: Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Jan B. Davis; Councilwoman Robin L. Cape (excused at 8:37 due to illness); Councilwoman Diana Hollis Jones; Councilman R. Carl Mumpower; Councilman Brownie W. Newman; Councilman William A. Russell Jr.; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; and City Clerk Keisha Lipe

Absent: None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Jones Elementary Safety Patrol led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Councilman Mumpower gave the invocation.

**I. PROCLAMATIONS:**

**A. RECOGNITION OF MISSION HOSPITALS AS A TOP 100 HOSPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mayor Bellamy recognized Dr. DaMore, staff members from Mission Hospitals, and Mr. Jack Cecil, Chairman of Mission Hospitals, as she read the proclamation proclaiming February 19, 2008, as "Mission Hospitals Day" in the City of Asheville. She explained the many accolades that Mission Hospitals has received over the years and that Mission Hospitals was named a Top 100 Hospital in the United States by US News & World Report. Mr. Cecil talked about the wonderful partnership between the City of Asheville, the community and Mission Hospitals. Dr. DaMore commended the outstanding doctors and employees of Mission Hospitals. He presented Mayor Bellamy with an autographed copy of "The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner" which is a book about the ten happiest places to live in the world - Asheville was the only city picked in the United States.

**B. PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2008 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH" IN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE**

Councilwoman Jones explained and urged the public to use the Go Direct Program and then read the proclamation proclaiming February, 2008, as "Go Direct Month" in the City of Asheville. She presented the proclamation to Ms. Celeste Collins, from Ontrack Financial, who briefed City Council on some activities taking place during the month.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:**

At the request of Councilman Mumpower, all Consent Agenda items were removed from the Consent Agenda, except for Consent Agenda "A", for discussion and/or individual votes.

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

**B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PLANNING FIRM GOODY CLANCY TO DEVELOP A DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and/or an individual vote.

**C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT WITH REAL ESTATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PHASE TO THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and/or an individual vote.

**D. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE'S CO-SPONSORED EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2008**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and/or an individual vote.

Mayor Bellamy said that members of Council have been previously furnished with a copy of the resolutions and ordinances

on the Consent Agenda and they would not be read.

Councilman Russell moved for the adoption of the Consent Agenda. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Davis and carried unanimously.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR INDIVIDUAL VOTES**

**B. RESOLUTION NO. 08-25 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PLANNING FIRM GOODY CLANCY TO DEVELOP A DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City of Asheville to enter into a contract with planning firm Goody Clancy, not to exceed \$170,000, to develop the Downtown Master Plan. The execution of this contract is subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

City Council's adoption of the 2007-08 Annual Operating Budget included funding in the amount of \$170,000 for the creation of a new Downtown Master Plan. After a thorough selection process the Downtown Master Plan Advisory Panel selected Goody Clancy, an architecture, planning and preservation firm from Boston, Massachusetts, as the best consultant for this project. The Office of Economic Development, along with the Downtown Commission, now seeks Council's approval to execute a contract between the City of Asheville and Goody Clancy in an amount not to exceed \$170,000. Project management of the Downtown Master Plan process will be conducted under an hourly rate staffing contract with Ms Sasha Vrtunski. Ms. Vrtunski is a former City Development Director and served in a similar capacity to the Civic Center Task Force.

The Office of Economic Development issued a Request for Qualifications for Urban Planning, Urban Design and Economic Development Planning services for a Downtown Master Plan in October 2007. An advisory panel composed of City staff, County staff and Downtown Commission members was formed to manage the consultant selection process. The Advisory Panel received Statements of Qualifications from twenty six firms; six were short listed and four were invited to interview and present proposals to the panel. Each firm was scored on a list of baseline criteria. The panel came to a consensus that Goody Clancy was the best match for the City.

Pros:

- The contract amount will equal the budget amount of \$170,000.
- Entering into an agreement with Goody Clancy to lead the master planning process will make staff resources available for other priority projects while still participating in the master plan process.
- In addition to being a highly qualified and award winning firm, Goody Clancy is partnering with team members whose skills and experience are extraordinarily well suited for this project, including:  
An economic development specialist in cultural heritage who is an Asheville resident, the creator of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program, and transportation consultants who have repeatedly worked with the City of Asheville's Engineering department on large projects. The advisory panel projects this team will deliver a detailed, comprehensive and practical planning document to guide the growth of the downtown area over the next ten years.

Con:

- Staff has not identified any disadvantages to contracting with Goody Clancy.

Staff recommends City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City of Asheville to enter into a contract with planning firm Goody Clancy, not to exceed \$170,000, to develop the Downtown Master Plan.

Councilman Mumpower was concerned about the amount of money for this master plan and the fact that we used a firm located outside of North Carolina. And, when he looks at what Asheville does with plans, he questioned the value of the downtown development plan in view of some of the other needs the City has.

Councilman Newman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 08-25. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried on a 5-2 vote, Councilman Mumpower and Councilman Russell voting "no."

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**C. RESOLUTION NO. 08-26 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT WITH REAL ESTATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PHASE TO THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend an agreement with Real Estate

Research Consultants for the Development Agreement phase to the Project Management Contract approved on March 6, 2007.

Detailed Proposals on the three (3) downtown redevelopment sites from the approved short list of firms are due February 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff currently anticipates receiving multiple proposals on both the Park Maintenance Site and Haywood Street site. Staff has received notification that one firm plans to submit a proposal on the Eagle/Market Street site and is evaluating potential benefits to expedite that proposal evaluation and potential site negotiation.

The action requested from Council is to approve the addition to the Project Management Contract Scope of Services approved on March 6, 2007, by City Council. The fee is a not-to-exceed amount of \$58,000, plus travel not to exceed \$6650, for a total of \$64,650. At City Council's original approval of the Project Management Scope of Services for the City Owned Properties, staff indicated that this scope addition to the original Scope of Services would be a future addition to the contract. This addition will allow the project manager to assist in the detailed negotiations with firms advancing from the RFP phase into the Development Agreement phase. This phase includes the detailed analysis of the submitted proposals' approach, finance, and implementation plan. Funding for this addition to the Scope of Services is available in the City's 2007-08 Budget in the Office of Economic Development budget. A budget amendment is not required.

Pros:

- Providing technical evaluations of the proposals submitted by the pre-qualified development teams in response to the RFPs for the respective sites.
- Assisting in preparing various financial, land use or other technical evaluations consistent with the RFP criteria and protocol.
- Identifying/seeking clarifications regarding developer responses.
- Providing feedback/inputs to a suitable vehicle for structuring a partnership with the developer(s) of selected parcels if that should prove desirable based on the above.
- Reviewing and providing comments on the draft development agreement documents provided to the City by the top ranked developers.
- Ultimate benefits include significant new developments, tax base, employment, and housing opportunities.

Con:

- City will be required to provide compensation to consultant prior to cost recovery.

Staff recommends City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend an agreement with Real Estate Research Consultants for the Development Agreement phase to the Project Management Contract approved on March 6, 2007.

Councilman Mumpower questioned if this is the proper investment of City dollars and explained why he felt this was a flawed process from the beginning.

Councilman Newman felt this is a process we are going through to get underutilized government-owned properties back on our tax rolls and redeveloped in a way that will be good for economic development for the City and good for the neighborhoods the properties are located in.

Vice-Mayor Davis agreed with Councilman Newman in that we are proceeding in this fashion to achieve some of Council's goals, e.g., workforce and affordable housing.

Councilman Newman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 08-26. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Davis and carried on a 6-1 vote, Councilman Mumpower voting "no."

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**D. RESOLUTION NO. 08-27 - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE'S CO-SPONSORED EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2008**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution approving co-sponsored events for the remainder of 2008.

The City of Asheville co-sponsors events that benefit local non profit organizations and enhance the community with public events, parades, and festivals. For 2008, the City's financial contribution to co-sponsored events is estimated at **\$243,178.69** of in-kind goods and services. Below is the list containing the list of applicants for co-sponsored events in 2008:

			# of	In-Kind/Lost
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Event Name	Date	Type	Occurrences	Revenue Support
AIDS Walk	10/4/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$360.00
Asheville Cit-Times Half Marathon	7/20/2008	Race	1	\$5,665.44
Asheville Criterium	9/26/2008	Race	1	\$5,883.09
Asheville Earth Day Celebration	4/19/2008	Festival	1	\$5,951.04
Asheville Greek Festival	9/27/2008	Festival	3	\$12,246.43
Biltmore - Kiwanis 15K/5K Classic	9/28/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$616.34
Buddy Walk	9/13/2008	Walk/Festival	1	\$826.40
Celebration Israel	5/18/2008	Festival	1	\$1,303.24
CROP Walk	10/11/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$517.00
Downtown After 5	5/4/2008 thur 9/19/2008	Festival	5	\$17,497.20
End of Summer Family Fish Fry	10/12/2008	Block Party/Festival	1	\$2,426.24
Festival in the Park	5/3/2008 thru 12/13/2008	Festival	45	\$21,634.00
Goombay	8/22/2008 thru 8/24/2008	Festival	3	\$40,641.42
Halloween Dog Festival	10/25/2008	Festival	1	\$823.24
Hard Lox Jewish Food Festival	10/19/2008	Festival	1	\$3,891.54
Houses of Worship Walk-a-Thon	5/18/2008	Walk	1	\$1,247.70
JCC Falafel 5K	5/4/2008	Race	1	\$2,658.24
March for Babies	4/26/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$2,071.44
Memory Walk	5/17/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$1,788.14
Midday Musicals	8/28/2008 thru 10/2/2008	Concert	6	\$1,676.20
Montford Music & Arts Festival	5/17/2008	Festival	1	\$5,203.04
Night of the Ninja	5/24/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$2,282.00
Oasis Shrine Parade	11/8/2008	Parade	1	\$44,390.00
Organicfest	9/6/2008	Festival	1	\$5,025.04
Professional Cycle Races	9/14/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$10,303.09
Rockin the River Raft Race	8/2/2008	Festival/Fundraiser	1	\$3,884.00
Run for the Horses	9/20/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$2,154.64
Shamrock Run	3/15/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$2,798.24
Shindig on the Green	6/28/2008 thru 8/30/2008	Performance	8	\$19,852.52
Smoky Mountain Toy Run	12/6/2008	Parade/Fundraiser	1	\$5,130.94
Super Hero Race	11/8/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$1,202.00
Thomas Wolfe 8K Road Race	9/27/2008	Race/Fundraiser	1	\$2,248.24

Urban Trail Block Party	6/14/2008 thru 9/13/2008	Block Party/Festival	4	\$6,360.76
WNC Run/Walk for Autism	9/20/2008	Walk/Fundraiser	1	\$1,365.90
<b>TOTAL</b>			101	<b>\$241,924.75</b>
<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace March (Previously Dispositioned)</i>				\$1,253.94
<b>City of Asheville In-Kind Services/Lost Revenue Total</b>				<b>\$243,178.69</b>

In an effort to estimate the true costs to the City of Asheville, the Parks and Recreation Department is using a full cost accounting approach that calculates direct costs (such as police, fire, and labor) along with lost revenue (such as permit fees, water usage, and facility use fees). This formula accounts for a significant increase over the costs presented to the City Council in previous years (\$76,267 in 2006 and \$72,000 in 2007).

The Parks and Recreation and Cultural Arts Department has also seen an increase in the number of eligible applicants for co-sponsorship (27 applicants in 2006 and 2007 with 34 applicants in 2008), which also accounts for the increase in the cost of the co-sponsorship. The co-sponsorship support has also led to organizations increasing the number of occurrences for their events which total 101 for 2008. In 2005 there were 69 occurrences, 48 occurrences in 2006, and 46 occurrences in 2007.

If this program continues to grow at this rate, the City of Asheville risks a significant drain on limited resources, which could result in inadequate service to the City and to the co-sponsor applicants. Additionally, the current process of co-sponsorship approvals coming at the start of the calendar year does not give other City departments who support these events adequate time to plan their budgets for these events.

Below are the Pros and Cons of co-sponsorship at the current level.

Pros:

- Generates money for the local economy.
- Provides additional quality cultural programming and diversity.
- Allows fundraising opportunities for charities.
- Expands and enhances special events and festivals in Asheville.

Cons:

- Events put a strain on City resources such as Police, Fire, Sanitation, etc.
- Events contribute to decline on infrastructure and equipment provided to the organizers.

The Asheville Parks and Recreation Department requests City Council to consider and take action on the 2008 requested co-sponsored events and allow staff to evaluate the current application requirements and procedures and come back to City Council in eight weeks to review new procedures and recommendations for co-sponsorship (e.g., cost-sharing) that would provide better service without compromising City resources. Staff will also ask for a dollar parameter to work from so they can then prioritize the events they feel the City should co-sponsor.

Councilman Mumpower explained why he would not support any co-sponsorships until we eliminate the open air drug market in Asheville. In addition, seeing some of the events listed, he felt to co-sponsor them is a misuse of City dollars and felt that no effort has been made to make people aware of our limitations on co-sponsorships. He felt that the City should concentrate on core services and not pursue things that are nice, but not necessary.

Throughout discussion, Mr. Simmons responded to various questions/comments by City Council, some being, but are not limited to: where does the Holiday Parade fall in this listing; is there a reason why this list comes to Council at the beginning of each calendar year; how does staff determine the projected cost of the event if it is not fully formed; and did staff use the existing matrix with objective criteria to filter these co-sponsorship applications.

Councilwoman Cape requested that when the information comes back to Council, staff break down the in-kind portion of the chart by police department, clean-up, recreation, etc. Regarding economic development, if we can start showing that we are contributing this much, then the conversation about what the city is doing for the community becomes more vivid.

Councilwoman Jones felt that when staff contacts the sponsors of the event to suggest cost-sharing, for example, sponsors may have other ideas - perhaps having a parade route shorter.

At the suggestion of Vice-Mayor Davis, Mayor Bellamy said Council could review this matter at their March 18, 2008, worksession with supporting documentation to be requested by Council on each of the events requesting co-sponsorship.

Councilman Newman wondered if Council should approve the events through the first six months because we don't want to shock those events. And then, review the events during the last six months of the year, which would give them more time to incorporate those costs into their budget or modify their plan somewhat so they can bring the costs down for the services they need.

In response to Councilman Mumpower, Mr. Simmons said that the sponsors are not notified of whether the City will co-sponsor with them until after City Council has approved the list. However, historically Council has not denied co-sponsorship applications.

Mayor Bellamy said the list of events Council received in the past only showed the festival name as one occurrence, opposed to 8 occurrences for Shindig on the Green, for example. The list presented now is the true picture of reality.

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve the events through the end of July, 2008; approve the multi-occurrence events that begin in that timeframe; and instruct staff to report back to Council in 8 weeks with their recommendations, (which will give notice to the remaining events). This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Davis.

When Mayor Bellamy asked for clarification on what staff is to bring back in 8 weeks, other than their findings, it was the consensus of Council to ask staff to include a paragraph on each of the events and the criteria grid used to evaluate each event.

Vice-Mayor Davis said that it is important that the City co-sponsor some of these events because they mean a lot to people and they are an economic driver. He felt sure that when the grid is reviewed that Council will see good value coming from these events.

Mayor Bellamy thanked Mr. Roderick and the City's Chief Financial Officer for making our finances more transparent to the public and clear to City Council.

The motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor Davis carried on a 6-1 vote, with Councilman Mumpower voting "no."

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### **III. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS:**

#### **A. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES**

Economic Development Director Sam Powers said that economic development is shifting its approach from competition to collaboration. The City of Asheville's Office of Economic Development (OED) has redesigned our organization and strategy to promote "link and leverage" approaches to meet city strategic goals and to achieve regional economic development success. OED staff encourages the formation of quick teams to identify and begin moving on initiatives that further Council and regional goals. City staff actively seeks to find ways to strengthen the ties of collaboration, to innovate in an open system. The work of many economists and futurists, including Michael Porter, a leader in the field of cluster development, reveal that regions with thick, open networks will be more prosperous. They will learn faster. They will spot opportunities faster. They will align their resources faster, and they will act faster. In the Second Curve economy, business models focus on creating networks and value.

The City of Asheville's OED is taking our lead from open source development, an effective innovation engine developed in the software industry. Open source development is based on voluntary communities of people contributing to common and often complex projects. Ed Morrison of Purdue University has advanced this open source economic development method, and has advanced the approach we are following.

The OED is actively working with numerous other regional organizations and networks to build quality, connected places to attract and retain our people, jobs, investment, and innovative businesses. We are building effective branding to tell the deeper stories of our communities, and we are developing new civic habits of collaboration. Some of the regional economic and community development initiatives are listed below:

AdvantageWest, the regional economic development partnership serving the 23 western counties of North Carolina has been charged by the state legislature to take a lead role in regional marketing and branding, business development, and regional capacity building. The city benefits from, and participates in AdvantageWest programs including the Blue Ridge Entrepreneurial Council, Blue Ridge Angel Investors Network, WNC Regional Film Commission, Blue Ridge Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, MountainSouth USA and Blue Ridge Food Ventures. Each of these regional initiatives meets one or more of City Council's strategic goals. AdvantageWest has also developed a Regional Five Year Vision Plan, which focuses on 10 regional clusters of innovation. Many of the clusters are centered or have strong growth potential in the Asheville Metro area. AdvantageWest has an adopted Program of Work and comprehensive Marketing Plan and associated metrics for 2008, and OED staff will participate in many of the initiatives outlined in the program of work and marketing plan.

CarolinaWest is the sub-regional economic development marketing collaborative that provides marketing of the greater Asheville Metro area and labor shed. CarolinaWest receives cooperative marketing funding from AdvantageWest, as well as from the member counties, and private sector partners. The City participates with CarolinaWest members in program of work that includes site visits, web marketing, and site consultant information briefings.

Land-of-Sky Regional Council of Governments (COG) is a planning and development organization that serves Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties. The COG provides planning, grant writing, facilitation and project management services to local governments, and coordinates local, regional and multi-state projects in the area of environment, economic and community development. The COG has played a leadership role in transportation planning, and the City is working with the COG on many transportation planning initiatives. The COG, in close cooperation with numerous stakeholders, has also taken the lead to comprehensively address the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of the region's Brownfields. The program offers numerous economic, social and environmental benefits to the City and region.

The Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County (EDC) serves as the primary lead in new business recruitment and business retention and expansion efforts for Buncombe County and the City of Asheville. Each new or expanding corporate project is discussed in detail and whenever appropriate, is assisted on a collaborative basis. The City Council has a voting seat on the EDC Board, currently held by Jan Davis, Vice-Mayor. Additionally, the City Manager and City Economic Development Director serve as Ex-Officio EDC Board Members.

During Fiscal Year 2006-07, the EDC assisted firms with a total investment of \$64 million and the creation of 450 jobs at an average wage of \$17.76/hr. Five of these projects, investing \$41 million and creating 358 jobs were located inside Asheville's corporate limits.

Pursuant to the NC Department of Commerce creation of its new Urban Progress Zone (UPZ) program, Asheville's ED Dept. was one of the first communities to achieve UPZ designation—Zone 1 in South Asheville and Zone 2 in West Asheville. Eligible manufacturing and distribution firms located in those zones (US Census tracts in which 20% or more of the population earn below the poverty level) may qualify for significant increases in NC Article 3J investment and job creation tax credits. Immediately following notification of UPZ designations, the EDC staff began the process of meeting with the twenty-three (23) firms known to be eligible for Article 3J credits.

The Asheville Metro Business Research Center is a provider of local demographic and economic information. The Center has a long-standing relationship with the City of Asheville as a primary source for current information and analysis. While the Center is a resource for all who contact it, the Center places a special emphasis on promptly responding to the City's queries pertaining to local business needs and industry prospects.

For Council's consideration is a formal financial request for \$50,000 by the City of Asheville to support the work of the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County (EDC) and to continue to participate by holding a voting seat on the EDC board. The City Manager and City ED Director also serve as ex-officio members of the EDC.

The Hub Project is Asheville and Buncombe County's collaborative, sustainable, intentional community, cultural and economic development strategy. The Hub is described as a catalyst for collaboration around a coordinated economic and community development vision of what Asheville and Buncombe County can become.

The Hub's policy governance structure, the Hub Alliance, is comprised of appointments by City Council, County Commission, by community position, and appointments made by the Alliance. The Alliance works to stimulate interaction and collaboration within and across clusters identified by the Alliance—Technology, Rejuvenation, Creativity, Land/Ag, Enterprise/entrepreneurship, and Advanced Manufacturing. The Alliance will monitor and publicize progress via concrete metrics. The Alliance will support clusters and projects by raising funds from public and private sources.

Since the development and adoption of the clusters by the Hub Alliance, the Hub Cabinet network has been working on numerous initiatives to more fully develop the clusters. Examples of some of the collaborative initiatives being undertaken by the

Hub include expanding our fifty-year-old climate services industry and helping the world respond to climate change. The Hub is also building on Asheville's impressive rejuvenation assets to make Asheville synonymous with healthy living and a magnet for visitors and residents seeking healthy bodies, minds and spirits. Community and cultural development that will keep Asheville unique, dynamic and beautiful is also central to the Asheville Hub's vision.

Other regional economic development initiatives. The link and leverage approach to building networks is also providing regional success with many other initiatives. The Partnership on Wayfinding has leveraged city funding of \$75,000 to build a \$1.5 million regional Wayfinding system with the Tourism Development Authority (TDA), DOT, and other municipalities.

The City's OED provides in-kind support and overhead expenses to provide office location for the Asheville Downtown Association and the US Small Business Administration. The Downtown Association spearheads many initiatives to promote downtown, including their new sponsorship of the annual holiday parade. US SBA provides counseling, technical assistance, and funding for small businesses. The small investment by the City provides returns to businesses throughout the city and region. The City also supports priority goals in Economic Development and Sense of Place, Heritage, and the Arts by leveraging City funding in support of outside agencies as well as allocating CDBG funding that meets National Objectives established by CDBG. A broad range of economic, community and cultural development organizations work through the city's Outside Agency and CDBG funding process each year. These organizations include Mountain Biz Works, The Arts Council, Media Arts Project, URTV, and many others.

The City works with AB Tech by serving on the Small Business/Incubator Council as the college develops its Small Business Center and Incubator. A great example of one of the open network is that exists to share information and respond to opportunities is the Service Providers Network. The City Minority Business Coordinator works with numerous other agencies, including SBTD, Chamber, Mountain Biz Works, AB Tech, Self Help, and others, to find collaborative solutions to small business needs. The Service Providers network has been instrumental in assisting with the Opportunities Conferences that have been so successful in linking local businesses with government vendors.

River Redevelopment is one of the region's most important community and economic development challenges, and can yield some of the greatest regional rewards. There is probably no one area of Asheville where the "link and leverage" approach is more crucial due to the many organizations and plans that exist to take this area to the next level. Since 1992, the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, RiverLink, DOT, North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center and other federal and state agencies, and numerous donors and private partners have been collaborating for achievement of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Master Plan. The Dykeman Plan promotes environmentally-sensitive redevelopment, restoration of the two rivers, and achievement of the recreational/cultural potential with a linear greenway and connected parks. Additionally, the Dykeman Plan calls for a reconfigured and redesigned road – The Wilma Dykeman River way – to serve the area. The Wilma Dykeman Riverway converts the existing road network along the rivers into a multimodal transportation corridor that accommodates bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular and train traffic.

In the last few weeks, City Council received a report from the City Manager outlining the work to date and many successes that have been achieved along the river. The report also notes that timely achievement of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan depends upon a unified collaboration to capitalize on various opportunities and suggests the following actions should be considered: Policy leadership - Form an Asheville/Buncombe County river area advisory commission to effectively combine both design review and economic development policy advisory functions. This could be patterned after the Downtown Commission model with a similar role and structure. Members could be city residents with appointments from the City, County, and possibly from the private sector, community organizations and citizens at large. Project and Program Management - Hire an experienced, knowledgeable manager who is capable of performing project management, planning and coordinating with stakeholders, maintaining an inventory of property ownership, attracting investment, supporting the advisory commission, raising funds and serving as full-time advocate. Consider cost sharing options with Buncombe County and other potential funding partners. Professional Development Services - Perform market analysis of properties, quiet zone studies, and fund training opportunities and speakers. This allocation would be available to engage professional services as needed to support the planning and development goals and objectives as identified by the policy leadership and program management. Public Financing – Enhance levels of public and private capital investment. Pursue public/private partnership opportunities for projects meeting the goals of the Wilma Dykeman Plan and meeting the requirements for issuance of project development bonds (also known as tax increment financing). Community Building – Conduct additional community planning forums, involving property owners, community, and public/private sector leaders. Build greater community awareness, commitment and engagement in key decisions affecting the future of the river district.

In summary, weaving successful networks in our civic spaces will loom large in our future efforts to be regionally competitive. Economic development takes place in the civic space outside the four walls of any one organization. One of the key insights that our city OED staff has developed is an understanding that we need to actively engage and continue to build successful networks and collaborations more effectively to meet City strategic goals.

Mr. David Brown, Executive Director of the Hub, presented City Council with a PowerPoint Presentation which requests consideration of the following: (1) Urge a study re the feasibility of using space in the Asheville Civic Center to house RENC's

Communication/ Demonstration Center (visible, publicly accessible downtown space is needed); (2) Urge consideration of advancing Asheville as the state's demonstration site of a Green City that is adopting specific measures to anticipate climate change; and (3) Urge City Council to remember that the Asheville Hub Alliance is ready, through the Hub Cabinet , to propose specific programs to implement Council objectives (e.g., the Riverfront, Low Income Housing).

The Hub seeks to leverage resources to grow the clusters, the community and region as a whole. The Hub Cabinet has developed a list of projects and a procedure for judging projects based on a criterion that supports Council goals. The Hub is asking the City to approve funding for 3 specific initiatives that will further the clusters and benefit the other city strategic goals adopted by City Council. The City has approved funding for regional economic development in the current budget. Further, the Hub is requesting that the City continue to include the Hub in funding in the coming budget for three additional projects.

He requested from the current year funds (2007-08): (1) \$24,250 - to a consortium of Asheville Arts Agencies to produce and distribute a 6-7 minute promotional video that emphasizes the relationship between a vibrant arts community and entrepreneurship. This film will be similar to the Climate Alive video presented at NCDC; (2) \$15,000 - to Handmade in America for marketing the work of the artists featured in the Asheville-based Design Center; and (3) \$10,000 - to Asheville Hatchfest for a portion of the money required to hire and equip a development.

From next year's funds (2008-09), he requested: (1) \$17,000 - Master Speakers Series Publicity to establish a major, annual lecture-coaching event at the Asheville Art Museum, an event that will assist local artists and draw tourists (share with County); (2) \$20,000 - Artist Resource Center Refurbish/Rental to establish a central place where incubating businesses of Asheville artists and performing groups can receive of entrepreneurial support and training; and (3) \$20,000 - Handmade Home Promotion to publicize and advertise, through professional associations, the concept of Asheville's Design Center and the bringing together of crafts and construction professionals.

Councilwoman Cape suggested the City Council Planning & Economic Development Committee (PED) review the 3 initiatives (non-funding related) and the River Redevelopment issue and bring their recommendations back to City Council on how the City can participate. It was the consensus of the majority of Council to accept Councilwoman Cape's suggestion.

Councilwoman Cape noted that there is an existing \$50,000 appropriation in the OED's budget and Council has two requests for that appropriation - the Hub initiatives and the EDC board.

Councilman Newman felt it was important for Council to think of a total dollar amount for economic development, because there are other economic development proposals out there which will be seeking money from the City as well. He felt it would be helpful to give direction on the budget and then decide the priorities.

Vice-Mayor Davis supported the City appropriating \$50,000 to support the work of the EDC and to continue to participate by holding a voting seat on the EDC board.

Mayor Bellamy requested City Manager Jackson provide to the PED Committee additional information on what our economic development tools are and what financial commitments Council has made.

In summary of a discussion of which City Council committee should review which HUB requests, Mayor Bellamy said that Councilman Russell serves on both the City Council Revenue & Finance Committee and the PED Committee so he will be able to share valuable information.

Councilman Mumpower explained why he felt this is a misinvestment of City dollars. He said that for these to be the first things that come to Council from the HUB project is terribly discouraging. He said these may be great initiatives, but didn't think the City should fund or support them.

Councilwoman Cape believed we need to have a worksession on what the City wants to support economic development financially in the community.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the majority of Council that the PED Committee should look at not only the 3 initiatives, but the funding issues as well.

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **A. WATER LINE EXTENSION INCENTIVES PARTICIPATION AND EVALUATION FORM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INFILL DEVELOPMENT**

At the request of staff, Councilman Newman moved to continue this item until staff is prepared to bring the matter back to Council. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Councilman Newman said that he requested this item on the agenda so Council could take a look at our existing policies and determine if we would like to update them.

He presented a December 21, 2006, memo from then City Traffic Engineer Anthony Butzek which intended to summarize the nature of the outstanding requests for traffic calming in the city:

“Since the traffic calming policy was adopted, staff has been collecting traffic data for streets which we receive requests for traffic calming. The number of requests has always greatly exceeded the ability to install traffic calming measures. With about 20 streets on which we have completed traffic calming, and about 10 more streets currently in the development process, there remain requests on about 200 separate streets in the city.

“Without spending the time calculating the exact total length of street this represents, my best estimate is about 100 miles. At a per-mile cost of between \$77,000 (engineer’s estimate) and \$115,000 (last bid price), this amounts to a total construction cost of between \$7.7 million and \$11.5 million. If we limit all projects to speed humps, the cost drops to about \$50,000 per mile, or \$5 million total. These are construction costs only – the staff and/or consultant time required to administer this program probably amounts to an additional 15%-20% of these totals. While all of the complainants would consider their requests valid, I might estimate that 25%-30% of the streets probably are justifiable candidates for calming. This puts the lowest estimate, assuming 25 miles of streets for speed humps only, at about \$1.5 million including staff and/or consultant costs.

“While there are many pros to traffic calming, including improved safety and quality of life for residents, it is also important to consider the cons. These include delay to emergency response, vocal resident opposition, and increased maintenance costs.

“Based on this information, if Council were to consider reinstating funding for traffic calming, I would consider \$150,000 - \$200,000 per year as a reasonable funding level in order to provide a productive program.”

Councilman Newman’s perspective is that the community would be best served by focusing our traffic calming efforts on low-tech and low-cost strategies such as speed humps, rather than the more expensive and controversial measures we have used in some cases in the past. For a relatively modest investment, these low-cost strategies could allow us to provide some meaningful traffic calming relief in neighborhoods throughout the city over the next several years.

Upon inquiry of Mayor Bellamy, Councilman Newman agreed for staff to provide some best practice methods, noting his concern that they may be expensive and he is in favor of affordable methods.

In response to Vice-Mayor Davis, Traffic Engineer Ken Putnam updated Council on the Kimberly Avenue traffic calming project. Mr. Putnam said they are committed to completing this project in 2008.

Councilwoman Cape asked for staff to bring to Council other options (other than bumps and barriers) for traffic calming, e.g., how parking patterns affect traffic flow, how stop signs affect traffic flow, painting treatments on the roads, etc.

Councilman Mumpower questioned the effectiveness of placing obstacles in our streets. He felt we need enforcement of our traffic laws. He requested information on what resources our Police Department needs or what creative efforts they might initiate to enhance our traffic enforcement.

It was the consensus of the majority of Council to ask staff to provide Council with information on low-cost strategies, streamlining the traffic calming process, new techniques, and traffic enforcement at the March 18, 2008, worksession.

### **Closed Session**

Mayor Bellamy said that during Council’s break, Council would conduct a closed session.

At 7:10 p.m., Councilman Mumpower moved to go into closed session for the following reasons: (1) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the City Council, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered in negotiations, provided that any action authorizing the payment of economic development incentives will occur in open session. The statutory authorization is contained in G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4); and (2) to establish or to instruct the City’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City in negotiating the terms of contracts for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease. The statutory authorization is contained in G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5). This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried

unanimously.

At 7:40 p.m., Vice Mayor Davis moved to come out of closed session. This motion was seconded by Councilman Russell and carried unanimously.

## **B. QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer Ben Durant briefed Council on the City's overall financial position for the Fiscal Year 2007 as follows:

Amendments. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget report was presented to City Council, the General Fund budget has been amended five times, resulting in an overall increase in the budget of \$837,940. A summary of the budget amendments is included below.

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Demolition of Tunnel Rd Property	\$353,000
Bring Homeless Initiative Program In-House	50,250
Volvo Economic Incentive Grant	85,600
City Match for Hybrid Bus Purchase	100,000
<u>Sardis Rd. &amp; Schenck Annexations</u>	<u>249,090</u>
Total Amendments	837,940
9/30/2007 Budget	<u>90,584,498</u>
12/31/2007 Budget	<u>\$91,422,438</u>

Revenues. Through December 31, 2007, the City has collected \$34,866,982 in General Fund revenue, which represents approximately 40.1% of the total General Fund revenue budget. At this point in the prior fiscal year, the City had collected \$28.8 million in General Fund revenue, which represented approximately 36.3% of the revenue budget. Based on current trends, staff anticipates that Fiscal Year 2007-08 year-end revenue will exceed budget by \$960,000.

Expenditures. General Fund expenditures through December 31<sup>st</sup>, total \$43,706,029 or 47.8% of the budget. At this point in the prior fiscal year, expenditures were at \$38.5 million or 47.2% of the budget. Based on current trends, staff anticipates that Fiscal Year 2007-08 year-end expenditures will come in under budget by only \$40,000. Budget savings are projected to be less than in previous years due to health care costs which are running ahead of budget.

Fund Balance. As reported to Council at the recent audit presentation, the City ended Fiscal Year 2006-07 with available fund balance of \$21.85 million or 26% of year-end Fiscal Year 2006-07 expenditures. In the current fiscal year, the City appropriated \$4.4 million in fund balance as a part of the adopted budget to fund one-time capital and operating initiatives. Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, Council has appropriated an additional \$715,911 in fund balance, which brings the total fund balance appropriation in the current fiscal year to \$5.14 million. Based on current year-end revenue and expenditure estimates for Fiscal Year 2007-08, staff is projecting that available fund balance will decrease by \$5.32 million to \$16,525,600, which will equate to 18.1% of estimated year-end expenditures.

He said that during the Fiscal Year 2006-07 audit presentation at the January 8, 2008, meeting, Council requested additional information and updates on several items that came up during the presentation.

Audit Findings Update - As discussed during the presentation, the City's auditors documented two findings against the City in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Financial Report. One finding was for erroneous bank reconciliations in the Transit Fund and the other was for non-inspection of HOME projects. Staff had already begun to take corrective action in both areas prior to the audit presentation. An update on those actions is provided below.

#### Bank Reconciliations

To address the finding regarding bank reconciliations, the Finance Department has cross-trained staff so that additional individuals are capable of performing the bank reconciliations. Also, the Finance Department is currently recruiting for the Treasurer position, which will have direct supervision over the staff that is performing the bank reconciliations.

#### Inspection of HOME Projects

Of the 12 projects in non-compliance with inspection requirements at the end of Fiscal Year 2006-07, seven have been brought into compliance (inspected). He presented an outlined plan for the completion of the remaining five.

Additional Financial Information - Council also requested that staff provide additional financial information that would show how Fiscal Year 2006-07 revenues, expenditures, and fund balance compared to the prior fiscal year. He reviewed a table which provided detailed comparative financial data for the General Fund for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 fiscal years. Specific items to note include:

Revenues:

- Overall revenues grew by 9.89%.
- Property taxes grew by 11.9%. As staff indicated to Council last spring during the Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget worksessions, property tax growth exceeded expectations in Fiscal Year 2006-07 due to higher than expected growth in the tax base; and appeal losses from revaluation were less than the County tax office had estimated.
- Sales tax revenue grew by 8.0% as a result of strong growth in retail sales.
- License & Permit revenue grew by 18.8% primarily due to increases in building permits and Council-adopted increases in the business privilege fee.

Expenditures:

- Expenditures, including transfers to other funds, grew by 7.39%.
- Public Safety expenditures increased 8.6% due to the stepped-up replacement of vehicles in the Police and Fire departments, and the addition of eighteen firefighters in January 2007 to staff the new fire stations that went into operation in July.
- General Government expenditures grew by 8.5% primarily due to increases in health care expenses.
- Planning expenses were up by 15.8% as a result of three staff additions that were approved to help handle the increased workload in development review.
- The 16.0% increase in debt service reflects the first year debt service payments on the new fire stations.

Fund Balance:

- Total fund balance increased by \$3.99 million in Fiscal Year 2006-07, compared to a total increase of \$4.82 million in the previous fiscal year.
- As noted during the audit presentation, despite the fact that total fund balance increased by \$3.99 million, the amount of fund balance available for appropriation *decreased* from \$23.79 million to \$21.85 million. This decrease was due to the fact that a larger portion of total fund balance was required to be held in reserve in Fiscal Year 2006-07 as compared to Fiscal Year 2007-08.
- Fund balance available for appropriation dropped from 31.0% at the end of Fiscal Year 2005-06 to 26.5% at the end of Fiscal Year 2006-07.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, Mr. Durant explained the health care cost increase, noting that our health care consultant is doing a comparison and he would provide Council with a more refined analysis.

When Mayor Bellamy asked about any reimbursement for the General Fund appropriation of \$353,000 for the demolition on Tunnel Road, City Attorney Oast said that he would provide Council with an update on that.

Councilman Mumpower explained why he felt that Asheville is incrementally living beyond our means.

In response to Councilman Mumpower, Mr. Durant clarified that in the budget projections that staff presented to Council at their retreat, they made a recommendation not to use Fund Balance going into the upcoming budget to support programs because we have made a good use of Fund Balance over the past couple of years and we have addressed some strategic issues and infrastructure needs.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, Mr. Durant explained that some Fund Balance purchases were for one-time core services for capital expenditures, initiatives which Council identified in their Strategic Operating Plan, e.g., new sidewalk crew to lay more sidewalks; new sanitation crew for downtown clean-up; more money for greenways; addition of more police officers; removing both energy and cost inefficient vehicles from our fleet; investment in our facilities for energy conservation; etc. He said that basically the following accounted for a lot of the one-time uses of Fund Balance: take home vehicles for the Police Department, increased building maintenance, greenways and overall replacing our fleet.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, Mr. Durant explained how the City finances fire stations and large vehicles.

Mayor Bellamy asked that in the next quarterly report that staff provide Council with information on where the one-time allocations are spent and the status of those projects.

Mayor Bellamy felt it is important to realize that decisions were made to do the capital expenditures because they hadn't been care of in the past. It might be prudent for the citizens of Asheville, who expect core services to be taken care of, to know that Council is responding to those requests. Going forward, Council has put in place opportunities for the community to see where we are going with transparency by providing a five year outlay of capital improvements showing what needs to be done for our community.

In response to Councilwoman Jones, it was the consensus of the majority of Council to have staff provide Council with the cost of Council meetings per hour, including staff time.

### Strategic Operating Plan

Assistant to the City Manager Lauren Bradley said that the Asheville City Council has identified eight priority areas as part of its Strategic Operating plan with short and long range multi-year goals for each priority area. Staff is responsible for completing goals and reporting quarterly on its progress.

As part of the close out of the second quarter of the 2008-08 fiscal year, staff will provide performance indicators and measurements on key strategic initiatives. In addition, Council has been provided with information on the focus of the Police Department's efforts on drug interdiction and community policing. Council has been provided detailed performance measures related to the Police Department's Seven Point Plan addressing criminal activity and drug activity in high crime areas; and the Department's work with the Department of Justice and other law enforcement agencies to develop best practices in performance measurements.

She highlighted three major key accomplishments from the last year. We created an annual report but it doesn't include all of the good work that has happened throughout the organization. She explained three highlights from that report: (1) The City of Asheville's Youth Leadership Academy; (2) Fire and Rescue Emergency Response Branch (new Fire Stations 10 and 11); and (3) the Asheville Downtown Farmer's Market, which will open in April, 19, 2008.

Councilman Mumpower explained that he didn't trust law enforcement statistics because they can be manipulated. The street realities say something different - the people who live in public housing, vulnerable neighborhoods and victims of crime. What we talked about was coming up with some subjective sources of feedback to measure our effectiveness. One was direct feedback measure is in the form of a simple one-page survey form given to each manager and assistant manager in all public housing developments to provide us with current, monthly feedback. We could also set up some routine feedback loops with our school systems, social service agencies, and business organizations. Also there should be some on-going measurement of our court system, which much more than our police, is responsible for this open air drug market that we have. We need some kind of feedback so Council and our police can get regular information about what is going on in the court system and what is working and what is not.

Ms. Bradley said that staff will be coming to Council next week asking for an allocation for a citizens survey that will go out to a random sampling of households in order to ask questions, among others, how safe do you feel in the neighborhood. If there is a consensus of Council, staff can come back with specific proposals for additional types of surveying or additional performance measurements.

City Manager Jackson said that staff wants the quarterly reports to be useful and important to Council so Council can make important policy decisions. He suggested that the City Council Public Safety Committee entertain the dialogue discussed and report back to Council.

Councilwoman Jones noted that while there are a lot of issues and problems with the Housing Authority, things are being addressed. She noted that the South French Broad Avenue Association has expressed appreciation to the improvements in their area.

It was the recommendation of Mayor Bellamy, and the consensus of the majority of Council, that economic development issues be reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

There was a brief discussion, initiated by Councilwoman Cape, about quarterly reports on the four City Council committees. As a result of that discussion, City Manager Jackson explained how his office manages Council's action items and that he would have a notebook in his office for Council to review of how items are followed-up on and resolved.

Mayor Bellamy suggested when items come back to Council on their agenda, that the staff reports be identified that this

was from a previous Council meeting and this is follow-up information.

### **C. ANNEXATION DISCUSSION**

Mayor Bellamy said that a House Committee studying the state's annexation laws will hold one of its meetings in Asheville, where Biltmore Lake residents have resisted the City's plans to annex them. The House Select Committee on Municipal Annexation, chaired by Rep. Bruce Goforth of Asheville and Rep. Paul Lebuque of Durham have met. The public hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 19, 2008. Individuals will be allowed three minutes for comments.

She felt the City needed to make a presentation on this issue. Mr. Ellis Hankins from the N.C. League of Municipalities will also be making a presentation. She wanted to make sure that it is Council's position that we take a formal position on this issue and who from Council will attend the hearing.

Mayor Bellamy responded to Councilman Mumpower on why the information City Council has been given was not placed on the City's website for the public access. Mayor Bellamy said that Council will need to revise their policy if it is now Council's direction to add items to the website after the agenda is published. She also noted that as a follow-up from Council's retreat, Council will be discussing their rules at their March 18 worksession.

Vice-Mayor Davis felt that it was prudent that Council be at the public hearing. Otherwise it is just an opportunity for people who have concerns about being annexed to step forward without the other side being heard. We have legitimate grounds for being at the hearing as Asheville is not being treated fairly and we need the ability to grow healthy.

At 8:37 p.m., Councilman Newman moved to excuse Councilwoman Cape from the meeting due to illness. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

Councilman Newman said that the committee that has been set up by the legislature is looking at the issues of annexation generally. There are issues across the state about what is a fair annexation policy. Some of those issues play out in Asheville as well. But Asheville also has some pretty unique issues in terms of growth that are truly unique to other cities in the state. If you don't spend a lot of time looking at some of the issues in other parts of the state, you might think that whenever new developments come in that these issues of involuntary annexation rise up and are a big deal all over the state. The truth of the matter is that issues of involuntary annexation are fairly rare around the state. It does happen in other areas and when it does happen, there are people on both sides of the issue and there is controversy. But the fact is that they are very rare. Some of the information that we have and should share with the committee is that the City of Charlotte added over 83,000 people between 1990 and 2000 and about 55,000 since 2000, for a total of 138,000 people (or almost 2 entire cities of Asheville). Ninety-eight percent of those people joined the City of Charlotte through a voluntary annexation process. New developments were built around the City limits and City infrastructure was extended to those new developments. The developers were required, as a condition of getting City infrastructure, to come into the City. Here in Asheville there has to be a lawsuit filed every time a new subdivision is built. It is a bad way to do business and it's very divisive way for a City to deal with the issues of growth. We should have an opportunity to talk to the committee about our unique issues around the need for voluntary annexation as developers wish to connect to our infrastructure, that there should be a reciprocal responsibility. We have a responsibility to provide infrastructure and they have a responsibility to share in the financing of the community's growth. We could also secondarily talk about if Council wants to have a position around issues of other aspects of annexation, but he was sure there would be a greater diversity of views on Council on those matters.

Mayor Bellamy said one question on the table is do we want to take a position on voluntary annexation and offering that as a tool we would love to have when it comes to looking at growth for our area. In addition, Councilman Newman also wanted to make a point to the committee that if you don't have voluntary annexation, it forces the issue of involuntary annexation on a much more frequent basis. So, if you don't like involuntary annexation, you should allow Asheville to grow as other cities do.

Councilman Mumpower reiterated that Asheville is treated differently than any City in the state and for us to articulate that unfairness is something we all can agree. He doesn't support forced annexation, but he did think there are arguments why some of Council do - because Asheville isn't treated fairly. He was concerned that Asheville has been on the end of punitive legislation by our state representatives before and this might prove to be another opportunity for such. He would be delighted to join with the group in standing up for Asheville.

Mayor Bellamy confirmed it is Council's position for strong support for voluntary annexation surrounding the issue of fairness.

Vice-Mayor Davis felt Council should be prepared to make a case statistically about involuntary annexation. He noted that in about 15 years Asheville has annexed 8,000 people - the lowest of any City in the state and partly because almost every annexation is involuntary and they are hostile in nature, creating a lot of anxiety and unhappiness for our nearby residents and for the Asheville citizens.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, she confirmed that the following Council members will attend the March 19 public hearing: Mayor Bellamy, Vice-Mayor Davis, Councilman Newman, Councilman Russell and barring any scheduling conflicts, Councilwoman Jones and Councilman Mumpower.

Mayor Bellamy instructed staff to provide Council with information and statistics in order to make their presentation effective.

At the request of Councilwoman Jones, Mayor Bellamy asked staff to report on how we are delivering our services to the annexation areas already incorporated into the City.

#### **D. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Vice-Mayor Davis, Chair of the Boards & Commissions Committee (Committee), reviewed with Council the following various board/commission vacancies:

It was the recommendation of the Committee to follow the recommendations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to leave existing member Barbara Field in her position until a real estate transaction has been completed. Therefore, Mayor Bellamy moved to allow Barbara Field to continue serving until a real estate transaction has been completed. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Jones moved to interview David Brown and Lee McElrath (who are currently Alternates to the Board of Adjustment) and Anthony Palazoo and Ester Elizabeth Manheimer for positions on the Board of Adjustment. This motion was seconded by Councilman Newman and carried on a 5-1 vote, with Councilman Mumpower voting "no."

Regarding the position on the Citizens-Police Advisory Committee, it was the recommendation of the Committee, and the consensus of Council, for the City Clerk to re-advertise for a west representative on the Citizens-Police Advisory Committee.

It was the consensus of Council to interview J. Michael Burke and John West for a position on the Civic Center Commission.

It was the consensus of Council to interview Sid Heilbraun, Kelly Stamey, Kate Pett and Jill Fromewick for positions on the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council.

After discussing disbanding of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDC) with the EDC, it was the Committee's recommendation to dissolve the EDC and allow the members to serve in another related capacity. Councilman Newman moved to dissolve the Economic Development Advisory Committee. This motion was seconded by Councilman Russell and carried unanimously. Vice-Mayor Davis noted that a letter of appreciation would be sent to the members.

Councilman Newman moved to reappoint David Spector and Gary Hamrick to the Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment. This motion was seconded by Mayor Bellamy and carried unanimously. In addition, it was the consensus of Council to interview Melanie Brethauer, Brandee Boggs, Marcus Renner, Ashley Featherstone, Kristin M. Peppel and Daniel Asher for a position on the Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment.

At the recommendation of the Committee, Mayor Bellamy moved to reappoint Paul Ford, Geraldine Melendez and Jeff McMickens to the Asheville-Buncombe Fair Housing Commission. This motion was seconded by Councilman Russell and carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of Council to interview David Flander, Trent McDevitt, Nancy Sokolove and Heidi Campbell-Robinson for a position on the Asheville Film Commission.

At the recommendation of the Committee, Mayor Bellamy moved to appoint Pat Leckey (City Accountant) to the Firemen's Relief Fund. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

At the Committee's recommendation, Councilman Newman moved to reappoint Christopher Gilbert to the Asheville Greenway Commission. In addition, it was the consensus of Council to interview Jonah Butcher, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Ellen Bailey, Thomas E. Mesk, Marcie Bromberg and Tom Burnet for a position on the Asheville Greenway Commission.

At the Committee's recommendation, Councilman Newman moved to reappoint W. Louis Bissette Jr. to the Metropolitan Sewerage Control Board. This motion was seconded by Mayor Bellamy and carried unanimously.

At the Committee's recommendation, Mayor Bellamy moved to allow Bill Fishburne (who has moved outside the City limits)

to continue service on the Public Art Board until his term expires. This motion was seconded by Councilman Newman and carried unanimously. In addition, at the Public Art Board's recommendation and the Committee's recommendation, Mayor Bellamy moved to appoint Dana Irwin to the Public Art Board. This motion was seconded by Councilman Mumpower and carried unanimously. After a short discussion concerning the responsibilities of the Public Art Board and the need to advise the Board of their role, Councilman Mumpower moved to reappoint Kenn Kotara, Barbara Cary, Julie Calhoun-Roepnack and Batty Pate Jr. to the Public Art Board. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously. It was confirmed that the Committee's recommendation was to advise City staff to review the ordinance establishing the Board and to make sure the Board is adhering to their responsibilities.

At the Commission's recommendation, Councilwoman Jones moved to reappoint Wendy Kussrow (member at Council's discretion), Patti Torno (owner of property located within the River District), Richard Hall (Member of the RiverLink Board of Directors) and Robert Shepherd (Member of the RiverLink Board of Directors) to the River District Design Review Committee. This motion was seconded by Councilman Mumpower and carried unanimously. In addition, Councilman Mumpower moved to appoint Marty Black (owner of property located within the River District) to the River District Design Review Committee. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously. After a brief discussion of what constituted a "design professional" for the remaining seat, it was the consensus of Council to interview Gregory D. Sills and re-advertise for a "design professional" for the River District Design Review Committee.

At the Committee's recommendation, Mayor Bellamy moved to reappoint J. Neal Jackson and Yuri Koslen to the Asheville Transit Commission. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously. It was the consensus of Council to interview Michael Orford, Josh O'Conner, Larry D. Chapman, David Lack and Bruce Emory for a position on the Asheville Transit Commission.

At the Committee's recommendation, Councilman Mumpower moved to reappoint Robert Oast and Parker Andes to the Asheville Tree Commission.

#### **E. COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS**

Vice-Mayor Davis was pleased to accept the liaison appointment to the Citizens/Police Advisory Committee.

After a short discussion about whether the Asheville-Buncombe Crimestoppers Board of Directors could have a Council liaison instead of a voting member, it was the consensus of Council to instruct the City Clerk to contact the Board to see if their by-laws could be amended to reflect that and to report back to the Boards & Commissions Committee.

Mayor Bellamy noted that she asked Councilwoman Cape to Chair the City Council Planning & Economic Development Committee and she agreed. It was the consensus of Council to appoint Councilman Cape (as Chair), Vice-Mayor Davis and Councilman Russell to the City Council Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Bellamy noted that she asked Vice-Mayor Davis to Chair the City Council Public Safety Committee and he agreed. It was the consensus of Council to appoint Vice-Mayor Davis (as Chair), Mayor Bellamy and Councilwoman Jones to the City Council Public Safety Committee.

Mayor Bellamy noted that she asked Councilwoman Jones to Chair the City Council Revenue & Finance Committee and she agreed. It was the consensus of Council to appoint Councilwoman Jones (Chair), Councilman Newman and Councilman Russell to the City Council Revenue & Finance Committee. In addition, it was the consensus of Council to change the name of the City Council Revenue & Finance Committee to Finance Committee.

Vice-Mayor Davis said that the Asheville Area Council for Performing Arts requested a City Council liaison. Mayor Bellamy moved to appoint Vice-Mayor Davis as the liaison to the Asheville Area Council for Performing Arts. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

Vice-Mayor Davis also noted that the Sister Cities Committee has requested a City Council liaison. In addition, the advisory board for homelessness is considering a City Council liaison as well. He said that items will be reviewed by the Boards & Commissions Committee. Mayor Bellamy asked that she be considered as the liaison to the advisory board for homelessness.

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Per Council's direction, City Manager Jackson presented City Council with an update on the GreenLife conditional zoning application status dated February 19, 2008. Also per Council's direction, he will provide the update to the neighborhood coordinator tomorrow morning for distribution to the public. City Manager Jackson asked for clarification on the form of the two-week update report, e.g., scheduled item on the agenda, memorandum form, or e-mail. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the

majority of Council for staff to update Council every two-weeks via e-mail.

**VIII. INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Reid Thompson said that instead of making his presentation, he would appreciate a copy of the update on GreenLife's zoning application status. City Manager Jackson handed Mr. Thompson a copy of the report.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Bellamy adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR