Council-Manager Memo #04
Friday, January 13, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Jan 16)	Tues (Jan 17)	Wed (Jan 18)	Thurs (Jan 19)	Friday (Jan 20)
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY	3:00 pm Environment Committee, Room 280 4:00 pm Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 278 5:00 pm Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14	12:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room 280	3:00 pm Economic Development Committee, Room 280	

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, January 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

Tuesday, January 17

3:00 pm Environment Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: "State of the Environment" overview; 2012 meeting schedule

4:00 pm Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 278
AGENDA: Council retreat planning

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

Wednesday, January 18

12:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Bow hunting/urban hunting; Rental property ordinance; 2012 meeting schedule

Thursday, January 19

12:00 pm Economic Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Disparity study update report; Oakhurst redevelopment infrastructure project; Joint meeting with county ED committee; 2012 meeting schedule; CRVA January barometer report (information only)

January and February calendars are attached (see "2. Calendar.pdf").

INFORMATION:

Zoning Regulations for Restaurants, Nightclubs, and Bars

Staff Resource: Debra Campbell, Planning, 704-336-2671, dcampbell@charlottenc.gov

The Planning Department has convened a Citizen Advisory Group to review and discuss the current zoning regulations for restaurants, nightclubs and bars. The purpose of this effort is to clarify the difference between restaurants and nightclubs/bars and to review the standards for these uses. Although the group has made progress, the final recommendations for a proposed text amendment will not be on the January 17, 2012 City Council agenda as originally scheduled.

It appears that a number of citizens and the press have confused this effort with an evaluation of the Noise Ordinance. While the Noise Ordinance and the zoning regulation of nightclubs and bars are related, the current effort is not recommending any changes to the Noise

Ordinance. Instead, this effort has remained focused on definitions of nightclubs and bars, as well as regulations for these uses.

Based upon these issues, the Citizen Advisory Group meetings and the proposed text amendment process will be deferred until City Council has had an opportunity to conduct a six month review of the Noise Ordinance as indicated in the original approval. Once City Council has taken final action on the Noise Ordinance, the Citizens Advisory Group will reconvene in either late spring or early summer in order to received additional comments and feedback before submitting a proposed text amendment.

State Invites Elected Officials To Air Quality Meetings on Nonattainment Boundary Areas
Staff Resource: Eldewins Haynes, CDOT, 704-336-7621, ehaynes@charlottenc.gov

The greater Charlotte area has all but officially met the existing 84 ppb ozone air quality standard. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is requiring the states to implement a new 75 ppb ozone standard.

The N.C. Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ) has just scheduled two meetings in the Charlotte region to discuss potential nonattainment boundary options. On January 18, 2012 elected officials and stakeholders are invited to attend at either:

- The Hal Marshall Center located at 700 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC at 1:00 p.m.,
- Town of Cornelius Town Hall, 21445 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC at 5:30 p.m.

The current nonattainment boundary includes the North Carolina counties of Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus, Rowan, Gaston, Lincoln, and the southern portion of Iredell. A portion of York County in South Carolina is also in this nonattainment boundary.

For these meetings, NCDAQ is soliciting comments on the following options:

1. Reducing the size of the current nonattainment boundary (created for the 84 ppb ozone standard), or
2. Maintaing the current nonattainment boundary for the new (75 ppb) ozone standard.

Mecklenburg and Union Counties would still be entirely within either nonattainment boundary option.

USEPA is projecting that the region will be a "marginal" nonattainment area for the new standard and USEPA is projecting that the region should meet the 75 ppb standard by 2015.

Citizen Concerns Regarding Newell Rail Project
Staff Resource: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, tgibbs@charlottenc.gov

A Newell area resident recently reached out to Council members and City Manager's Office staff voicing concerns about the Newell rail project sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Rail Division.

NCDOT held a public hearing about the project on December 13. Council was notified of the meeting through the December 9 Council-Manager Memo. At the December hearing, NCDOT staff provided for an opportunity to view conceptual plans, comment on the project's Environmental Assessment, and ask questions about the Double Track project.

NCDOT is considering several types of projects along the NCRR corridor including:

- realigning railroad curves;
- closing the NCRR crossings with Orr Rd. and Newell-Hickory Grove Rd. to all traffic;
- extending Grier Rd. over the railroad between Orr and Old Concord roads; and
- creating a new street on the south side of and parallel to the corridor between Eastway Dr. and Harris Blvd.

The proposed railroad Double Track project would increase the overall capacity of the railroad and improve passenger train schedule reliability by allowing freight and passenger trains to quickly and efficiently maneuver around each other.

The resident asserted that the neighborhood was unaware of the meeting and asked for another public hearing. NCDOT offered to convene a meeting to discuss the project but not hold another formal hearing.

City staff is meeting with NCDOT Rail Division staff in Raleigh today, Friday, January 13. Discussion will include citizen concerns, reduced street connectivity in the area and other related issues. Staff will update Council as this project moves forward.

A map of the corridor noting possible project components being considered is attached. **(see "3. Corridor map.pdf")**

Envision Charlotte – Energy Champion Training

Staff Resources: Rob Phocas, City Manager's Office, 704-336-7558, rphocas@charlottenc.gov
Laurie Sickles, E&PM, 704-432-5573, lsickles@charlottenc.gov

Duke Energy and Charlotte Center City Partners will conduct Energy Champion training for City employees as part of the Envision Charlotte initiative. Four sessions of this training will take place in room 270 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on January 17-20. This training focuses on Smart Energy Now – the energy-saving program that is the foundation of Envision Charlotte and the model program that will help shape future sustainability programs focused on water, air and waste. Participants will learn how to reduce their energy footprint within their office space, influence their co-workers to do the same, and launch and track grassroots campaigns. Council is welcome to attend part or all of the training to learn more about the community engagement efforts underway to achieve the energy-savings goal of Envision Charlotte.

East Stonewall Street and South College Street Intersection
Staff Resources: Debbie Self, CDOT, 704-336-3935, drself@charlottenc.gov

CDOT staff is still awaiting additional information on the recent crashes that occurred at the East Stonewall and South College streets intersection this past week. The additional information will assist staff in its evaluation for possible safety improvements. CDOT will share its findings in a future Council-Manager Memo.

ATTACHMENTS:

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

Contents Include:
--16% Fund Balance Information

November 16 Community Safety Committee Summary **(see "5. CS Summary.pdf")**