

DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Thursday, March 24, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

Present: Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden and Council Members Brown, Catotti, Clement and Woodard. Excused Absence: Council Member Ali.

Also present: City Manager Thomas Bonfield, Senior Assistant City Attorney Kim Grantham and City Clerk D. Ann Gray.

SUBJECT: OTTO LADENSACK

To receive comments from Otto Ladensack regarding non-credible water bills.

Mr. Otto Ladensack addressed the council raising concern regarding his water bills being outrageous and non-credible. He stated the water department is overcharging him. Mr. Ladensack stated his bills have been abnormal since his moved on Stage Road and he would like to see the entire old meter and pipe fittings removed from his front yard. He requested a manual meter that he could read and understand. Also, he requested a refund because he has been paying for usage of 200-580 gallons per day for six years and said this was not right.

Vickie Westbrook, of Water Management, spoke on measures they have taken to assist Mr. Ladensack.

Mayor Bell suggested that the administration go back and review additional information provided by Mr. Ladensack.

City Manager Bonfield stated they will continue to monitor the situation (tracking water usage for two more billing cycles).

The administration will report back to council on this matter at a future work session.

SUBJECT: COLLECTIONS PERFORMANCE AUDIT (February 2011)

To receive and accept the Collections Performance Audit dated February 2011 as presented and approved at the February 28, 2011 meeting of the Audit Services Oversight Committee.

Council Member Brown raised concern regarding unpaid water and sewer bills.

The city administration said efforts to collect on old “inactive” accounts have been hampered by poor communications between Water Management and Finance.

Council Member Brown expressed concern that water and sewer rates might increase and the city has \$10.8 million unpaid water bills.

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SUBJECT: NORTHEAST CENTRAL DURHAM LIVABILITY INITIATIVE

To receive a presentation on the Northeast Central Durham Livability Initiative.

Representatives from PAC 1 presented a power point presentation highlighting the following:

- NECD Livability Initiative Schemes
- Workforce & Economic Development Accomplishments
- Workforce & Economic Development Investments
- Workforce & Economic Development Future Projects
- Workforce & Economic Development Recommended New Policies & Programs
- Safe & Healthy Environment Accomplishments
- Safe & Healthy Environment Future Projects
- Safe & Healthy Environment Recommended New Policies & Programs
- Coordinated Public Transportation Accomplishments

- Coordinated Public Transportation Future Projects
- Coordinated Public Transportation Recommended New Policies & Programs
- Multi- Functional Community Open Spaces Accomplishments
- Multi-Functional Community Open Spaces Future Projects
- Multi-Functional Community Open Space Recommended New Policies & Programs
- Alston Avenue Widening Program
- Alston Avenue Widening Elements
- Alston Avenue Widening Environmental Justice: Urban Market
- Alston Avenue Widening Neighborhood Business District
- Durham Urban Design Center – Parrish Street

The Council thanked the PAC 1 representatives for the report.

It was suggested that the administration look into sharing space in the Common Room “Greenfire Building” for the proposed Durham Urban Design Center.

SUBJECT: DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL AND CAROLINA THEATRE PHASE II RENOVATIONS PROJECT

John Gregory, of the General Services Department, gave a power point presentation on the upcoming renovations for the Durham Arts Council and Carolina Theatre highlighting the following:

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- Background
- Background (Previous Work Included for Durham Arts Council & Carolina Theatre)
- Budget – Phase II for Durham Arts Council
- Budget – Phase II for Carolina Theatre
- Scope of Work – Phase II for Durham Arts Council
- Scope of Work – Phase II for Carolina Theatre
- Schedule – Phase II for Durham Arts Council
- Schedule – Phase II for Carolina Theatre

Mayor Bell asked that the administration to provide a report at a work session on the new convention center operator “Global Spectrum.”

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Karmisha Wallace, of the City Manager’s Office, provided a legislative update to the council.

Council Member Clement spoke in opposition to HB 351 entitled Restore Confidence In Government and asked the council to support him in opposing this bill.

MOTION by Council Member Clement seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden to suspend the rules of the City Council and take action on HB 351 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden and Council Members Brown, Catotti, Clement and Woodard. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Ali.

MOTION by Council Member Clement seconded by Council Member Catotti to oppose HB 351 [Restore Confidence in Government] and to inform the Durham Delegation of the City Council’s opposition to HB 351 was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden and Council Members Brown, Catotti, Clement and Woodard. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Ali.

Council Member Clement requested that the administration include on the next work session agenda an item regarding high speed rail.

SUBJECT: HOMELESS PREVENTION IN THE CITY OF AND COUNTY OF DURHAM

To approve the City Manager implementing the recommendations in the report, Homeless Prevention in the City and County of Durham.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden made comments on the item and asked that it be voted on today. She stated everything is not worked out, but we have enough of a base to work from.

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City Manager Bonfield provided background information on this topic.

Discussion was held on the recommendations presented in the report.

The City and County intend to set up a 19 member board to oversee the joint effort. Several members of council voiced concern about having such a large group.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden seconded by Council Member Woodard to suspend the rules of the City Council and take action on this item by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden and Council Members Brown, Catotti, Clement and Woodard. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Ali,

MOTION by Council Member Woodard seconded by Council Member Clement that the City Manager, in collaboration with the County Manager, implements the recommendations outlined in the report "Homeless Prevention in the City and County of Durham – An Evaluation and Recommendation" subject to similar action by the County Commissioners at their April 4th Work Session was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden and Council Members Brown, Catotti, Clement and Woodard. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Ali.

Council Member Woodard requested that an update be given on this item at the next Joint City/County Committee meeting scheduled for May 10, 2011.

At this time, City Manager Bonfield noted the items to appear on the April 4, 2011 City Council meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown seconded by Council Member Woodard to settle the agenda as noted by the City Manager.

The motion was approved.

D. Ann Gray, MMC
City Clerk