

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 8:00am in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Doug Mercer, Councilman; Ed Moultrie, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; Gil Davis, Councilman; Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Jim Smith, City Manager; Cynthia Bennett, City Clerk; and Franz Holscher, City Attorney. Mayor Jennings joined the meeting at 8:20am.

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Chief Financial Officer; Robbie Rose, Acting Fire Chief; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; Gloria Moore, Library Director; John Rodman, Planning Director; Keith Hardt, Electric Director; Philip Mobley, Parks & Recreation Director; Mick Reed, Police Chief; Ray Midgett, Information Technology Director; Mike Voss, of the Washington Daily News and Delma Blinson, of the Beaufort Observer.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson called the meeting to order and Councilman Moultrie delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Pro tem Roberson added two items to the agenda (1) the possibility of Town Hall meetings in the 4 precincts in Washington (2) possibility of a "City Page" in the newspaper on a weekly basis.

DISCUSSION – WATER QUALITY STANDARD REVISIONS

Public Works Director, Allen Lewis discussed the pending proposed water standards. These standards are significantly more stringent than what is in effect now and it is State wide.

Councilman Mercer expressed his concerns on several items: (1) the number generated by the State Environmental Management Agency, (2) the reduction in total phosphorous and nitrogen (3) the need for Council to stay abreast of any meetings concerning this topic and to ensure someone from the City is in attendance at such meetings. We will need to retrieve any data that is out there because we will be looking at standards that can't possibly be achieved or measured. Mr. Lewis stated the Tar/Pam Basin Association has scheduled a meeting on February 12, 2010 in Rocky Mount and the State will be coming in to talk about the nutrient side of this proposed rule.

Mr. Smith noted that the League of Municipalities would be taking a position on this as well. Mr. Lewis stated they would be bringing a resolution back to Council regarding this issue in the near future.

SET – BUDGET SCHEDULE DATES

Chief Financial Officer, Matt Rauschenbach explained the budgetary & strategic planning retreat would involve a session with Council and Department Heads to discuss objectives for the coming budget. External agency budget requests & hearings would entail outside agencies that have submitted a formal request stating why and what the request will be used for. Councilman Mercer commented if we have outside agencies that we are providing funding for, he would prefer to have some general idea about their budgets. Mr. Smith added that we requested a lot of detailed information from the agencies concerning expenditures and revenues as well as other entities they are receiving funding from.

Mr. Rauschenbach stated the CIP has been published on the intranet and has been internally reviewed by staff and the City Manager. This would give City Council a month to review the document and discuss it during the month of February. Please note that last year the focus was on the fiscal year and ended up being a basis for the budget. Mr. Rauschenbach suggested looking at years 2-5 as a planning tool and year 1 as the basis for capital budgets next year. Mayor Jennings directed Mr. Rauschenbach to post a memo explaining this process alongside the CIP. Mr. Rauschenbach requested if something worthwhile comes up that was not included in the CIP that Council would listen to the request during the budget process.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson asked Council to consider moving the Electric Fund up in the process, looking at them as the starting point and not last. Mayor Jennings requested the final budget be presented to Council on June 14, 2010. Mayor Pro tem Roberson requested to submit along with the Budget and Performance Measures to finance staff an item that wasn't in the budget last year as summary page for our new Council members. Mayor Jennings referenced the two year budget he requested to be submitted last year, if it was going to be a good tool for this year. Mr. Smith reported he and staff discussed this in a meeting yesterday and decided not to do that this year since it would not be a good planning tool.

Mayor Jennings and Council instructed Mr. Rauschenbach to submit an executive summary along with the parameters they would like to be used as a measurement tool. Date was set for Monday February 15, 2010 @ 4:30 pm on having data submitted to City Council.

Councilman Mercer volunteered to attend the meeting with Mayor Jennings and NCDOT on Monday, February 15, 2010 @ 3:00 pm. Mr. Smith noted he would like Council to keep in mind the \$1.7 million owed to NCDOT as a consequence of the Highway 17 bypass project.

Councilman Pitt along with Councilman Mercer volunteered to attend the ElectriCities meeting scheduled for March 10, 2010 @ 3:00 pm with Mayor Jennings. Mayor Jennings noted the tentative date for the ribbon cutting ceremony on new bypass scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2010 at 2:00 pm.

DISCUSSION – EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION E911

Mr. Smith recommended not going forward with the study and to hold off in order to stay consistent with what gives us the quickest response times to calls. Mr. Smith stated his experience is coordination between all departments' protocols was more cost effective but not the most effective for the citizens.

Councilman Pitt explained that being employed as a Telecommunicator and having experience with the E-911 systems, said the City should "handle our own" E-911 system and stay as a stand-alone agency, we are not a centralized district. Citing that by doing so, there would be 24-hour presence at the police station. The Police Department is a leader in the community and does a great job protecting the citizens of Washington which requires immediate assistance. Council Moultrie stated he would prefer to leave the system as it is and Councilman Davis agreed stating until we can get a better handle on what is happening we should leave it as is. Chief Reed agreed that maintaining what we have now is the best option. Mayor Pro tem Roberson voiced his concerns over addressing. Councilman Mercer has been an advocate for combining the two systems, with the County taking over the responsibility of handling E-911 calls. He believes by doing this would save taxpayer's money by avoiding duplication of services. All concerns from Council members were addressed with Mayor Jennings recapping the discussion.

By consensus Council agreed that a study would not be needed.

Mayor Jennings stated this issue and all other concerns would be addressed at the February 8, 2010 meeting and Council will take action at that time.

Mr. Rauschenbach asked for direction from Council citing page 19 of the agenda packet which addresses how to pay for the upgrades of the 911 system. Council directed Mr. Rauschenbach to have this on the February 8, 2010 meeting as an action item.

Council recessed for a break and reconvened @ 9:57 am.

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council unanimously agreed to extend the meeting to 11:00 am.

DISCUSSION – POLICE FACILITY PROJECT

Special projects, Bianca Gentile` introduced Mr. Kevin Radagen with ADG Architect. They will be seeking direction from Council on how to move forward with this project. Mayor Jennings expanded the direction needed from Council to staff as (1) what are we looking for in a facility? (2) Funding – how much we can invest in a new Police facility?

Mr. Radagen addressed the space needs and design work for the new Police Facility. He has been working on this project approximately a year and stated the space needs assessment was completed in 2003. Mr. Radagen stated there is a serious issue with being on the Pamlico and it being prone to flooding, there is a requirement of being outside of a 500 year flood plain for federal funding. This will limit the number of site candidates that the City can look at. Issues relative to service (impact on the community) size of the site and funding.

Questions and Answers Session

(Q) - Taking the needs analysis- amendable to addressing our current needs and then be able to add as the need presents itself in the future?

(A) - Absolutely- recommends if the money is available, building in expansion space (shell space). Council addressed different options.

(Q) - Ball park number for useable space for a facility

(A) - Hard/soft cost - \$4 million would include value of land of \$200,000

(Q) - Public needs to know why we can't expand the current facility

(A) -Mayor Jennings and Council discussed different funding options. Mr. Rauschenbach addressed different approaches or alternatives to funding and explained Emergency Fund Balance along with the Public Safety Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Rauschenbach noted that \$1 million on Public Safety Capital Reserve Fund was designated for the Police Facility. Councilman Mercer requested ADG pursue options for building a 15,000 sq. ft. facility. Mayor Pro tem Roberson commented on the need to revisit the list to exclude 100/500 year flood plain. Mr. Smith noted the need for establishing a site location and Mr. Radagen noted the site location is a critical issue and potentially looking at existing buildings. Councilman Mercer requested acknowledging the Sheriff's Office for a possible combined facility and Mr. Smith advised that Sheriff Alan Jordan would like a facility close/adjacent to the jail and there is not enough space for both in the City. Ms. Gentile addressed several grant opportunities.

Council instructed Ms. Gentile to revisit the list and remove sites that were in the 100 year flood plain and visit members of the public for suggestions of possible sites. Also, reconvene the police-site committee to work on a new list to present to Council. Criteria for possible sites:

- 2.5 acres for 15,375 building
- 3.5 for expandable shell space
- Existing facilities
- Committee to discuss funding sources (includes two members of Council) 1st round members of City Council – Councilman Davis and Councilman Moultrie, 2nd round Councilman Pitt and Mayor Pro tem Roberson.

Mayor Jennings requested a sub-committee be formed consisting of City Manager, Mayor and two members of City Council. *Note: members listed above.

SET – SEWER ASSESSMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE DATE

Councilman Mercer requested tabling this item until further information is received. Mr. Rauschenbach stated the information should be on the way to Council in a couple of days.

Mayor Jennings suggested this item be included as an action item on the agenda for February 8, 2010. Council will have the sewer information by that time and will be able to discuss it, Mr. Rauschenbach agreed.

DISCUSSION – FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer, Matt Rauschenbach reviewed financial sheets with Council. Councilman Mercer expressed concerns with the Electric Fund Sales and Revenues, Mr. Rauschenbach explained the figures. Also, he addressed if line items can be added that are not in the original budget. Mr. Rauschenbach will review this request and return with an answer at a later date. Councilman Mercer inquired why there was an extra \$200,000 in the Worker's Compensation Fund and Mr. Rauschenbach provided the answer.

Mayor Jennings suggested Council forward any financial questions by email to Mr. Rauschenbach as to give him ample time to provide answers.

ADJOURN

By motion of Councilman Davis seconded by Mayor Pro tem Roberson, Council adjourned the meeting until February 8, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building for the Regular Council Meeting.

**Cynthia S. Bennett
City Clerk**