Council-Manager Memo #30
Friday, April 20, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Calendar Details 2

Agenda Notes:
Agenda Item #12 – Blue Line Extension Lease Agreement with NC Railroad 2

Information:
May 2 – Small Business Month Kick-Off Event 3
DNC Communications Update 3-4
Charlotte's Solar Kiosk Debuts at CMGC 4-5
Computer Aided Dispatch System 5
Recycling Collection Service Update 5
Charlotte Fire Department Acquires 1866 Hand Pumper 5-7

Attachment:
March 22 Transportation and Planning Committee Summary 7
March 28 Budget Committee Summary 7

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (April 23)	Tues (April 24)	Wed (April 25)	Thurs (April 26)	Fri (April 27)
11:45 AM Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 280 4:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267 6:30 PM Citizens' Forum, Meeting Chamber		12:00 PM Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280 5:30 PM Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, April 23

11:45 am Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: City Council rules of procedure

4:00 pm Council Business Meeting, Room 267

6:30 pm Citizens' Forum, Meeting Chamber

Wednesday, April 25

12:00 pm Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Neighborhood symposium update; FY12 Housing Trust Fund recommendations; FY13 Housing Trust Fund budget retreat referral

5:30 pm Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267
AGENDA: FY13 operating budget programs and FY14-17 capital improvement plan; Relocation of Mt. Mourne station; State transportation demand management; Comprehensive transportation plan

April and May calendars are attached (see "2. Calendar.pdf").

AGENDA NOTES:

Agenda Item #12 – Blue Line Extension Lease Agreement with NC Railroad

Staff Resources: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov
Danny Rogers, CATS, 704-432-3033, drogers@charlottenc.gov
Brad Thomas, City Attorney's Office, 704-432-0489, bthomas@charlottenc.gov

The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) is a state owned railroad that is not subject to condemnation. Accordingly, City staff has been in negotiations with NCRR to acquire lease rights to 2.7 miles of rail corridor that will be part of the Blue Line Extension Project (BLE) alignment. The specific segment of rail corridor is just north of uptown and takes the BLE past NoDa and into the North Tryon Street portion of the alignment. Using this existing rail corridor avoids disruption of many existing homes and businesses. Negotiations continued up to the beginning of the Thursday, April 19 Special Meeting of the NCRR Board of Directors. The meeting was called specifically for the NCRR Board to consider this lease. The Request for Council Action (RCA) was not included in the printed Council Agenda pending the outcome of the negotiations and the NCRR board's Special Meeting. In order to meet the BLE project schedule, this item could not be deferred to a later meeting of City Council.

The attached **(see "3. RCA.pdf")** RCA outlines the lease terms and conditions that were approved by the NCRR Board at its Special Meeting.

INFORMATION:

May 2 – Small Business Month Kick-Off Event
Staff Resource: Gail Whitcomb, N&BS, 704-336-5849, gwhitcomb@charlottenc.gov

On May 2, 2012, the Mayor, City Council and the Business Advisory Committee will host a breakfast to celebrate the beginning of Charlotte's Small Business Month. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center.

The Mayor and Council members helped identify small businesses in their districts or in a particular growth sector to recognize. The businesses selected represent the diversity of Charlotte's small business community.

In addition, the District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration's North Carolina Office will recognize two local individuals for their contributions to the region's entrepreneurial community and the winner of the UNC-Charlotte's Charlotte Venture Challenge will be recognized.

Invitees include Mayor and Council members, representatives from the 12 small businesses being recognized, Business Advisory Committee members and the City's Small Business Resource Partners.

Attached **(see "4. SB Calendar.pdf") is** a copy of the most recent Small Business Month calendar of events. Detailed information on all the events can be found at www.CharlotteBusinessResources.com.

DNC Communications Update
Staff Resource: Kimberly McMillan, Corporate Communications and Marketing, 704-336-2643, kmcmillan@charlottenc.gov

The following communication efforts are underway as part of the City's plan to develop and execute a coordinated approach to communicating information related to hosting the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The City's primary objective is to provide a safe and enjoyable convention for attendees as well as local residents, businesses and commuters.

To date, the City has worked with Charlotte Center City Partners to host informational meetings for uptown residents, property managers and business owners. At these meetings attendees have had the opportunity to ask questions and learn how the City plans to distribute up-to-date information. As a result of these meetings, Corporate Communications developed a 180-day outlook, **attached (see "5. DNC Update.pdf")**, to address how the event may impact conducting daily business operations, along with meeting needs of uptown employees, vendors/suppliers and customers. The City will continue to distribute electronic outlooks at 120, 90, 60 and 30 days out with information focused on using public transportation,

commuting to and from uptown, accessing places of business, making deliveries, when the security perimeter will be established and location of free speech activities. In order to receive these outlooks, the City developed a registration page at *DNCinfo.charlottenc.gov*, which will also serve as the City's official website that is scheduled to launch June 1, 2012.

In order to keep as many residents informed in Center City and uptown neighborhoods, the City has created the "Live in the Loop. Work in the Loop. Stay in the Loop." campaign to encourage people to register at *DNCinfo.charlottenc.gov*. More than 30,000 households will receive a postcard, which is **attached (see "6. Postcard.pdf")**, in early May. Once residents register they will receive alerts and updates via email or text as they become available among four major categories: City Services, Transportation, Public Safety and Free Speech Activities. Specific topics include:

- Information for current CATS customers
- Assistance for first-time CATS riders
- Road closures and detours
- Parking information
- Traffic conditions
- Event zones
- Extraordinary Event information
- Speaker's platform application
- Parade application
- FAQs
- News releases

Charlotte's Solar Kiosk Debuts at CMGC

Staff Resources: David Smith, E&PM, 704-336-4626, *dbsmith@charlottenc.gov*
Catherine Bonfiglio, Corporate Communications and Marketing
704-336-4936, cbonfiglio@charlottenc.gov

Employees and visitors to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (CMGC) can now take a 90-second tour of the City's new "solar system," without leaving the building. A new educational kiosk in the building's lobby is connected to the solar tree on the CMGC parking deck. The kiosk provides real-time data on energy production and energy savings connected to the solar system.

The energy generated by the solar structure is used to help power the deck's electrical system, which includes lighting, security systems, elevators, gates, and electric vehicle charging stations. Kiosk viewers will learn about the current energy output; energy generated over the lifetime of the project; over the last five days; and energy created on the day the site is being viewed. Visitors will also learn how the energy generated and/or saved compares to other natural resources. The kiosk also features information about other City solar projects and the latest news on Charlotte's energy initiatives.

Computer Aided Dispatch System
Staff Resource: Jon Hannan, CFD, 704-336-2791, jhannan@charlottenc.gov

On Tuesday, April 17, 2012, the Charlotte Fire Department changed over the Intergraph Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This was the culmination of two years of work that places CFD and CMPD on the same CAD system and the same E-911 telephone system. This event brings the City's two largest departments into line with the City Manager's initiative on corporate realignment. CMPD, CFD, and BSS will collaboratively manage and maintain the various interfaces which give CAD its functionality, thereby enhancing CAD's capability and ensuring its dependability.

Recycling Collection Service Update
Staff Resource: Victoria O. Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vojohnson@charlottenc.gov

Inland Service Corporation, the City's private contractor for single family recyclables collection, is in the process of adjusting a few service routes to ensure continued efficient recycling collection. Effective Monday, April 23, Solid Waste Services will temporarily assist Inland with recycling collection for approximately 60 days until the route adjustments are complete. Inland will reimburse Solid Waste Services for collection expenses during this period. The assistance that City staff provides will not impact any other collection services.

Solid Waste Services will use their own vehicles to assist with the collection of recyclables. All recyclables will be taken to the County's recycling facility for processing.

Charlotte Fire Department Acquires 1866 Hand Pumper
Staff Resource: Jon Hannan, CFD, 704-336-2791, jhannan@charlottenc.gov

In 1866 the City of Charlotte bought a Jeffers Hand Pump Fire Engine. This apparatus originally was used by the "Hornets" a white-volunteer company and was later passed on to the "Neptune", an African-American volunteer company. The Neptune's were led by Colonel Charles S.L.A. Taylor, a hero of the Spanish-American war, and uncle to the late Senator Jim Richardson. The Charlotte Fire Department is now the new owner and is very proud to have the original hand pump engine back home.

When the Neptune #2, as this engine was named, was sold in 1901 it was over, what sources described as, the "tearful protests of the volunteer firemen of Charlotte, who pleaded for its preservation as a relic." It went to Marblehead, Mass., and in 1906 was sold to the Westfield Veterans Association. "It was used in the north solely for tournament purposes." This was an extremely powerful hand pumper that won many competitions.

This article appeared in *The Charlotte Observer* on November 21, 1913:

NEPTUNE LIVES

Tidings of the old Neptune Hand Fire Engine! Like the phoenix it has arisen! Remember it? That depends on whether you are a newcomer and if so, how new.

For many years this engine, the first that the Charlotte department (then volunteer) ever owned, was a prized possession, first for its ability to shoot water and later as a sort of civic heirloom. After the white firemen became possessed of a later model this engine was turned over to the colored volunteers. After a while it was sold and found its way to Westfield, Mass, where it found a royal welcome. So great comparatively was its prestige there that it was as a prophet not without honor save in its own country. Nearly a year ago news came that it had been burned. But harken to this letter received yesterday by Chief Wallace from Westfield:

"I suppose you say in the papers that your old Neptune No. 2 hand engine was burned on December 10, 1912. We saved the cylinders and almost all the iron work and have fixed it all over so that she is as good as ever. We went to Holyoke with her before she was burned and threw a stream 259 feet and nine inches. The judges got together and thought that if they put that on the board it would scare the rest of them in the Connecticut League, so they put up 231 feet. If she will do as well now she will be all right. If there are any old vets who used to work on her you can tell them that the smallest play she ever made was 199 feet, 11 inches. There is no better tub in the State than your old Neptune No. 2-now the Edwin R. Lay. When we have a picture taken of her I will send you one."

The Neptune was acquired by the American Hand Fire Engine Society in the 1990s and has been displayed in their museum in Newberry, Mass. They were willing to sell it back to Charlotte only because it was originally from here and they were aware of our good stewardship of historic City equipment. After negotiation, the fire department paid $50,000.00 for the Neptune.

It would be hard to come up with how many native Charlotteans, both black and white, could trace back to a relative that actually laid hands on this engine. CFD intends to preserve it and use it aggressively as an educational and recruitment tool in the City.

A video capturing the engine in action can be found at this link: http://alturl.com/uh95s

ATTACHMENTS:

March 22 Transportation and Planning Committee Summary **(see "7. TAP Summary.pdf")**

March 28 Budget Committee Summary **(see "8. Budget Summary.pdf")**