

MEBANE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2010

Members Present: Tim Bradley
Ed Hooks
Everette Greene
Jill Auditori
Patty Philipps

Mayor Glendel Stephenson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Mebane Municipal Building. Councilmember Bradley gave the invocation.

Jackie Brown of the Mebane Enterprise gave a verbal invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend the Ribbon Cutting at Creekside Animal Clinic.

City Engineer Darrell Russell gave a report on the request from Edgewood Baptist Church for sewer access. He stated since the last Council meeting he has met with Todd Lambert, Engineer representing Edgewood Baptist Church, and has a better understanding of their options. He stated after discussions, several options were reviewed. Those options included pumping church wastewater to the existing pump station at Eastern/Woodlawn schools or pumping directly into the existing 8" force main in Mebane Rogers Rd. from the Eastern/Woodlawn pump station which was not looked upon favorably by the school system. Mr. Lambert recommended that the church install a duplex grinder pump station on church property and pump through a force main across private property and connect to the existing 8" force main in Mebane Rogers Rd. near the parking lots at Eastern High School. Mr. Russell stated this type of connection would be acceptable; however, according to current environment rules, the new pump station and force main would need to be owned and maintained by the city. The school system and the city have a difference of opinion on the maintenance limits. Should the Council desire to provide sewer service to the church, it's recommended that city staff start conversations with the school staff to formalize the limits of maintenance issue. The Council directed city staff to move forward with discussions with the school system.

City Engineer Darrell Russell gave a report on the previously discussed upgrades to Clay Street (Third St. to Fourth St.) including Milling/Resurfacing work/Water and Sewer line replacement. Mr. Russell stated that further investigation of the water and sewer lines have been completed. He gave a brief summary of the results which concluded with a recommendation, should the Council decide to proceed with the Clay Street Milling/resurfacing work, to replace the water and sewer lines as a part of such construction as the existing lines are near the end of their useful life. The estimate of cost for milling and resurfacing of this block of Clay Street was \$75,000. If water and sewer line replacement were done as part of the Clay Street upgrade, the estimate total project cost is summarized as follows:

- Water Line Replacement(Pipe bursting method)-----\$ 130,000.00
- Sewer Line Replacement(Pipe bursting method)----- 100,000.00
- Milling and Resurfacing----- 75,000.00
- TOTAL-----\$ 305,000.00

After considerable discussion among Council and staff, it was the consensus of the Council to have Mr. Russell come back with upgrade estimates at the January meeting to include all of Clay Street from Wilba Street to Fifth Street.

During the Public Comment period, Madison Anderson stated she was following up on the cost estimates to put in sidewalks along Third Street. City Manager Robert Wilson stated that a follow up was given at a previous meeting and a decision would not be made until the Hwy 119 Bypass route is determined. The distance of sidewalks would be 1.2 miles and the cost would be approximately \$350,000 if the road remains as is and is not altered by the Hwy 119 Bypass.

The Council received a request from Mebane Oaks Associates for approval of a Final Subdivision Plat to subdivide property +/- 11.07 acres located at the corner of Mebane

Oaks Road and Forest Oaks Lane into 2 lots. Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Philipps to approve the request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Robert Wilson gave a report on the cost of having video equipment installed in Council Chambers. He stated after researching the options it was determined with minor modifications to the audio equipment currently used, Council meetings could be provided audibly for a fraction of the cost, approximately \$3,100, in comparison to providing the meetings as visual videos. He provided estimates from 2 vendors to install video equipment that would enable the staff to video and broadcast the meetings on the City's website. He stated staff is recommending that Council use the audio only method for cost efficiency because at this point staff is unsure how much of a demand there is for video recorded meetings. Councilmember Hooks requested staff to look into purchasing equipment for the hearing impaired. Mr. Wilson stated he would look into that issue. Councilmember Bradley suggested going ahead with spending the extra \$4,000 to provide video recorded meetings as opposed to the audio only method. He also suggested conducting a customer survey to see if there is a significant demand for videotaped meetings.

Amy Pendergraph, Arts & Community Center Director, gave some insight on discussions she had with Appian Digital, the city's website provider. She stated that to provide videotaped meetings on the city's website there would be additional cost along with purchasing the video equipment.

The Council directed staff to conduct a survey to determine if there is a demand for videotaped meetings, if there is, staff is then directed to write an RFP to receive bids from companies that can provide video equipment, technology and the appropriate software programming to allow for a digital file of meetings to be saved and transferred to the city's website for viewing the following day.

The Council received a request for approval of a Resolution In Support of North Carolina's Current Alcoholic Beverage Control System. The Council directed City Attorney Charles Bateman to make changes to the resolution to reflect support of the current public ABC system but with appropriate measures to prevent abuse within the system.

Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bradley, to approve the Tax Releases. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Robert Wilson gave a brief report on visibility at intersections. He presented to Council the current policy in place that addresses corner lots, a 10' x 70' angle at all corner lots in new approved subdivisions. He stated it appears that most of the visibility problems are occurring in older areas within the city and staff will be working with property owners to increase visibility at problem intersections.

The Council received a petition of annexation from SST Properties, LLC & Springfield Industrial Park, LLC for voluntary annexation of property located in the North Carolina Industrial Center. Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bradley, to accept the petition. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Philipps questioned if the annexation process can be shortened by combining some of the steps within the annexation process. City Attorney Charles Bateman stated that the steps can be combined and the Clerk will begin this with all future annexations.

Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to adopt a Resolution Directing the City Clerk to Investigate the Sufficiency of Petition of Annexation of SST Properties, LLC & Springfield Industrial Park, LLC, property located in the North Carolina Industrial Center. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council received a request for consideration to offer a grant program for tourism promotion. City Attorney Charles Bateman spoke concerning the matter. Mr. Bateman

stated it was brought to staffs attention that there are various areas within the city that would like to capitalize on Mebane being a growing tourist destination and staff was asked to look at what the city could do to assist recognizable areas of the city in promoting businesses along the interstate corridor. Mr. Bateman stated that staff recommends outdoor advertising located on the Interstate 85/40 corridor. In presenting this program to the Council staff felt there were appropriate requirements for City participation:

- 50% match of the cost
- the association of businesses must be within a specific geographic area of the City, and which businesses primarily offer goods and services likely to appeal to a broad area of customers and the Mebane location must be prominently included in such advertising.
- nondiscriminatory
- a trial program
- initially the program would not exceed 3 grants per fiscal year
- no individual grant would exceed \$6,000 per year
- funding for the grants would be made non-tax revenues

Councilmember Hooks requested that the program requirements be more detailed. Mr. Bateman stated this is a starting point and more input from Council would be necessary.

Councilmember Philipps stated, in her opinion, the grant program presented a nice outline and she has no problem adopting as is with tweaking as necessary in the future. She said she believes the program was a reaction to a specific request made to the Council by a downtown group to assist with matching funds for a billboard but what Mr. Bateman has done is crafted a program which will extend to the City at large. Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bradley, to adopt the Tourism Promotion Grant Program as presented.

Tom Boney, Editor of Alamance News, expressed his concern with the appearance of a conflict of interest for 2 of the Council members to participate in the discussion and to vote on the matter.

Mr. Bateman stated Councilmember Philipps is no longer a downtown merchant or a member of Downtown Destination. Mr. Bateman directed Councilmember Auditori to recuse herself from voting because she is a downtown merchant and member of Downtown Destination.

Councilmember Philipps withdrew her motion.

Councilmember Bradley addressed this issue stating that keeping a viable downtown is extremely important toward keeping Mebane what it has become, a great city.

Councilmember Philipps and Councilmember Auditori requested to be recused. Councilmember Greene made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hooks, to allow their recusals. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bradley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to approve the Tourism Promotion Grant Program and the request for the initial grant for downtown businesses. The motion carried unanimously.

After Mr. Boney made additional comments, Mr. Bateman stated that some additional regulations will be added to the program.

As an additional item, City Manager Robert Wilson spoke concerning establishing the number of members on the Planning Board and staff is recommending an amendment to the City ordinance to have the number of members be 9 total. This recommendation comes after many discussions with Council members, Planning Board Members and staff.

The minutes of the November 1, 2010 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Councilmember Auditori commended the Parks and Recreation Department for a job well done with the Christmas Parade. Dean Ray, Parks and Rec. Director, in turn thanked Fire, Police and Public Works for all their help.

Councilmember Hooks suggested that sometime in January or February Council should meet to discuss transportation needs and updates for the City of Mebane to be presented at the March meeting to the Burlington/Graham MPO.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk