Council-Manager Memo #77
Friday, October 14, 2011

CHARLOTTE.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Calendar Details 2

Information:

October 26 – US 29/NC 49 Roadway Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 2

Occupy Charlotte Update 3

County, City To Consider Lease Of Plant Property For Public Walking And Bicycle Access 3-4

Stimulus Information:

City Energy Programs Win Sustainable Business Awards 4-5

Attachment:

City Council Follow-Up Report 5

--Kenilworth Avenue Lighting

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Oct 17)	Tues (Oct 18)	Wed (Oct 19)	Thurs (Oct 20)	Fri (Oct 21)
12:00 PM Restructuring Government Committee, Room 280 4:15 PM Environment Committee, Room 280 5:00 PM Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14		12:00 PM Community Safety Committee, Room 280		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, October 17

12:00 pm Restructuring Government Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Executive evaluation process

4:15 pm Environment Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Revision to Post Construction Controls Ordinance

5:00 pm Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14

Wednesday, October 19

12:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: PVH ordinance; Youth Protection ordinance

October and November calendars are attached (see "2. Oct Nov Calendar.pdf").

INFORMATION:

October 26 – US 29/NC 49 Roadway Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Staff Resource: Sonji Mosley, E&PM, 704-336-3214, smosley@charlottenc.gov

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 26 at the intersection of North Tryon Street and the I-85 Connector to celebrate the completion of the US 29/NC 49 Roadway Improvement Project. An invitation is **attached (see "3. Ribbon Cutting.pdf").**

Completed ten months ahead of schedule, this $25.5 million project will improve safety, connectivity and opportunities for development within, and in, proximity to the project limits of North Tryon Street (US 29) from Orchard Trace Drive to Brookside Lane. Project amenities include sidewalk, planting strips, storm water improvements, bicycle lanes and water main installations. This project provides safer travel for all modes of transportation including: motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit.

Council will be asked to approve a change order in November or December due to additional asphalt required to complete the work. The change order is not expected to exceed the remaining budget.

Occupy Charlotte Update
Staff Resource: Rodney Monroe, CMPD, 704-336-2360, rmonroe@cmpd.org

Occupy Charlotte activities began on October 1, 2011. The activity began in New York City as Occupy Wall Street and is spreading throughout the country.

Police first became aware of potential activity in Charlotte on September 27. On October 1, approximately 100 protestors met at Marshall Park and organized into work groups for future activity. They then marched to Bank of America headquarters and stood for about an hour. When police learned that Old City Hall was a potential occupation site, police officials began a dialogue with a local organizer for the group. On October 8, approximately 500 protestors met at Old City Hall and marched to Bank of America's corporate center. All of their actions were peaceful. The protestors marched back to Old City Hall and a small group began erecting small tents in preparation to occupy the space.

Throughout the occupation, police have been in communication with the group. Police have provided them with information on all of the applicable City ordinances, including those dealing with fires, noise, sanitation, littering, signage and structures. Based on those ordinances, the City does not allow the group to erect any semi-permanent structures, including portable toilets or have any open flames. The City also refused a request for a power supply and provides no garbage cans other than those already on the property.

In the interest of protecting life and property, CMPD officers have been assigned to monitor Old City Hall on a 24 hour per day, seven day per week basis. All of the police personnel are on-duty. The Occupy Charlotte Group has complied with every request made by Police and has not broken any laws or damaged any property. They have not requested permits for amplified noise. They have not impeded any of the employees in Old City Hall from doing their work. Police have not had to take any enforcement action against the group.

At present, there are approximately 25 people camped on the Old City Hall lawn. There is no indication of how long the group plans to continue the occupation. There are currently no laws or ordinances that prohibit this activity or address how long it may continue. Police are monitoring how other cities are handling this type of activity as it increases nationwide. They are maintaining open communication with the Occupy Charlotte group and its informal leadership as well as monitoring the site. As yet, there have been no decisions on how to handle this activity if it continues indefinitely.

County, City To Consider Lease Of Plant Property For Public Walking And Bicycle Access
Staff Resource: Barry Gullett, Utilities, 704-391-5073, bgullett@charlottenc.gov

Over the past several months, City and Mecklenburg County staff have discussed a temporary lease of about 100 acres of City-owned property adjacent to the Sugar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. This parcel lies along Tyvola Road, near Farmbrook Drive and across from the Marion Diehl Center. Tar Heel Trailblazers mountain bike club initiated conversation with the County and City with interest in using existing trails on the property that would be open to the public for walking and bicycle use. The property is a future site for plant expansion, but the project is not expected for several more years due to a slowdown in growth and projected capacity needs.

CMUD, City Real Estate and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police have been involved in drafting this

lease with the County, and parties agree an arrangement like this would help manage public activity on the property and limit inappropriate uses such as all-terrain vehicle (ATV) travel.

On Tuesday October 18, Mecklenburg County commissioners will consider a temporary, no-cost lease between Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte, whereby Mecklenburg Parks & Recreation would manage public use of the trails for bicycling and walking. City Council would also consider the lease at its Nov. 14 meeting.

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

City Energy Programs Win Sustainable Business Awards
Staff Resource: Nicole Storey, N&BS, 704-336-2929, nstorey@charlottenc.gov

The City of Charlotte won two Sustainable Business Awards this week at an event hosted by the *Charlotte Business Journal* and the U.S. Green Building Council. The event honored businesses in the Charlotte area that are making efforts to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into their businesses and community work.

The City won awards in two categories: General Excellence in Sustainable Business – Not for Profit for its Neighborhood Energy Challenge program; and General Excellence in Sustainable Programs – Government Action Plan for its Commercial Building Retrofit Program.

Both programs are funded through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) allocation to the City made possible through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The Neighborhood Energy Challenge encourages neighborhood-level involvement in planning and implementing energy solutions. Program goals are:

- reduce energy consumption;
- create jobs;
- positively influence behavior by empowering communities through neighborhood-level involvement in planning and implementation of energy conservation strategies;
- develop partnerships among local government agencies, businesses and communities to create holistic approaches to energy conservation.

Seven neighborhoods were selected for grants based on an RFP process: Plaza-Midwood, Wilmore, The Eco-District (Villa Heights, Belmont & Optimist Park), Merry Oaks, NoDa, The Avenue Condominiums and Spring Park. Each neighborhood designed and is in various stages of executing an Energy Conservation Plan.

The Commercial Building Retrofit Program was designed to improve the energy efficiency of

older commercial buildings in the City's priority corridors by assisting commercial and multi-family building owners with assessing and implementing energy retrofit projects. Program goals are:

- reduce energy consumption;
- stimulate the economy;
- create opportunities for local SBE's;
- positively influence business and residential practices by implementing various energy conservation strategies on commercial buildings;
- develop partnerships among local government agencies, businesses and communities to create holistic approaches to energy conservation.

Six commercial buildings and seven multi-family buildings were selected for grants based upon an application process.

The Business Journal will run a complete listing of award winners in its Friday, October 14 edition. For more information on the City's energy programs, please visit www.Power2Charlotte.com.

ATTACHMENT:

City Council Follow-Up Report **(see "4. Council Follow Up.pdf")**

Contents include:
--Kenilworth Avenue Lighting