

MINUTES OF RETREAT OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council held the third day of its annual retreat at the Sanford Municipal Center in the West End Conference Room, in Sanford, North Carolina, on Friday, January 22, 2010, at 8:30 A.M. The following people were present:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive	Council Member Sam Gaskins
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone	Council Member James G. Williams
Council Member Charles Taylor	Council Member Poly Cohen
City Manager Hal Hegwer	City Attorney Susan C. Patterson
Deputy City Clerk Janice Cox	

Absent:

Council Member Linwood Mann
Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.
City Clerk Bonnie White

Mayor Olive called to order the reconvened meeting of the Sanford City Council in retreat. Mayor Olive addressed a mistake in the Sanford Herald regarding an article about a fire station. City Manager Hegwer stated he would get it clarified.

Community Development Director Bob Bridwell stated that staff is trying to bring the Pedestrian Plan to a conclusion and is presenting to council today the products they are recommending.

Downtown Development Manager II David Montgomery explained that staff's pedestrian plan proposal is based on information gathered by consultants. This should not be considered the comprehensive plan, but rather those things that need to be looked at short-term.

The consultants looked at the current sidewalk system. We have 35.1 miles (185,384 linear feet) of sidewalk. If we had to repair/replace just the sidewalk we have in place, it would cost about \$225,720. The City normally spends \$100,000 a year on repair and maintenance of sidewalks. Mr. Montgomery feels we are doing a good job of maintaining what we currently have. There are, however, gaps in the current system that should be filled in based on: 1) safety factors—facility condition, major intersection facilities, traffic volume, traffic speed, and accident history; 2) connectivity—schools, medical facilities, recreation/leisure, retail center, downtown, connector routes; 3) socio-economic status of the area—median income, households without vehicles, school aged children. The total linear feet of new sidewalk proposed for Priority 1 gaps is 19,496 at a cost of about \$974,800.

The consultants had many recommendations, but there are four special projects that staff is proposing. There may be grant money available for some of this work. These projects include installing sidewalk and crosswalk around Central Carolina Hospital; installing a sidewalk around O.T. Sloan Park, the Civic Center, and CCCC; installing a multi-use trail on Carbondon Road

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from Carthage Street to the Greenway; and streetscape on the north side of McIver Street between Chatham Street and the creek. (Exhibit A)

The Chatham-McIver Street multi-use parking lot has been assessed in partnership with Progressive Contractors. Mr. Montgomery stated that it makes sense that when the renovation to that parking lot occurs to dovetail that with the streetscape improvements. Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Bridwell reviewed the proposed plan drawn up by landscape architects. It includes parking added in the demolished building area, floodplain and floodway added; entry and parking design revised; existing streetscape to be replaced with new streetscape; and overlay existing pavement with new pavement. Mr. Bridwell stated that this is an opportunity for creating a municipal parking lot. Progressive would still have their part, but the City would get the curb and gutter, the additional lighting and landscaping that we would like to have in a municipal parking lot, and a much more attractive flow. Progressive only needs spaces available for their tenants. (Exhibit B)

Council discussed downtown enhancements, sidewalks, safety measures, and improved parking, with designs to slow down traffic through town.

Strategic Services Administrator Don Kovasckitz presented a report on crime statistics in North Carolina, which included the City of Sanford 10-year crime statistics (1999-2008) assembled from information on the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) website. Violent crimes reported in Sanford decreased by 32 percent from 1999 to 2008 or a 42 percent decrease from the high in 2002. The ten-year trend for violent crime in Sanford is on its way down. Over the same ten-year period, property crime is down 51 percent or from the high in 2002 down by 53 percent. We have a downward trend for the last six years. Mr. Kovasckitz explained that population is the only correlate utilized in crime indexes, but discussed other factors to take into consideration in looking at areas with the highest crime counts. These include population density, composition of the population, stability of the population, transportation, economic conditions, cultural factors, family conditions, citizens' attitudes, and policies of the criminal justice system. Council discussed ways to improve the crime statistics in the highest reported areas in the city and how to address citizens' perception of the crime problem. (Exhibit C)

Public Works Director Vic Czar discussed the City's plans to replace street lights with LED lights. Mr. Czar says that there is a twelve-year life cycle on street lights. Street Superintendent Magda Holloway explained that we are in Year 2 of the ten-year Street Light Enhancement program. Mr. Hegwer said that the program could be slowed down a little for evaluation before switching out for LED lights.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Steve Stewart presented an overview of his department. He explained that his department is responsible for maintaining all city buildings in a safe, structurally sound, and aesthetically pleasing condition. They also receive and direct calls from residents of the City. His department keeps a storeroom of hardware, safety vests, shovels, etc. in order to provide user departments with materials which are required for departmental operations. The Horticulture Department maintains, beautifies, and improves the appearance of traffic islands and interior/exterior scapes at municipal buildings and parking areas. There are 61.85 acres of grass within the City to be cut and 6.84 acres of shrubbery to maintain. There are

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1.87 acres of perennials and 0.17 acre of annuals. In the near future, Mr. Stewart expects his department to maintain the 3.13 acres of shrubbery, .16 acres of perennials, and an undetermined amount of grass for an anticipated contracted maintenance on the U. S. 421 Bypass; about .62 acres of shrubbery, hardscapes, and turf at MLK Memorial Park; and about 1.5 miles of hardscape and natural areas for the Endor Furnace Trail/Greenway. (Exhibit D)

Public Works Director Vic Czar gave a status report on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Through the environmental review, Fish and Wildlife determined that there is an endangered species in the Deep River. City was given a choice to either enter the Stormwater program or enter into a program where we would monitor selected sites for certain stormwater pollutants. City chose the latter.

Mayor Olive requested time to take up some items not included so far in the retreat schedule. She wanted to address the skate park issue, get updates on the golf course, and let individual council members bring up things they want to accomplish in their wards. City Manager Hegwer said that another session could be arranged. Council Member Taylor stated that Lee County Parks and Recreation Director John Payne would need to be present to talk about the skate park. He also asked for prioritizing of the projects presented to Council during this retreat.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned upon motion of Council Member Charles Taylor; seconded by Council Member James Williams, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelia P. Olive, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Cox, Deputy City Clerk