

LAW AND FINANCE MEETING  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012  
1:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers

The Law and Finance Committee met on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at 1:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The following people were present:

Law and Finance Committee:

Mayor Cornelia Olive	Council Member Rebecca Wyhof
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins	Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.
Council Member L.I. (Poly) Cohen	Council Member James Williams
Council Member Jimmy Haire	City Attorney Susan Patterson
City Manager Hal Hegwer	City Clerk Bonnie D. White

Absent:

Council Member Charles Taylor

Mayor Olive called the meeting to order.

Consider Update from the Lee County Sheriff's Department Regarding Animal Control —  
(Exhibit A)

Lieutenant David Prevatte, from the Lee County Sheriff's Department, presented an annual report on animal control for the time period of March 2011 through December 2011, which is the time that animal control was transferred from the Health Department to the Sheriff's Office. He advised there is an animal control officer on duty seven days a week from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Anytime after those hours, a uniform deputy will answer calls until the next morning. The uniform deputy will call the on-call animal control officer if needed. Policies were reviewed in January 2011 and approved by the former health director.

Lt. Prevatte reported during that time period there were 1,535 calls for service for the City and 1,437 for the County. He added that 315 animals were picked up in the City and 364 in the County. He said that Detective Chuck Thomas handles all the felony investigations.

Lt. Prevatte gave an update on data related to animal control as listed in Exhibit A. He announced that there will be a rabies clinic held on April 7, 2012, at the Sheriff's Office from 10 A.M. until 1 P.M.

Mayor Olive and Mayor Pro Tem Gaskins stated that they have heard nothing but excellent reports on the job they are doing with animal control. Mr. Gaskins said that as a resident of Lee County, he asked that when they are writing these reports, if it is possible for them to say inside the City limits and outside the City limits, because he thinks all citizens inside the City limits are also residents of the County. He wants all citizens in the City to be considered as County residents as well.

Consider Award of Demolition Proposal for 305 and 307 Fourth Street, FY 09 Maple Avenue Community Development Block Grant Project – (Exhibit B)

Community Development Manager II Karen Kennedy explained that bids were received for the demolition of two mobile homes located at 305 and 307 Fourth Street, at the intersection of Fourth Street and Maple Avenue. This is the lot where the neighborhood park is planned. The project was advertised twice because the first time only one bid was received. It was advertised again and five bids were received. Staff recommends awarding the project to Robert Taylor of Clayton, North Carolina, in the amount of \$4,600.

Consider Award of Rehabilitation Bids for 324 Maple Avenue and 400 Maple Avenue, FY 09 Maple Avenue Community Development Block Grant Project – (Exhibit C)

Community Development Manager II Karen Kennedy advised that bids were received for the rehabilitation of two structures – 324 Maple Avenue and 400 Maple Avenue. This project had to be bid two times because the first time the bids came in, they were over budget. This has to do with the lead that is in the homes and we have to address the homes as part of the rehabilitation process; so they reduced some of the cosmetic type items in the work write-up and rebid the project. Six bids were received and staff recommends awarding the rehabilitation of 324 Maple Avenue to D&A Complete Construction from Shannon, North Carolina, in the amount of \$59,000 and the rehabilitation of 400 Maple Avenue to Calvin Sedberry from Candor, North Carolina, in the amount of \$54,825. Both contractors have worked in the rehabilitation program.

Consider Ordinance to Erect Stop Signs Within the City of Sanford Chapter 36, Traffic Code of Ordinances - (Exhibit D)

Sedric Dalrymple, from the Street Department, stated that the ordinance erects stop signs on Little John Lane at Crusaders Drive, and on Scarlet Lane at Crusaders Drive in the Nottingham Subdivision.

Consider Resolution Authorizing Application to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center for Hillcrest Farm Road Water Line Extension – (Exhibit E)

Public Works Administrator Laura Spivey advised that the resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center for the Hillcrest Farm Road water line extension. This is similar funding to that received for the North Plank Road water line project. The funding will grant up to 90 percent of the project. To be considered, we have to submit an application. The other 10 percent would be paid by the property owners. The only cost to the City would be staff time. Mayor Olive asked what is the cost of the project. Mrs. Spivey replied that the estimate for the project is \$55,000. The City would be asking for a \$50,000 grant.

Consider Tree Planting Program – (Exhibit F)

Downtown Development Manager II David Montgomery stated that he is seeking authorization to pay for and hire a contractor to pre-dig 36 holes on both public and private property for our urban forestry grant. In addition, he is seeking authorization for staff to help property owners and residents in maintaining the trees for a period of one year. Last spring, staff applied for an urban forestry grant. We thought it was a good segway for the community

development project that is happening on Maple Avenue, as well as, the work that the Mayor's East Sanford Task Force was doing.

Mr. Montgomery advised that we did receive the \$5,000 grant. It did require a match at that time and when staff wrote the application, we wrote the match as \$1,150 in cash and the remainder was to be in-kind with staff administration, etc.

He said that now looking at the sites and locations, staff feels that hiring someone to pre-dig those holes would be beneficial because some of those properties have had cars to drive on them for a number of years and the soil is very compact. It would be better for the trees in the long run by hiring someone with the proper equipment to break up the soil and pre-dig the holes. Staff believes the cost will be \$20 to \$30 per tree and that is the reason we are requesting an additional \$1,000. He feels they can take it from the Public Works grounds budget and if Council so chooses to do so, we will need a budget amendment for Tuesday night to move that money from Public Works to the matching grant budget of \$1,150.

Mr. Montgomery advised that they plan to have two tree plantings. They plan on planting fifteen Trident Maple trees along Maple Avenue on March 17, 2012. He referred to the map showing the location of where the trees will be planted. Volunteers from the North Carolina Urban Forestry Council plan to be here along with the Appearance Commission members, as well as the residents and property owners. On April 28, 2012, they plan to plant 21 Kousa Dogwood trees along McIver Street with property owners, residents, and volunteers from the Mayor's East Sanford Task Force.

Public Works staff will be needed to deliver the trees from the Service Center on those Fridays before those events. In addition, staff will conduct a planting workshop for property owners and residents prior to the trees being planted to educate them on proper tree and lawn care, which is the intent of the grant. However, they want Council to be aware that some oversight may be necessary in following up with the maintenance of the trees to be sure they are watered properly, etc.

Mr. Hegwer advised that Council has already approved a budget amendment for the match of \$1,150. Staff is asking for an additional \$1,000 that would be utilized from the Horticulture budget to pre-dig the holes. Mayor Olive asked if the \$1,000 would cover the 36 trees to be planted. Mr. Montgomery replied yes; that is correct.

City Attorney Susan Patterson advised that there is some research that she is still continuing to do. She just got this item and she wants to determine that if we infuse city funds for work done on private property that it meets the public purpose test. The grant funds have been approved for this project; she would like to verify the extra \$1,000 within the authority of Council to grant for improvements on private property.

Mayor Olive clarified that we would have to have permission from the property owner. Mr. Montgomery replied yes. Attorney Patterson stated that her department has supplied Mr. Montgomery with a right-of-entry agreement for the owners to sign.

Consider Health Plan Renewal for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 – (Exhibit G)

Human Resources Director Christy Pickens said that last week, the City's insurance broker and employees' benefits consultant, Mark Browder, met with Council to discuss the health renewal options for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. She is seeking Council's approval to move forward with the insurance plan so that staff can begin educational sessions with employees and begin the open-enrollment benefits period, which starts in May. She said the PPO plan is what we have in place. Staff is recommending changes to the deductible both for the individual and the family and changes to the co-payment for the emergency room services and minor changes to the pharmacy co-pays. In addition to that, they are looking at introducing a health savings account. Mr. Browder discussed this last week at the retreat.

Mrs. Pickens said that staff is looking for approval on introducing the HSA and making those changes so that staff can educate employees around the early April time frame.

Mr. Hegwer said that staff is seeking a consensus today to see if Council is comfortable with that plan or if they had other alternatives. We have to inform the employees quickly.

There was a consensus of Council to proceed with this plan.

Other Business

Council Member Walter McNeil expressed concern about two homes on Pineland Street that no one has been living in for the last several years. There are continuous problems with drugs behind the houses, etc. Mr. Hegwer replied that is true. Staff has been trying to work with the owners. Those homes have been boarded up. Staff will check into this matter.

Council Member Cohen mentioned that we have several commercial buildings in town that have been sitting for years and when the tornado came, there has still been no activity with them. He did not know of any laws on the books requiring owners to repair them. Mr. Hegwer explained that the City's authority is driven by the State of North Carolina. There is a belief in personal property rights and the General Assembly is moving in the direction that would grant more freedoms for the property owner and less authority for us to regulate them. The City's authority is limited and we are looking into several situations.

Mr. Hegwer reminded Council that the Lee County Environmental Affairs Board has requested to meet jointly with the City, County, and Broadway on Tuesday, February 28, at 6 P.M. After initial response from Council, it seems to be more amenable for Council to meet with the Lee County Environmental Affairs Board by themselves and not a joint meeting with the County and Broadway. We need to inform the Environmental Affairs Board whether or not we wish to meet with them on February 28 or we prefer another venue. He asked Council to convey their preference to him so that we can reply to the board.

Mayor Olive expressed Council's condolences to Amy Gordon, who lost her mother this week.

Mayor Olive said that she has spoke with Mr. Bridwell about creating a task force made up of property owners on Horner Boulevard to see if we can work together to do some cleanup

along Horner Boulevard. She stated that if Council has any ideas about a broader vision for Horner Boulevard, Mr. Bridwell and she would be glad to hear them; otherwise, they will proceed with creating a group to look at this endeavor.

Mayor Olive stated that some council members have mentioned the City hosting some type of festival, such as a strawberry festival. She said she would like to have Brenda Larson to come and talk with Council about a festival that Sanford could hold in conjunction with the Pottery Festival or hold one separately.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Law & Finance Committee, the meeting was adjourned upon the motion of Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr.; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cornelia P. Olive, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie D. White, City Clerk