Council-Manager Memo #33
Wednesday, May 2, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

Billboard Selective Vegetation Removal

Staff resource: Don McSween, E&PM, 704-336-3459, dmcsween@charlotttenc.gov

In March, Adams Outdoor Advertising filed twenty-one applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to remove trees from NCDOT rights-of-way along I-77, I-485 and I-277. In accordance with the legislation governing vegetation removal and with NCDOT rules, the City submitted comments to NCDOT requesting denial of sixteen of the applications based on several criteria including public plantings in the rights-of-way, zoning violations, SWIM buffers, screening and noise barriers. Six additional applications are pending review by City staff.

The City has learned that NCDOT has denied four of Adams' requests based on the presence of public plantings in the rights-of-way. If Adams submits a replanting plan for these four sites, these requests will likely be approved. The remaining seventeen applications for tree removal were approved or are likely to be approved pending minor technical corrections. No denials were based on local ordinances or other local factors. City staff is checking with other NC municipalities to determine the status of applications across the state.

Staff has commented on ten additional applications that are still being reviewed by the state, and six applications were just received by City staff and are pending review.

Staff met with Adams Outdoor representatives on Monday, April 30 to discuss options such as preservation of certain trees, pruning rather than tree removal, or replanting within the cutting zones. Staff also plans to reach out to Lamar Advertising and Grace Outdoor, the two other billboard companies who have submitted applications for tree removal within Charlotte, to begin similar discussions.

2012 Justice Assistance Grant Application

Staff Resource: Darrellyn Kiser, CMPD, 704-336-7736, dkiser@cmpd.org

The City has received notification that its share of the 2012 Justice Assistance Grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, will be $529,135. The grant is intended to fund law enforcement initiatives. The enabling legislation for the grant requires the City to share a portion of the funds with Mecklenburg County. The County will receive 25% of the funds ($132,284) which will go to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

CMPD will use the City share of the funds ($396,851) for three purposes:

- $161,013 will fund overtime for problem solving activities in the patrol divisions;
- $125,108 will fund the staff for the Police Activities League after school and summer programs for one year;

- $110, 730 will fund 11 Police Cadet positions for one year. Police Cadets are college students who earn college tuition and a stipend for working in the patrol divisions. The program is a recruitment tool for the department with successful participants having the opportunity to apply for police officer positions once they have completed the Cadet Program.

The grant legislation requires that the governing body receive notification of the pending grant and the proposed budget prior to the submission of the grant application.

Briar Creek Relief Sewer Construction Begins Near Morningside
Staff Resource: Barry Shearin, CMUD, 704-391-5137, bshearin@charlottenc.gov

The City's contractor is preparing to start work on Briar Creek Relief Sewer Phase 2 (along Briar Creek from Randolph Road to Country Club Drive). Crews are starting near Morningside Drive and will work their way towards Central Avenue.

When finished, this project will help prevent sewer overflows, provide increased sewer capacity for present and future needs, and protect the water quality in Briar Creek.

Customers in the vicinity of the project will receive updates during construction via public meetings, letters, email alerts, and newsletters. Attached **(see "2. Pipeline.pdf")** is a newsletter and project map that is being mailed to customers along the project route.

***City Source* Tells Stories of Citizen Service**
Staff Resource: Sherry Bauer, Corporate Communications & Marketing, 704-336-2459, sbauer@charlottenc.gov

City Source is the City of Charlotte's unique 30-minute program for citizens to learn about the City's services as well as how its employees serve the community. The program airs the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Cable 16 (Time Warner Cable), AT&T U-verse and is streamed LIVE online at www.charlottenc.gov. The show runs periodically for two weeks.

In the May 5 – May 16 edition viewers will find out about Charlotte Works and how it's providing the tools to help job seekers get back to work. Viewers will also learn about growth at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, HUD financial assistant to businesses and low income persons, the City of Charlotte Facade Improvement Program, and Small Business Month.

This information is also promoted in CMail, the City's electronic newsletter emailed to more than 1,100 subscribers and distributed by City departments whose services, programs and employees are featured in an upcoming episode (**See "3. CitySource.pdf" for the flier)**.

ATTACHMENTS:

March 1 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see 4. ED Summary March 1.pdf")**

March 15 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see "5. ED Summary March 15.pdf")**

April 4 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see "6. ED Summary April 4.pdf")**

April 19 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see "7. ED Summary April 19.pdf")**