

February 15, 2013
Special Meeting of the City Council
Chamber of Commerce
8:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Collis, and Council Members: Steve Caraker, Jerry Smith, and Ron Stephens

Staff Present: City Manager Lee Galloway, City Attorney Samuel H. Fritschner, City Clerk Tammie Drake, Police Chief Herbert Blake, Engineering Director Brent Detwiler, IT Director Allen Edge, Fire Chief Dorian Flowers, Zoning Administrator Susan Frady, Main Street Director Lew Holloway, Finance Director Jim Rudisill, Personnel Officer David Sapp, Utilities Director Lee Smith, Planning Department Assistant Lu Ann Welter, Public Works Director Tom Wooten

1. Call to Order: Mayor Volk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with all five members in attendance.

2. Review of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): Mr. Rudisill reviewed the Form 3s and summary requests for Year 1 for all of the departments for the CIP. Discussion items included:

Upward Road Storage Building: \$250,000 is included to ensure it is watertight, etc. Cost sharing is possible if it is used by the Water and Sewer Department.

Coverage/equipment at new fire station: Engines 2 & 4 will be moved to the new station. The new fire truck will replace engine 1 which is 38 years old. The ladder truck will stay at the main station. Engine 3 will go into primary reserve status. There was discussion of the Fire Department serving parts of Henderson County that are physically closer to the new station. GIS will determine which Department is closer. The Dana Fire Department will also respond to calls in Hendersonville which is a true mutual aid automatic agreement with no pay.

Wi-Fi expansion: Current Wi-Fi is designed for antennas on tops of buildings on Main Street for most coverage. Because power is now underground, the antennas need to be brought down to street level. New and more antennas can be mounted on light poles. This could happen July or August. The new system will be available to the side streets and inside buildings.

Fifth Avenue Reconstruction: This should be placed in Year 1 to restart this work.

Placeholders for small projects: Neither prioritization nor funding has been done for these items: park acquisition and development, Toms Park splash park, Lenox Park improvements, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park fountain, Sullivan Park improvements, Rotary Park playground equipment upgrade. There was discussion of the closed restrooms in Sullivan Park because of vandalism.

Sidewalks: North Main/Blythe Street. N. Main Street is scheduled for sidewalks next, then Blythe Street. Discussion followed on the remaining bond funds.

Environmental Services Fund:

Patton Park: Funds may be available thru NCDOT for the establishment of engineered wetlands at Patton Park to replace the pond. This project will be designed in-house and will act as a stormwater wetland. Mayor Volk commented people enjoy the ducks and wildlife.

Refuse truck replacement: This will become a two-man crew instead of a three-man crew. The truck coming off-line will be used as a recycling truck. There was discussion of the recycling program and the possibility of changing to 96-gallon roll-out recycling carts. Mr. Wooten reported there is a grant through the State that will give cities \$75,000 to purchase these roll-out carts. This requires RFBI tags (data tracking system) on the carts in order to receive the funding. American Recycling has agreed to contribute \$25,000. He stated the City will have costs including another truck and more staff. Mr. Galloway explained data indicates a 40 percent increase in recycling with the larger carts. He stated the City will realize a savings in tipping fees. There was discussion on how to inform citizens of what can be put into recycling bins. Mr. Wooten stated the brochure is being updated and it will be posted on our website. Council Member Smith suggested a sticker be placed on the blue container to help eliminate confusion.

Water and Sewer Fund:

AMR: Mr. Lee Smith provided an update on the AMR project that is 57 percent installed. The towers are all up and ten are communicating.

Brightwater: Mr. Lee Smith stated the EPA has paid everything they can pay on that project but they may be able to help fund a project for high speed service pumps that will help the residents of Brightwater. He suggested applying the \$226,000 grant to Brightwater to pay the loan down and recalculate what the residents owe. He stated the pumps could increase pressure and will improve efficiency. He stated the idea came from the EPA.

Generator for WWTP: There was discussion on the importance of a generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sludge drying system for WWTP: Mr. Lee Smith explained there has been discussion about a power plant that would take all of the sludge, yard debris, etc. as fuel for the plant.

Dana Community well contamination: Mr. Lee Smith explained contaminated wells were discovered in the Dana community. The contamination resulted from a chemical used for termite pesticide that can also be used for crops. He stated the level of contamination is well above the accepted levels for groundwater. He stated the Division of Water Quality has been monitoring the wells. He stated a grant program will pay a percentage of the project to extend water service to the affected properties. He stated the Eastside, phase 2, project will take water lines from Highway 64 to Dana School which is within 400 feet of Academy Road where the contamination was found. There are no cost estimates at this point for extending the lines to provide water service to the affected properties.

Mr. Rudisill reported the debt load on the Water and Sewer Fund will be approximately 19 percent. He stated enterprise systems may carry a higher debt load than the General Fund side. He stated he is comfortable with the amounts because of the low interest rates.

3. Review of Two-Year Goals and Objectives Established by the Council and Any Additional Goals: Mr. Galloway reviewed Council's two-year goals and objectives established by the Council and provided updates.

Discussion of Oklawaha Greenway. Grant approval of \$700,000 was received for the Oklawaha Greenway for FY 15. Mr. Detwiler stated Phase 3 of the Oklawaha Greenway will coincide with the easement for the Jackson Park sewer project and will extend to the edge of the Berkeley Mills Park property. He reviewed drawings of the alignment of the easements. Discussion of the easements and donation of property followed. Phase 3 of the greenway needs to connect to Berkeley Mills Park which may depend on how the development of the park is phased.

Mr. Galloway stated the rough cost estimate is \$1.1 million and is shown in the CIP, Year 2. He stated the City would pay the difference (approximately \$400,000). Estimated costs assumes the worst-case scenario. He stated \$700,000 will not cover the entire project but it may be assisted by the sewer project.

Awards Program for Historic Building Rehabilitation: The program has been set up with three categories: residential, commercial and historical advocate. HPC has sent out letters to prospective awardees, including professionals and homeowners. Applications are due by March 31 and HPC is hoping for some response. They have added a \$100 cash award as an incentive.

Implement Planned Investments: The Council will hold a public hearing on the filing of an application for approval of the \$6 million financing contract at their 03.07.13 meeting.

Water Uses Reduction: The Council approved the expansion of this program at their 12.06.12 meeting due to an overwhelming number of responses for the rebates for high-efficiency clothes washers. This increased the rebate program to 180 clothes washer rebates, 240 high-efficiency toilet rebates and 60 smart irrigation system controller rebates.

Balfour Expressway: Council Member Caraker reported this project survived the MPO process and is fairly high on the MPO list for 2025. The NCDOT feasibility study for this project is underway and is scheduled for completion in late 2014.

Gateways: Improvements of sod and irrigation were made to the Southside Gateway Park. The Council is continuing discussions on the art element to be located at 7th/Main St. Phase III is on schedule to be completed Spring 2013. **The Council agreed by consensus to place the flag poles at the “north end” of Main Street in the median before the fire station.**

Mr. Galloway noted there are many appropriate places for the display of art downtown.

Economic Vitality - Wingate: A conversation with the former city manager indicated Wingate's development progress is moving forward more rapidly than anticipated. The Manager will maintain contact with Wingate for early City involvement. Mayor Volk commented the City would like to keep them in the downtown area if at all possible.

In-house Inspection Department: Council received a report from staff at their 10.04.12 meeting. No action was taken. Mayor Volk commented she brought this up to keep the process moving and eliminate bottlenecks so development may proceed as quickly as possible.

Reinstate Employee pay step increases: Preliminary discussions call for a COLA and merit increases in the FY 14 budget if possible.

Wi-Fi: Council Member Stephens asked if the Wi-Fi expansion could be done with the completion of the Main Street/7th Avenue block in early April so visitors may have it for the summer season. **Staff will report back to the City Council on the possibility of this at Council's March 7 meeting.**

Mr. Galloway suggested Council's goals and objectives be shared with the City Manager candidates. **The Council agreed by consensus.**

4. Discussion of Election Options: Mayor Volk explained it is one of Council's goals to make a decision on the election process rather than deciding every two years.

City Attorney Fritschner reviewed the election options:

The City is currently using the method of a primary and election. He explained the process stating there are either two or three seats in every election, i.e., mayor and two council members or two council members. There may be any number of candidates if constitutionally qualified. If the number of candidates is less than the number of

seats times two, there is no primary, only the election held in November. If the number of candidates is more than double the number of seats, a primary is held which narrows the top four vote getters and those people become the candidates in the election. The two with the majority votes are elected.

City Attorney Fritschner explained the advantage of the plurality method is it is decided on election day. The top two vote getters are elected but it could result in a person being elected that does not have the majority of votes.

City Attorney Fritschner stated the third option is that the [first] election is held on election day. There may be any number of candidates and if any person gets a majority of the votes, that person is seated. If not, a run off election may be required which happens after election day and generally has a low voter turn-out.

City Attorney Fritschner explained the instant run off method whereby the primary and the election is held at the same time. Hendersonville used this method in 2007 and 2009 under a pilot program. That pilot program has since ended but the City petitioned the Board of Elections to use this method without the pilot program and they have permitted it. He stated there has been some concerns expressed about it. He stated under the pilot program and since the election there has been educational programs in the newspaper and follow-up exit questionnaires at the polls. The League of Women Voters assisted in these efforts and the confusion level is now much lower. He stated the City would have to ask General Assembly to permit the instant runoff method because it is not considered one of the four methods. Council Member Stephens expressed a concern about this method in the event a hot topic issue arises between the time of the primary and the election. Council Member Caraker agreed this is a valid point. Under this method, the voter votes in priority order and it depends on the number of seats.

Mr. Galloway asked the Council to be aware of the deadline for local bills (for Charter changes) which are due by March 5 at the General Assembly.

Mayor Volk asked the Council which method they prefer and to make a decision so it doesn't have to be done every two years. She explained the main reason for instant run off method is to save the cost of an election which costs approximately \$10,000. After discussion of polling sites, possible Charter changes, etc., Mayor Volk voiced support of the one-day instant run off method because that is the day people vote and primaries have a lower turn out. **The vote of the Council for the instant run off method was three in favor (Volk, Smith, Collis) and two opposed (Stephens, Caraker who prefers the current method of non-partisan, primary). Motion carried.**

After some research, City Attorney Fritschner announced the draft bill is due by March 5. **He will draft the bill and resolution for Council's consideration at their February 20 special meeting.**

5. Discussion of Mill Building RFP: Mr. Galloway stated there is interest in the building and reported contact by a current business owner who is interested in converting the mill to a retail center. He stated the RFP will give the Council ideas and allow them to decide which ones to pursue. **The Council agreed by consensus to distribute the RFP as presented at their February 7 meeting. The deadline for proposals is April 15.**

6. Discussion of Proposal for Traffic Management on Fifth Avenue: Mr. Detwiler explained "no parking signs" were removed from Fifth Avenue. The Council reviewed the proposal from Mr. Stansbery of Kimley Horn and Associates. **Mayor Pro Tem Collis requested the scope of work be adjusted to include Third to Fifth Avenues, Blythe to Washington Streets. The Council agreed by consensus.** Mr. Detwiler will contact Kimley Horn.

7. Discussion of Main Street Project: Mr. Detwiler reviewed material options and placement for the crosswalks on Main Street from First to Seventh Avenues. Material choices are: 1. thermoplastic which is included in the bid, unsure of NCDOT approval. The City would probably have to maintain it. 2. Stamped Imprint Asphalt which is pigmented throughout. NCDOT has approved this option and they will maintain this. 3. Brick pavers with a concrete border. The Public Works Department will have to maintain this. Or, 4. White thermoplastic.

Mr. Detwiler reviewed the cost estimates for all options compared to what is included in the bid. He stated Luther Smith and Associates recommended the Sixth and 7th Avenue blocks be tied into the rest of Main Street. He stated one of the concept drawings shows having brick or other material directly around Historic Courthouse (First and Second Avenue intersections which was included in the original bid).

Mr. Detwiler reviewed a spreadsheet detailing crosswalk options and costs. In discussion, Council Member Caraker suggested the brick pavers be used which will add some cost but will wear the best, Council Member Smith agreed stating the City should maintain it so it is done in a timely fashion. Mayor Volk also agreed because of the heavy traffic on Highway 64. Mr. Detwiler also reviewed the possible patterns of brick. There was discussion on the maintenance of the bricks pavers and NCDOT snow plows on Sixth Avenue.

The Council agreed by consensus to install brick pavers in a herringbone pattern and chose layout option 1, which includes all crosswalks from First to Seventh Avenue with an estimated additional cost of \$16,196.26.

Proposal to finish the 700 Block: Mr. Detwiler reviewed options to finish the 700 block of Main Street including curb and gutter. He stated without a plaza area north of the Triangle Stop, the basic cost would be \$75,000. With a concrete plaza, landscaping, brick seat wall, etc. the cost would be an additional \$20,000. To extend improvements to Bearcat Boulevard would cost an additional \$85,000 and would involve removing the large Sycamore trees. The Council expressed no interest in this option. There was discussion of the concrete island that could be enhanced with more landscaping. Council Member Stephens voiced opposition to spending money the City shouldn't spend in this area because it may encourage travelers to turn right instead of left onto Main Street. He stated the intersection should be done but not past that. Mayor Pro Tem Collis voiced support of finishing the block as a part of Main Street. Council Member Caraker also voiced support of enhancing the area to finish the appearance as the remainder of Main Street but also voiced concerns over the additional expenditures. There was discussion of the contingency included in the project but this additional expenditure may have to come from fund balance. Mayor Pro Tem Collis also supported the idea of putting flags in that area. Mayor Volk stated she cannot envision a need for a plaza with seating but the section should be tied together with landscaping, flags, but not brick walls. Mr. Detwiler stated they have not spoken with property owners about the potential changes.

The Council agreed to discuss the 700 Block further at their March 7 meeting (excluding the cost of the plaza).

There was discussion on replacing the thermoplastic with brick pavers from Allen Street to First Avenue. **The Council requested a modification of the plan and cost estimates for brick pavers for the Allen Street to First Avenue section and agreed to discuss this further at their March 7 meeting.**

There was a brief recess for lunch.

8. Discussion of Staff Levels:

A. SRF Projects: Mr. Brent Detwiler, City Engineer, explained his staff is designing and obtaining permits for three State Revolving Fund (SRF) sewer projects: Jackson Park Sewer Interceptor, Wolfpen Sewer Interceptor and Shepherd Creek/Atkinson Elementary Sewer Improvements. All of the projects will be in construction at the same time. He explained the City must follow NCDENR's schedule for design and construction of the projects and there are funds available in the loans for construction administration. He reviewed the schedule and stated the staff in the Engineering Department cannot provide all of necessary construction inspection, necessary applications, submittals, progress meetings, etc. and is concerned with the time frame because the projects are moving quickly.

The Council discussed options for additional staffing including retaining a construction management firm for certain projects, hiring a temporary part-time construction inspector, contracting with a retiree to work for a limited amount of time, and if the City could be reimbursed from project funds for hiring someone to assist with these projects. After discussion of salaries for construction inspectors, an RFQ process, etc., **the Council requested further information on what was budgeted for administration, etc. in order to make an informed decision.**

B. Main Street Director: Mr. Holloway, Main Street Director, reviewed his duties with the Main Street Advisory Committee and his current monthly time commitments. He stated of the Main Street programs that have additional staff, it is for communications and special events. He stated he wouldn't remove himself from those duties but it would expand those features.

Mayor Pro Tem Collis stated he spoke with the Planning Director and recommended the funds for the vacant planner's position be used for a temporary position for the Main Street program. Discussion followed on Mr. Holloway's commitments including Main Street construction and his role in public art elements. **The Council agreed by consensus to use the vacant planning position funds to fund a part-time position for a year and then reassess next year.** There was discussion on qualifications of the employee including someone with marketing and promotions experience.

There was discussion of the hours, duties, pay and benefits of the additional position and the person starting before July 1. Mayor Volk commented she is not ready to open up the possibility of marketing the entire City.

After discussion, the Council **agreed by consensus to use funds from the vacant planner position to fund a part-time temporary position for the Main Street Program and authorized the City Manager and Mr. Holloway to come up with position description, advertise for the position, and hiring someone as soon as possible.** [Council did not require seeing the job description.] Mr. Rudisill explained if the part-time position is put into the Downtown Fund, there should be a contribution from the General Fund.

C. Park Manager and Maintenance Positions: Mr. Galloway stated this idea came from the staff meeting and is not Mr. Wooten's request. He explained because of the City's commitment to parks, greenways, etc. the Council may need to consider a position to oversee the parks and remove the responsibility from Mr. Wooten. He stated the time demands for maintenance of the parks are considerable. Mayor Volk stated she spoke to the former manager about a goal for the parks to be more attractive (flowers, etc.) rather than just functional.

Council Member Smith suggested the Council take a similar approach as Greenville, SC in that the City doesn't run programs but have nice facilities. There was general agreement by the Council. Duties of the position were discussed including grant-writing and other research on how to pay for improvements, i.e., soliciting funds, making sure the grass is mowed, restrooms are clean, checking the parks on a daily basis, landscaping improvements and keeping the facilities at a certain standard. Mr. Wooten explained as Berkeley Mills Park develops, more maintenance will be required but this person may be doing hands-on activities until Berkeley Mills Park is developed.

After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to consider the position for parks maintenance in the upcoming budget as a supervisor under Mr. Wooten.

9. Discussion of System Development Charges Policy: Mr. Lee Smith reviewed a draft policy for financing system development charges. He stated customers would not be required to finance the charges but it will be an option as a monthly payment on their water/sewer bill. There was discussion on whether interest should be charged if the system development charges are financed.

Council Member Stephens stated this has not been marketed well and the public does not understand the new system development charges, why it is needed, etc. There was discussion on the City's system development charges in comparison to other cities. Council Member Stephens stated the charges should be financed over three years with no interest. There was discussion on the philosophy of system development charges including new customers create growth and a greater demand on system and those creating the additional demand should have to pay for it instead of existing customers.

After discussion of the financing option, **the Council agreed to consider the policy amendments including language for financing system development charges for up to three years without interest, terms outside of these will require Council approval and have the possibility of interest applied. This will be presented at the March 7 meeting.**

City Attorney Fritschner stated he would like an opportunity to review this to determine if financing without interest constitutes a gift, which the City does not have the power to do. **The Council agreed by consensus.**

There was a short recess.

10. Discussion of Possible Fee to Water/Sewer Bill for Funding of Mills River Watershed: Mr. Lee Smith explained the City previously set aside funds that were paid to the Mills River Partnership. He suggested discussions during Council's budget deliberations for dedicating money from the Water/Sewer operating expenses instead of adding fees to customer's bills if a project directly benefits the water quality.

There was discussion on exactly what the Mills River Partnership is asking the City for, the EPA grants they have applied for, etc. Council Member Caraker stated the Partnership may need direct communication with the Council and stated he is willing to sit on that board.

The Council heard an update from Mr. Ralph Freeman who is currently the City's representative on that Board. He explained Shaun Moore does not have the time or resources to do all of the work and they are asking for a part-time person to help administer the grant. He stated there are projects that are ready when funds are received including water quality monitoring, rotation of crops, etc. and additional projects planned for the fall. He stated the Partnership needs funds to keep the programs going, write grants, etc. and they have discussed a token amount per water meter to help fund the projects or a flat fee. He stated citizens want their water protected.

Council Member Smith agreed with Mr. Lee Smith's recommendation of a lump sum contribution for the Water/Sewer Fund instead of a fee on customer's bills. Mayor Volk asked if the grant is set up so all funding would go toward actual projects or if it is designed so part of grant could go to a person to administer it. There was discussion on whether the grant may include funds for administration, which would mean less matching funds from the City.

After discussion, Council Member Smith requested a memo laying out their exact request. There was discussion on the possibility of other contributions and the required in-kind. Mayor Volk commented the Partnership should know the status of the grants by end of February. **The Council agreed they would like more information and will discuss it further at their March 7 meeting.**

11. Consideration of Amendments to Utility Extension Agreement with Camp Judea: Mr. Lee Smith presented an amendment to the utility extension agreement with Camp Judea approved in 2009. He explained this is a seasonal usage situation. He stated staff came up with special conditions, i.e., sampling and flushing, that Camp Judea has agreed to do to ensure water quality and will benefit the City. **Mayor Pro Tem Collis moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the water line extension agreement with the newly proposed special conditions proposed and recommended by staff. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.**

12. Discussion of Maintenance of Median on Highway 64 East: Mr. Wooten explained he and Mr. Ferguson had discussions with NCDOT for landscaping improvements within the median on Highway 64 East. NCDOT's in-house designer from Raleigh made some verbal recommendations and a formal design will follow. He stated the City will have input on the design. He stated the designer suggested removing most of soil from the median, replacing it with new soil and amendments, planting shrubs, ornamental grasses, etc. He stated no trees will be incorporated because of the 45 mph speed limit but trees could be incorporated if the speed limit is reduced.

Mr. Wooten reported Mr. Queen with NCDOT has requested the City take over the maintenance after improvements are made by NCDOT. He stated he and the manager agreed that taking over the maintenance is not a good idea citing the intense process to work on the median and safety concerns.

There was discussion of the speed limit and enforcement issues. After discussion, **the consensus of the Council is not to take over the maintenance of the median. The Council would not object to the NCDOT completing the upgrades and providing maintenance. There was no interest in changing the speed limit so trees may be incorporated into the design.**

13. Discussion of School Resource Officer (SRO): Council Member Smith explained there is an SRO at Hendersonville High School but there is not a SRO assigned to Hendersonville Middle School. He explained the State pays for the SRO at the High School. He stated the officer's visits to the middle school is sporadic at best. He presented a request to fund a SRO at the Middle School with responsibilities to cover Hendersonville Elementary on a regular basis. The responsibilities of the Hendersonville High School officer will be to cover Bruce Drysdale as well.

Council Member Smith reviewed duties of a SRO and the start-up cost stating a new vehicle will not be necessary. He spoke to David Jones and sent a letter to Sen. Apodaca but found no other outside source to help fund the position at this time. He is hopeful the General Assembly and Congress may address this in the future. He reviewed the school population for each of the schools.

Council Member Smith explained the reason for presenting this request is the Sandy Hook tragedy and for increased security at the schools. He stated the presence of an officer may make a difference. He reported there is no longer a Sheriff's deputy at any middle school in the county. He stated the Sheriff's Office provides deputies at the high schools but not at middle schools. He stated the SRO at the high school is mainly funded by the State. He stated there is no state funding or school system funds available for an additional SRO position.

Council Member Smith stated the presence of a SRO at the high school also gives the public a positive impression of police. He suggested including funds in the budget for the position. He stated there may be funds from the state or federal government in the future but he doesn't want to wait for it. There was discussion of the cost.

After discussion, **the Council agreed by consensus to add this to the budget discussions.**

14. Housekeeping Items:

A. Monthly Calendar: The Council agreed they would like to have a monthly calendar with Council meetings, special events, etc.

B. Special Invitations: The current procedure of asking the Council to represent the City will be followed: the Mayor first, Mayor Pro Tem second and then by longevity on the Council.

C. Electronic Agenda Process: The process has worked well for the Council. A firm deadline of Wednesday at noon for submission of agenda items will be enforced. It is a great disadvantage to the Council to

have items added to the agenda at the meeting because they do not have an opportunity to review background information in order to make an informed decision.

D. Set date for special meeting for Budget Review (typically mid-May): A special meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2013 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall for budget review. The Council asked this be put in Dropbox for their review.

E. Publishing Legal Notices: The City Clerk presented a letter from the publisher of Hendersonville Lightning that is now a newspaper of general circulation in Henderson County. The Council heard comments from Mr. Ned Cowan of the Times News who spoke on their circulation numbers. The Council also heard comments from Mr. Bill Moss on the cost of their advertising. The Council will discuss this further. **No action was taken.**

15. Discussion of Park Property :

A. Berkeley Mills Park: Mr. Galloway stated Mr. Wirth is expected to present the final Master Plan for Berkeley Mills Park in March. He stated the estimated costs for completion of the plan is close to \$5 million. He asked for direction from the Council on a funding mechanism to put the plan into place for the development of the park. Options may include a tax increase or a bond issue in November.

There was discussion of the park and the purpose of the park. Council Member Caraker commented he favors a bond issue so the community can make the decision. He stated he does not want to raise taxes to pay for it. There was discussion of the advantages of a bond and the annual debt service on \$5 million (\$300,000 per year for principal and interest). Council Member Stephens commented discussions of other parks in the county may make it harder to sell this year. Council Member Smith commented Council could consider half of the funding for the bond. There was also discussion on what debt is retired this year. Mr. Rudisill stated in 2018, \$200,000 is retired from the General Fund and next debt retirement will be 2027. The standard term for bonds is 20 years.

Discussion followed on the possibility of any grants for development of the park.

After discussion, **the Council requested a report from the City Attorney on whether the bond may be placed on the November ballot.**

B. Report on Oklawaha Greenway Grant: (see Council goals and objectives)

C. Sponsorship Policy: Mr. Wooten reported Council adopted a sponsorship policy in April 2009. He stated staff has discussed possible changes to the Sponsorship Policy that will permit the City Manager to approve a sponsorship with an approximate value of \$1,000 as long as all of the other requirements of the policy are met. He stated the change will include a sign of a certain size that will display the sponsor's name and logo for a specified period time at a location approved by the City Manager and will most likely be on the outfield fence. He stated any sponsorship of higher value will be presented to the City Council for consideration. **The Council agreed by consensus to consider amendments to the current policy at their March 7 meeting.**

D. Recreation in General: Mr. Galloway initiated conversation about how deeply the City wants to get involved in recreation. He stated there are many other parks that are being created in the county. The City got out of recreation in mid 1990s. He stated he heard today that the City Council doesn't want to run programs but have nice facilities. **There was general agreement by the Council.**

There was no further business discussed by the Council.

16. Closed Session to Discuss Property Acquisition: At 4:09 p.m., Council Member Caraker moved Council to enter a closed session to establish or instruct the staff (or negotiating agent) concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City Council in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease as provided under NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5). A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.

17. Adjournment: Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m. upon unanimous consent of the Council.

Barbara G. Volk, Mayor, City of Hendersonville

Tammie K. Drake, MMC, City Clerk