

LAW AND FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 2009,
1:00 P.M.

The Law and Finance Committee met on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 1:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The following people were present:

Law and Finance Committee:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive	Council Member Steve Brewer
Mayor Pro Tem Joseph E. Martin	Council Member Mike Stone
Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.	Council Member Charles Taylor
Council Member James Williams	Council Member Linwood Mann
City Clerk Bonnie D. White	City Attorney Susan Patterson
City Manager Hal Hegwer	City Staff

Consider Presentation from Abby Cameron Regarding the American Red Cross

Abby Cameron, representative from the American Red Cross, gave an overview of the organization's activities last year. Her office is located in the Arts and Community Building and is opened 24 hours a day, seven days a week for disasters. She presented a packet of information to council members which included their budget for Lee and Chatham Counties. They had forty house fires during the last fiscal year: 20 house fires in Lee County and 20 in Chatham County. The American Red Cross receives calls from the Fire and Police Departments and they generally respond within thirty minutes. They provide individuals with emergency shelter; give them three nights hotel immediately; give them a voucher to take to a local hotel and provide them with a debit card. The debit card is activated on scene most of the time. They receive money for emergency food, emergency clothing, bedding, and medication. The American Red Cross provides a deposit and first month's rent for individuals. If they need to move to an apartment or to another form of housing, they provide that as well for them. This is generally provided within the first week or two.

Ms. Cameron stated that they provide CPR, babysitting classes, pet first-aid classes, and CPR training for professional Police Officers, Firefighters, and Nurses. They provide CPR training on-site at businesses, in office, doctors' offices, wherever the client wants them to be held. They are in charge of blood services. They are always looking for donor sites such as churches, schools, and individual businesses. So many donor sites have been lost due to the economy and plant closings. For fiscal year ending 2009, they were short \$8,000 in reimbursement from blood services, which is a direct result from not being able to collect the blood they need to collect in Lee County.

Ms. Cameron explained that they provide Armed Forces Emergency Services. They provide direct contact to a service man within an hour. If someone was to call her office, they would give them a 1-800 number that goes to the Armed Services Bank. They give them the information of the soldier, where they are located, their rank, and within one hour, someone will contact that soldier and give them the message that needs to be relayed to them. The American Red Cross also provides chaplains in the field to do this also. It is a great service.

Ms. Cameron informed Council that they are in desperate need of disaster volunteers. She is in the process of building a disaster team for this area. They train disaster members free of charge. They go to her office at the Arts and Community building and they learn about mass care, sheltering at the high schools, and preparedness. Disaster members will also have a class that will train them on how to fill out paperwork. They need twenty-five volunteers to be trained in case of a disaster. If we do not have a team in Lee County, we would have to wait for a team from Raleigh, which would take about two hours.

Consider Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2009-2010 – (Exhibit A)

City Engineer Paul Weeks explained that the Department of Transportation received some ARRA funding to widen Highway 78. It is approximately 2.5 miles and they plan to install a third lane which would be a turn lane. This ordinance appropriates \$130,000 to relocate some waterlines along this highway.

Consider Granting of Easement to Progress Energy – (Exhibit B)

City Engineer Paul Weeks stated that the Department of Transportation is working on Iron Furnace Road. They are going to pave it for us. Progress Energy has some utility poles that need to be moved and in order to move them, the City has to give them an easement to do so.

Consider Award of Endor Iron Furnace Engineering Contract – (Exhibit C)

Community Development Director Bob Bridwell reminded Council that several months ago, Council gave staff authority to apply for some Department of Cultural Resources grant for some engineering work at the Endor Iron Furnace. We received the grant a couple of months ago and advertised per the requirements of the Cultural Resources and solicited for qualifications for that project. We made a request for proposals to three firms and only received one “responsive” quote. That quote is from DCF Engineering, Inc., for \$9,840. The committee from the Railroad House met with the engineer and discussed the project. Staff and the committee from the Railroad House recommend awarding the grant to DCF Engineering. The match for the grant is coming from the Railroad House Museum.

Playful City USA Award Presentation

Mr. Bridwell had Mrs. Kennedy to hold a sign the City received from the Playful City USA designation to be displayed along a major roadway. He presented the trophy we received to the city manager. Mayor Pro Tem Martin thanked Council Member Steve Brewer for bringing the Playful City USA idea and pocket parks to the City of Sanford. Council Member Mike Stone added that the pocket parks were a subject that he heard about from the residents while attending the National Night Out events. He thanked Mayor Olive for bringing up the idea of putting up a basketball goal at one park and now that has spread all over our community.

Consider Status of City Pedestrian Plan – (Exhibit D)

Downtown Executive Director David Montgomery displayed a PowerPoint presentation to Council and the public regarding the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. They have been working on this project with the consultants, McGill and Associates, since March. The

consultants have been very responsive with city staff. Mr. Montgomery recognized Mike Norris and Mike Apke with McGill and Associates in the audience.

Mr. Montgomery said that they initially started the process with a steering committee and staff comments. They looked at the existing conditions as to what is on the ground now and received a very good public input process, not only with the survey, but public workshops. In the last month, they have made their recommendations and presented that back to the steering committee. At the initial meeting, a steering committee was formed which consisted of members from a variety of organizations representing what they thought were the individuals most impacted by pedestrian activities. The first few minutes of the steering committee were to establish a vision statement for where we wanted the city to be in the next ten years. This plan is what they have come up with. He feels it shows that we want to promote a high quality of life through a safe, well-connected and aesthetically pleasing pedestrian network that is available to and usable by all the citizens of the City of Sanford. After establishing that vision statement, they established the goals and objectives stated in Exhibit D. He feels the Pedestrian Plan is integral to the Downtown Plan.

The consultants did a “windshield” survey that shows areas which lack or have incomplete facilities, dangerous intersections, needed repairs, and obstacles. They have also reviewed existing studies and reports such as the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the Community Development Plan, and the 2020 Land Use Plan. They studied pedestrian accidents since 1992 which are most prevalent along Horner Boulevard. Details and maps are contained in Exhibit D.

Mike Norris, of McGill and Associates, discussed and summarized for council some of the community meetings held on the weekend of April 25-26. Over a hundred people gave feedback. He stated that Horner Boulevard is an important corridor that almost acts as a barrier between one side of the city to another. He says there are safety issues in crossing over. He stated that there is a lack of access to the schools and problems with connectivity. A community survey provided information contained in Exhibit D along with an assessment of pedestrian needs. Maps included in Exhibit D show proposed major pedestrian corridors; proposed major greenway corridors; proposed pedestrian networks north and south; proposed pedestrian network, schools; and pedestrian corridor priorities. He explained that their status as of today is that they are defining the priorities and establishing talks. This document will include a capital improvements’ plan that will address each corridor laying out the spot improvements. Safety is a priority in understanding intersection improvements; crosswalk areas; pedestrian signal heads, etc. They will be looking at policies in street and sidewalk design standards. A draft of the document has been submitted to Department of Transportation (DOT) for their review and we should hear back from the DOT in the near future.

Council Member Stone commented that he was disappointed that they had received only sixty-three surveys out of 30,000 residents. He suggested in the future going to Wal-Mart or somewhere to get more citizen input. He suggested using different aesthetics for sidewalks depending on where they are located.

Council Member Taylor stated that a portion of the sidewalk on Horner Boulevard near Stewart Manor is inaccessible because of a light pole is in the middle of the sidewalk. Mr. Taylor stated that over 90 percent of the residents in that area are on disability, and many use scooters or wheelchairs. Mr. Taylor asked how many miles or feet of sidewalk the city maintains in the city limits and what the conditions are of those? Public Works Director Vic Czar replied that he was not sure how many miles of sidewalk there are, but he could find out. City Manager Hegwer said there is limited budget being used for sidewalks. No new funds have been set aside for sidewalks. Mr. Hegwer said that council needed to be considering the kinds of things they want in the future for new development. Mr. Hegwer stated that the city spends somewhere in the range \$50,000 - \$100,000 for catch basin drainage and sidewalk maintenance per year. There have never been any funds for new installations of sidewalk. That is another issue to address going forward. Annually, we prepare a contract for curb and gutter maintenance and that is the limit of what we have been doing for many years.

ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

Other Business

Council Member McNeil thanked everyone for their participation in National Night Out. He thanked Mr. Bridwell for working with Mr. Brewer's idea about the Playful City. He said he had spoken to City Manager Hegwer about the pocket parks. They are being well used, but during the middle of the day, it is too hot for the children to play there. There is no shade area around it. He has asked about a partnership with someone to get a parachute-type covering just for the play area.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin thanked Mayor Olive for being instrumental in getting our neighborhood parks. Mr. Martin said that he appreciated that everyone on the Board has input and works together to get things done. He said one person couldn't get anything done, but working together they are able to get many things done.

Council Member Stone said he had a call from a lady in Forest Hills who was very complimentary about the lighting improvements in her area. He thanked staff for their work.

Council Member Brewer said that he had received comments about the lighting, too. The historic area has had some recent installments that look great. He thanked Mr. Bridwell and his staff for their Playful USA efforts.

Mayor Olive, noting that some teenagers had been involved in recent shootings, asked if there is a gang officer doing anything about intervention in schools now. Mr. Hegwer said that they are involved in different things, but he could check and find out. Mayor Olive referenced a newspaper article about various sources of funding for the renovation of the Burgaw Depot and she thought Sanford might be able to use some of these ideas.

Law and Finance Committee Meeting
August 12, 2009

Adjournment

Having no further business to come before the Law & Finance Committee, the meeting was adjourned upon the motion of Council Member Walter McNeil; seconded by Council Member Mike Stone, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelia P. Olive, Mayor

Bonnie D. White, City Clerk