

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Judy Jennette, Mayor; Doug Mercer, Mayor Pro tem; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Archie Jennings, Councilman; Gil Davis, Councilman; Jim Smith, City Manager; Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk;

Also present were: Keith Hardt, Electric Director; Jimmy Davis, Fire Chief and Anita Radcliffe, Interim Finance Director; Mike Voss, of the Washington Daily News;

Mayor Jennette called the meeting to order and Councilman Brooks delivered the invocation.

### **APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

On motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council unanimously approved the agenda as submitted.

### **TOPICS FOR CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION**

#### **Short term**

The budget process (format) (AJ)

General guidance for budget preparation (DM)

- a. Salary adjustment-COLA, Merit, and job maturity
- b. Capital needs and justifications
- c. Major maintenance needs

Financial condition of the City (GD)

Completion of transfer of 911 and other radio services to County (DM)

Electric Fund Transfers (JJ)

Reducing the General Fund's dependency on Electric Fund transfers (AJ)

Creating incentives for creative problem solving at the Department level (AJ, RB)

Quicker and better recruitment for retiring Department Heads (GD)

Education programs aimed at reducing electric usage by consumers (DM)

Continued discussions with County of possible combination of activities where there is a possible improvement in efficiency or reduced cost (DM)

Going green (JJ)

Design and funding sources for Public Restrooms (DM, GD)

Installation of pilings under the Runyon Creek Bridge (GD)

Site and design for the new police station (JJ, GD)

Add a turning lane on a section of 15<sup>th</sup> St. (JJ)

Structure and procedure for gathering and responding to citizen input (C4R, DWoW, RAB) (JJ)

#### **Mid and Long Term**

Tourism infrastructure / visitors' center (JJ)

Combining the Visitors Center with the Tar River Nature Park (AJ)

Brown Library -Acquiring of properties around the library and further discussions with County about combining library services (JJ, OM)

Gym (JJ, RB)

Sewer / Growth strategy for east of Washington (AJ)

City Hall modernization -build a new one or renovate the old one (JJ)

Drainage system improvements (JJ)

Underground power lines (JJ)

On motion of Councilman Davis and seconded by Councilman Brooks,  
Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 11:45am, until March 9, 2009 at  
4:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

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**Cynthia S. Bennett**  
City Clerk