

Tuesday – February 7, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.
Buncombe County Administrative Building

Joint Asheville City Council and Buncombe County County Commissioner Meeting

Present: Mayor Esther E. Manheimer, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Gwen C. Wisler; Councilman Cecil Bothwell; Councilman Brian D. Haynes; Councilwoman Julie V. Mayfield; Councilman Gordon D. Smith; Councilman W. Keith Young; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; City Attorney Robin T. Currin; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Present: Chair Brownie Newman, Presiding; Vice-Chair Ellen Frost; Commissioner Joe Belcher; Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara; Commissioner Mike Fryar; Commissioner Robert Pressley; Commissioner Al Whitesides; County Manager Wanda Greene; County Attorney Bob Deutsch; and County Clerk Kathy Hughes

County Commissioner Chair Newman and Mayor Manheimer welcomed the audience to this joint meeting.

County Manager Greene and City Manager Jackson highlighted a list of partnerships and collaborations between the City and County, some being, but are not limited to: emergency management; Asheville-Buncombe County Arson Task Force; Buncombe County Anticrime Task Force; City/County Identification Bureau; Child Advocacy Center; CrimeStoppers; Criminal Justice Information System; DWI Task Force; Family Justice Center; Focused Deterrence; Task Force 2; African American Heritage Commission; Energy Innovation Task Force; Historic Resources Commission; Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee; Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission; City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy; Civil Rights Services; Economic Development; HOME; Libraries; Pack Square Cultural Partnership; WNC Diversity Engagement Coalition; Environmental Control Specialists; Air Quality Management; Alternative Fuel Station; Phase II Organic Waste Processing Feasibility Study; Parks, Greenways & Recreation; WNC Nature Center; Transit; Animal Shelter; Spay/Neuter Services; and Geographic Information System.

Commissioner Frost stressed that the City and County join forces in addressing the opium problem in our community.

Assistant County Manager Jon Creighton and Assistant City Manager Cathy Ball updated the Council and Commissioners on the City and County capital construction projects, along with Buncombe County Manager of Recreation Services Josh O'Conner reviewing the County's greenways.

At the request of Commissioner Frost, Councilman Smith explained the City's land use incentive grant program.

Chair Newman, Councilwoman Mayfield and Mr. Jason Walls, District Manager of Duke Energy, and Virginia Lacy, representing Rocky Mountain Institute, updated the Council and Commissioners on the task of the Energy Innovation Task Force. The effort is to come up with a plan that will (1) reduce the overall energy usage in Asheville and Buncombe County; and (2) reduce peak usage on cold winter mornings. They hope to (1) develop and compare potential actions to avoid a peaking power plant at Duke Energy's Lake Julian; (2) reduce costs for consumers; and (3) identify opportunities for the City and County to leverage existing programs and turbocharge action. They hope to bring back an initial 2-year plan in the coming months.

There was discussion, during the informational session on the Energy Innovation Task Force, about the need to do a better job of connecting customers with programs that will save the customers money and help achieve the Task Force's goals.

County Manager Greene provided an update on the planning for the renovation of East Asheville Library, noting that their architect will draw some alternative plans and they will go back to the community in March. In the meantime they will send out a survey to seek input from other users of the library. It will then be determined if they can site the facility being requested on the existing property and if not, the question will then be where to locate the East Asheville Library.

Mayor Manheimer updated the Commissioners and Council on the Asheville-Buncombe African American Heritage Commission. The Commission's purpose is to recognize African American history in Asheville and Buncombe County. The City and County have recently allocated funds to help facilitate community conversations in a strategic planning session on ways to commemorate the contributions of the African American community. Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara felt we need to step up in new ways to address racial equity with a new level of commitment, resources and honesty. Commissioner Whitesides was pleased that we are finally starting to show that we are serious about their Commission's purpose.

Chair Newman and Mayor Manheimer adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor