

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEBORO

MEETING DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

MEETING TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: ASHEBORO RECREATION CENTER,
148 NORTH STREET,
ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27203

At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023, the Asheboro City Council will convene for a special meeting in the Asheboro Recreation Center’s multi-purpose room at 148 North Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203. This special meeting will be conducted as a council retreat/workshop that will provide an opportunity for in-depth reports and discussions.

The meeting will begin with an audit report from Huneycutt, Parsley & Taylor, CPAs, PLLC. The presentations and discussions will then turn to the following topics: (1) A review of the city response to the coronavirus pandemic; (2) Public transportation improvements, inclusive of the airport; (3) Capital projects to enhance recreation programming, construct an emergency operations center/third fire station, and improve the water and sewer utility; (4) Economic development initiatives to increase the accessibility of municipal water and sewer infrastructure, to identify site development opportunities, and to refine development tools such as street improvements and responding to requests for the general extension of municipal services; (5) Center city redevelopment activities and potential projects; (6) The recruitment, retention, and development of the city’s human resources, and (7) Strategic plan review.

The above-listed meeting agenda items will be discussed in open session. Public attendance at the meeting is welcomed.

This special meeting notice was issued on the 17th day of February, 2023.

/s/David H. Smith
David H. Smith, Mayor
City of Asheboro, North Carolina

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SPECIAL MEETING
ASHEBORO CITY COUNCIL
ASHEBORO RECREATION CENTER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023
10:00 A.M.

This being the time and place for a special meeting of the Asheboro City Council, a meeting was held with the following elected officials and city management team members present:

David H. Smith) – Mayor Presiding

Clark R. Bell)

Edward J. Burks)

Kelly L. Heath)

William N. McCaskill) – Council Members Present

Walker B. Moffitt)

Jane H. Redding)

Charles A. Swiers)

John N. Ogburn, III, City Manager
Timothy E. Cockman, Deputy Fire Chief
Holly H. Doerr, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk/Paralegal
P. Douglas Kemp, Human Resources Director
Michael L. Leonard, PE, City Engineer
Mark T. Lineberry, Chief of Police
Trevor L. Nuttall, Community Development Director
Spencer C. Patton, EI, Assistant City Engineer
Deborah P. Reaves, Finance Director
Michael D. Rhoney, Water Resources Director
Tom Scaramastra, City Surveyor
Jonathan M. Sermon, Recreation Services Director
Jeffrey C. Sugg, City Attorney
Willie Summers, Fire Chief

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order for the transaction of business, and business was transacted as follows.

1. Year-End Audit Report

Mr. William Huneycutt, CPA, with the firm of Huneycutt, Parsley & Taylor, CPAs, PLLC, discussed the audit report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022. During his presentation, Mr. Huneycutt reported that the city received what is commonly referred to as a “clean audit” (also referred to as an “unmodified opinion”). A “clean audit” means the city’s financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for the year ending June 30, 2022.

The council members expressed their satisfaction with the audit report and their general consent to the acceptance of the report from the auditor. A copy of the written audit report is available for inspection in the city’s finance department.

2. COVID-19 Report

Ms. Elizabeth Mitchell of United Way of Randolph County presented an update on the COVID-19 Community Assistance Program. United Way of Randolph County and the City of Asheboro partnered together to prepare for the project, and in August 2021 the NC Department of Commerce released the funding for the project to begin.

Primarily the project’s goals were as follows:

1. Provide up to six (6) months of emergency payments for individuals and families, preventing homelessness; and
2. Payments to prevent utility service disconnection; and
3. Rent/mortgage payments to prevent eviction; and
4. Food distribution to prevent food insecurity; and
5. Equipment purchase for qualified organizations.

To be eligible for the program one must:

1. Be an Asheboro City resident; and
2. Complete an application; and
3. Meet income level requirements; and
4. Have documentation related to hardship during COVID-19. The documentation must be no older than March 10, 2020, which is when national emergency for COVID-19 was declared.

Assistance was provided in late 2021 and will run through February 2023.

City Manager John Ogburn reported that the city’s employee health clinic has reported many cases of COVID-19 during the recent pandemic.

3. Public Transportation Updates

Representatives from the Randolph County Senior Adults Association, Executive Director Mark Hensley and Transportation Director Tawanna Williams, discussed the ongoing efforts to provide a local fixed bus route serving Asheboro, the Asheboro Zoo City Loop. The service would be offered as part of the Regional Coordinated Area Transportation System (RCATS). The proposed route would consist of 11 residential stops and 8 commercial stops with the first loop beginning at 7:00 a.m. and the last loop at 5:30 p.m.

The annual operating costs for the Zoo City Loop would include two (2) electric vehicles that would potentially be funded by the Carbon Reduction Grant. Two (2) charging stations and two (2) 22 foot Light Transit Vehicles with lift-13 ambulatory would also be including in the operating costs. Once the application is complete, the equipment would be available in 2024.

In addition to the Asheboro Zoo City Loop, Mr. Hensley and Ms. Williams reported that the agency is seeking a MEE NC Grant (Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina). With this grant, the agency would be able to provide a Downtown/ NC Zoo Shuttle. Asheboro may receive approximately \$736,000 for community transportation vehicles.

The proposed project would assist citizens in transportation from the zoo to hotels and to downtown Asheboro. Trips would be scheduled through an online service. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

4. Recreation Capital Project Updates

Ms. Mary Joan Pugh gave updates in regards to the 2023 Year of the Trail and Deep River Blueway. Deep River Blueway is a trail consisting of both land and water and is located from Worthville to Central Falls. Grant monies are available to assist with the construction of the trail and other similar trails within Randolph County.

Ms. Jennifer Wagner updated the council members on the progress of the David and Pauline Jarrell Center City Garden. Ms. Wagner presented photos of the proposed master plan for the project which included plans for a shrub garden, a walkway and nature play. Construction of Phase 1 of the project is planned for the fall of 2023.

City Engineer Michael Leonard reported on the progress that is underway at McCrary Ball Park. During his discussion, Mr. Leonard presented photos depicting the construction of the new grandstand.

Additionally, Mr. Leonard presented photos and reported on the progress of the construction of the Zoo City Sportsplex. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are currently underway at the park.

5. Emergency Operations Center/Fire Station # 3 Project

Fire Chief Willie Summers updated the council members on the progress of the construction of an emergency operations center/fire station # 3. The proposed location for the station will be in the vicinity of southeast Asheboro. The station will consist of 3 bays, an exercise room, a kitchen, a day-room, dorm style bedrooms, restrooms, a decontamination room, a clean room, a laundry room, and approximately three (3) offices.

6. Airport Facility Improvements

Mr. Leonard presented photos on the proposed improvements to the Asheboro Regional Airport. The improvements include, but are not limited to, the construction of a new terminal building and hangar space improvements.

7. Water/Wastewater Capital Improvements

Water Resources Director Michael Rhoney updated the council members on the construction of lift station #3. NCDEQ DWI has awarded \$2,705,240 and plans and specifications have been sent to DWI for approval. Once bids have been approved, construction will begin.

Additionally, Mr. Rhoney provided information in regards to Lake Lucas Dam improvements. The city has selected Freese & Nichols, Inc. to provide services for the project. The current budget for the project is approximately \$3.7 Million.

Mr. Rhoney reported that there are no updates on the NPDES Permit at this time.

8. Economic Development Initiatives

Mr. Ogburn and Mr. Rhoney reported on the progress of the following projects:

- US 64 Water line (Wolfspeed) project
- Interstate 74 Business Park
- Commerce Drive Connection
- US 64 East Water Wastewater line
- Pump Station for FFFEC

In addition to the above-referenced projects, Mr. Ogburn reported to the council that conversations have taken place regarding the possibility of placing the NC Zoo within the city's corporate limits. Preliminary discussions are taking place and Mr. Ogburn will update the council when more information is available.

9. Center City Redevelopment

Community Development Division Director Trevor Nuttall and Mr. Ogburn updated the council on the various projects within Downtown Asheboro. The Church Street Lofts Senior Housing project is nearing completion. Residents are expected to start moving in the facility in May 2023.

The city closed on the Acme-McCrary property in December 2022. Discussions have taken place on the potential redevelopment for the property that may include office space and residential spaces. Additionally informal conversations with Downtown Asheboro, Inc. on the potential sale of the property.

Design work may begin soon on the Trade Street Rehabilitation project. Traffic data collection and studies are underway with Ramey Kemp Associates.

10. Human Resources Update

Human Resources Director Doug Kemp reported on the initiatives that have taken place to attract new employees within the city's police and fire departments. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, supplemental compensation for certain certifications. A 10% increase in starting for the police trainee program has also been implemented.

11. Review of Asheboro 20/20 Strategic Plan

Mr. Ogburn briefly reviewed the city's strategic plan. The plan consists of an energized and comprehensive approach to economic development. The recruitment of industries such as Fibertex, the passing of ABC sales, and saving Randolph Health are some examples of economic development initiatives that have taken place in recent years. The city continues to strive to make Asheboro a better place through economic development and the improvement of the quality of life for its citizens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

/s/Holly H. Doerr
Holly H. Doerr, CMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

/s/ David H. Smith
David H. Smith, Mayor