
Transit Priorities

Traffic Signal Priority for Transit Vehicles (and Emergency Vehicles)

Super Stops for Nodal Transit System

Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station

Purchase of Trolley Bus

Upon inquiry of Councilwoman Jones, Mr. Baechtold said that none of the new project priorities two years ago actually advanced to the TIP by the NC DOT. However, some projects are being completed so there may be some opportunities for some of these projects to make the list.

Councilman Peterson asked who did the rankings. Mr. Baechtold responded that they are done by the Technical Coordinating Commission by consensus. Some of the projects that did not rank high are having some improvements made even if they don't get in the TIP.

City Manager Westbrook said that it is our challenge in this year's budget to develop a revenue source to be able to go to the NC DOT and say that we have local funds we can contribute to this project. Then, perhaps, the NC DOT may feel that the City is really committed in completing this project and it will get on the priority list of funding. He also recommended City Council establish a relationship with our local NC DOT representatives who can carry the City's needs to the Raleigh office.

When Councilman Peterson asked about certain districts receiving a sum of money, Mr. Baechtold did say that a certain amount of money is allocated to DOT districts, but their funding process is hard to understand. Therefore, we just prioritize our list and hope that some of our projects makes it to the TIP for funding.

Upon inquiry of Councilman Peterson about the transit priorities, Mr. Baechtold said that these come out of a separate funding source. City Manager Westbrook said that the compressed natural gas fueling station was awarded funding, but that grant was frozen. However, the City has now applied to another state agency for funding of that station and it looks promising at this point.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Finance Director Bill Schaefer said that this is the presentation of the City of Asheville annual audit report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2001.

City Council retained an independent audit firm, Crisp Hughes Evans LLP of Asheville, N.C., to perform an audit of the City of Asheville for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, as required by North Carolina General Statute 159-34. The auditors gave the City an unqualified audit opinion. (The term "unqualified" means that the auditors' opinion that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the City is not modified by reservations or restrictions.)

Mr. Brian Broom, Director of Crisp, Hughes Evans LLP, gave a brief presentation of their findings. He said their report for the 2001 audit expresses and unqualified opinion (clean) on the fair representation of the general purpose financial statements in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The Local Government Commission recommends governmental entities maintain, at a minimum fund balance equal to 8% of expenditures. The City's fund balance for 2001 is about 12-13%.

Mr. Schaefer answered various questions from Council regarding the financial report.

Upon inquiry of Councilwoman Jones, Mr. Schaefer updated Council on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's new reporting standard.

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING LOCATION ON JANUARY 29, 2002

At the suggestion of City Manager Westbrook, it was the consensus of City Council to hold the January 29, 2002, City Council community meeting at Skyland Volunteer Fire Department, if available, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Peterson suggested coordinating the City neighborhood walks with a couple of weeks from a City Council's community meeting in the same area.

WATER AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT

It was the consensus of City Council to instruct the City Clerk to prepare the proper paperwork to appoint Mayor Worley to fill the position on the Water Authority left vacant by Tommy Sellers, term to expire September 11, 2004, or until his successor has been appointed.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

City Council members were assigned various liaison and member positions on it's various boards and commissions.

DISCUSSION ON LAST QUARTERLY APPOINTMENT PROCESS

It was the consensus of City Council to discuss the last quarterly appointment process at the January 15, 2002, worksession with the intent to give City Clerk Bureson instructions for interviews or appointments. In addition, the City Clerk was instructed to re-advertise for all board vacancies until January 4, 2002.

Councilman Dunn requested City Council consider amending it's rules to allow only American citizens be appointed to their boards.

Vice-Mayor Bellamy asked City Council to consider appointment Buncombe County residents to the Film Commission.

After discussion, it was the consensus of City Council for the City Council Boards/Commissions Committee review these requests, and more mentioned during the discussion, at an upcoming date and report back to the full Council with their recommendations.

MEETING TIME CHANGE

Due to a recent Institute of Government class being held for newly elected Council Members, Vice-Mayor Bellamy moved to waive the rules and take formal action at this meeting to change the time of the formal meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and carried unanimously.

Councilman Mumpower moved to change the time of the formal meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Dunn and carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Worley adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. p.m.

CITY CLERK MAYOR
