

Tuesday – April 29, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
William F. Wolcott Jr., Public Works Facility
Asheville, North Carolina

Joint Meeting of the Asheville City Council and Town of Weaverville

Asheville Present: Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Jan B. Davis; Councilwoman Robin L. Cape; 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 Magdalen Burleson (absent: Councilwoman Robin L. Cape)

Weaverville Present: Mayor Mary "Bett" Stroud, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Dottie Sherrill; Councilman Walt Currie (left meeting at 5:38 p.m.); Councilman Don Hallingse; Councilman Doug Jackson; Councilman Gene Knoefel; Town Manager Michael Morgan; and Town Clerk Shelby Shields

Mayor Bellamy welcomed the officials from the Town of Weaverville. She appreciated their willingness to meet with City Council and talk about their communities and ways they can help build up Buncombe County.

Mayor Bellamy and Mayor Stroud called their respective meetings to order.

Asheville City Manager Gary Jackson summarized Asheville Strategic Goals:

- (1) Affordable: The City of Asheville will offer a standard of living that is affordable and attainable for people of all income levels, life stages and abilities.
 - Complete the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan
 - Citizen Task Force to present plan in summer 2008
 - Support the Homeless Initiative as an internal city program
 - Increased communication and collaboration
- (2) Green: Asheville will be the southeastern leader in clean energy and environmental sustainability while preserving and enhancing the city's natural beauty.
 - Complete an internal Energy Management Plan for city facilities
 - Address conservation, technology and retrofitting, and strategic capital investments
 - Complete the Parks and Greenway Master Plan process
 - Plan presented to Council in summer 2008
 - Maintain downtown cleanliness initiative
 - Downtown cleaning crew and 7-day trash collection
 - Pritchard Park Ranger
- (3) Safe: Asheville will be one of the safest and most secure communities when compared to similar cities.
 - Pursuing Downtown Social Issues Task Force recommendation to form nuisance court
 - Meeting with local judges and district court representatives
 - Support initiatives that curtail drug- and gang-related activity
 - 2 new gang detectives, 1 cyber detective
 - Community policing (South French Broad neighborhood success)
 - Additional police officers
 - 2 new fire stations
- (4) Sustainable: Asheville will support a sustainable community and a sustainable city government through a strong commitment to infrastructure maintenance, capital improvements, long-term planning and fiscal responsibility.
 - Develop strategic, multi-year capital plan
 - Launching capital planning effort in July 2008 to explore priority projects and funding mechanisms

- Water line replacement project underway (funded by \$40 million revenue bond)
- New Civic Center director introduced
 - Renewed commitment to customer service and deferred capital maintenance

He explained the following steps for completing the Downtown Master Plan:

- Kick-off Public Meeting
Thursday, May 8 - 6-8:30 p.m.
Asheville Civic Center Banquet Hall
- Community Education Session
Friday, May 30 - 6-8 p.m.
Location TBD
- Downtown Master Plan Workshop
Saturday, May 31 - 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Location TBD

Weaverville Town Manager Michael Morgan summarized Weaverville's Strategic Planning Goals, starting with the Vision of the Town of Weaverville being: Weaverville will maintain its small town and neighborly atmosphere while actively managing the growth that is inevitable near a larger city. We will maintain Weaverville as a distinctive Town with a vital Main Street as its focus. Our town will be attractive to both young and old with a wide range of housing choices at a variety of prices. Neighborhoods and business areas are key building blocks of our community. We will reserve areas for both types of uses while buffering each from the other. We seek an attractive town that is well landscaped and accessible to pedestrians and cyclist. We will create a favorable atmosphere for the right type of business and industry those that are clean and provide a good living for our residents. The services expected from the Town are sidewalks, parks, green spaces, and well run utilities and emergency services. To develop this vision we intend to assertively use zoning, subdivision regulations, extraterritorial planning authority and annexation.

- (1) Strategic Planning Goals #1 - To provide for the orderly development of the Town of Weaverville, improving upon those conditions which detract from quality urban development while protecting and promoting those characteristics which contribute to or enhance desirable growth.
 - #1 Objective - Provide quality services to our citizens: (1) clean, safe, efficient water system; (2) weekly trash pick up, recycling at curbside; (3) bi-weekly leaf and brush removal; and (4) well maintained street system.
 - #2 Objective - Fast and efficient emergency services: (1) maintaining a low crime rate; (2) nationally recognized Community Policing; (3) Senior Citizen call program; (4) First Responder program to assist Emergency Medical Services; (5) Fire prevention; and (6) Fire suppression.
 - #3 Objective - Well organized and competent staff: (1) low tax rate; (2) very high tax collection rates; and (3) nationally recognized financial programming.
 - #4 Objective - Zoning and subdivision protection: (1) reviewing and approval for new subdivisions; and (2) enforcement of zoning ordinance.
- (2) Strategic Planning Goal #2 - To promote the stability of existing residential neighborhoods while providing for a diversity of housing alternatives to meet the needs of all age and income groups.
 - #1 Objective - Guidance and supervision to area developers in the development of single-family residential homes, multi-family homes, townhouses and condos.
 - #2 Objective - Provide recreation needs of our citizens: (1) funding Lake Louise, the Town provides a safe place for our citizens to walk, exercise, fish, picnic and for small children to play; (2) Senior Citizen Luncheon; (3) development of our wildlife habit nature park; and (4) Fourth of July celebration, Christmas Parade.
 - #3 Objective - Walkable community: (1) construction of new sidewalks and sidewalk maintenance.
 - #4 Objective - Safe Community: (1) Weaverville Police and Fire Departments provide assistance to our residents as necessary without additional cost to the citizens.

- (3) Strategic Planning Goal #3 - Promote an economy with an appropriate balance of industry, business and services, developed in harmony with the environment and the Town's residential character.

#1 Objective - Use of Planning and Zoning Guidelines: (1) provide assistance to developers with plan review in order to ensure that the guidelines of the Town are met; and (2) work with the Planning & Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment.

- (4) Strategic Planning Goal #4 – Improve the provisions of public facilities and services that will benefit the residents of Weaverville.

#1 Objective - Provide public facilities: (1) maintain the following: (a) water treatment facility and distribution lines; (b) municipal facility; (c) public works facility; (d) fire department; and (e) storm drainage projects.

- (5) Strategic Planning Goal #5 - To promote the distinct community identity of the Town of Weaverville within the county, the region and the state.

#1 Objective - Community Leadership: (1) to be recognized as a leader in financial development within the region and State by receiving the GFOA Budget Award and CAFER; (2) serve on statewide committees for the North Carolina League of Municipalities; and (3) serving on local community board of directors and planning agencies.

Mayor Bellamy praised Weaverville for the positive way they are dealing with growth in their community. In response, Mayor Stroud said that the Town has standards in place that promote good growth, e.g., sidewalks, lighting ordinances, etc.

Councilman Knoefel noted that the Town is in the process of a total re-evaluation of all their ordinances in order to bring them up-to-date.

In response to Councilman Mumpower, Councilman Knoefel said that they have not encountered any growth conflict with the Town of Woodfin. Vice-Mayor Davis noted that people probably would prefer that they be annexed by the Town of Weaverville because of the services Weaverville offers.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, Councilman Hallingse said that regarding annexation, Weaverville has their own water system and when a developer comes in and requests water, they have a choice of being annexed or paying double water rates. City Manager Morgan said that the choice offered really depends on where the property is located - if it's close to the Town and in their area they are looking for annexation, they suggest annexation.

Mayor Bellamy asked Weaverville to consider supporting Asheville in trying to get that annexation tool for growth and development, noting that the process is transparent and you can chart cost savings for individuals coming into the Town. Councilman Mumpower also noted that Weaverville provides an excellent model of how that works.

In response to Councilman Currie, City Attorney Oast said that he would provide the Town of Weaverville with a copy of Asheville's federal legislative requests, noting that one request is the introduction of legislation that will permit the City of Asheville to require that property with respect to which water service is requested be incorporated into the City, consistent with the laws of voluntary annexation in the State of North Carolina, or other reasonable limitation.

When Councilwoman Jones asked if Weaverville has discussed regional growth with Buncombe County or have had conversations on green initiatives on the Buncombe County Parks & Greenways Plan, Mayor Stroud said that they have had no conversations about that plan, but felt it was important and would be open for discussion.

Mayor Bellamy felt it would be nice to see some greenway connectivity between Asheville and Weaverville along the river.

Vice-Mayor Davis felt there were some good opportunities for a marked bicycle route through Woodfin to Weaverville along the river as well.

In response to Councilman Mumpower on ways that Asheville can partner with Weaverville, City Manager Morgan said that we do have mutual aid agreements with the Police and Fire Departments. He said they are not now partnering with Asheville on drug interdiction, noting that Weaverville is not having the same types of issues that Asheville has in that matter. He then explained the many programs they have instituted to keep their crime rate extremely low in Weaverville.

In response to Mayor Bellamy, Mayor Stroud said that she was not aware of the I-SAFE Program that educates parents on

internet predators but would like Asheville to provide that information to her.

Mayor Bellamy noted that last week our House Study Committee on Annexation recommended to the Full House a moratorium on all annexations, except voluntary contiguous annexations, until June of 2009. She said that City Council hadn't had an opportunity to discuss that yet. Mayor Stroud expressed concern, noting that their Council hasn't had a chance to discuss that yet either.

In response to Councilman Hallingse, Mayor Bellamy briefly explained the I-26 Connector process to date, noting that a report should be coming back to City Council near August 1, 2008 for an update. She explained the need for our communities to come together or the funds for the connector will go to other municipalities. She said that when the report is scheduled for City Council, we will notify and invite neighboring communities to hear first hand the report from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

In response to Councilman Newman, City Manager Morgan explained Weaverville's health plan initiative, along with their wellness program.

Councilman Hallingse explained how the Town of Weaverville is partnering with Asheville on large Fire Department purchases.

Mayor Bellamy summarized the following outcomes from this very beneficial meeting as follows: (1) Asheville staff will provide the Town of Weaverville with a copy of their federal legislation agenda; (2) Asheville staff will invite area municipalities to the I-26 Connector NCDOT Update when it comes before the Asheville City Council; (3) regarding the annexation legislation, Asheville staff will notify the Town of Weaverville when that issue comes forward and Asheville Council will possibly ask Weaverville to be co-authors on a position; (4) Asheville City Council asked Weaverville to consider being supportive of Asheville's legislative request regarding an additional tool for growth and development; (5) Share information on the recently approved Bicycle Plan for a possible bicycle route along the river through Woodfin to Weaverville; (6) Asheville staff to provide information to Weaverville on the I-SAFE Program; (7) Asheville staff to follow-up on the possibility of a greenway along the river connecting Asheville to Weaverville; (8) Explore the potential of combining fire apparatus purchases; (9) Share information on debt financing alternative and interest rates comparisons; (10) Share information on the Asheville Project (health care); and (11) Asheville City Council encouraged Weaverville to bring something to Asheville's attention when there is something affecting them that the City might miss.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Bellamy again thanked Mayor Stroud and the Weaverville Council for their willingness to meet and noted that her goal is for our municipalities to work together and support each other to benefit our employees and also our communities as a whole.

Mayor Bellamy hoped to continue having conversations with Weaverville on ways they can help and support one another.

On behalf of the Weaverville Council, Mayor Stroud thanked the City of Asheville for hosting this joint meeting.

At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Bellamy and Mayor Stroud adjourned their respective meetings.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR