

Mayor and Council Communication
Memo Number: 32
Wednesday, May 5, 2010



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Information:

Moody's Upgrades Water/Sewer and Storm Water Utilities.....	2
USDOT Approves MUMPO 2035 Transportation Plan and Conformity Determination	2
Nominations Sought for "Charlotte's Crown Tree Awards"	3
Police Week Activities.....	3
June 2 - Utilities Partners with Joseph W. Grier Academy to Share Water Education	4

INFORMATION:

Moody's Upgrades Water/Sewer and Storm Water Utilities

Staff Resource: Greg Gaskins, Finance, 704-336-5885, ggaskins@charlottenc.gov

Effective May 1, 2010 Moody's Investors Service implemented its Global Rating Scale which adjusts its ratings criteria among business, government and non-profit entities to a universal standard. This change led to two significant rating changes for the City of Charlotte. The City of Charlotte Water/Sewer Revenue Bonds were upgraded to Aaa from Aa1 and City of Charlotte Storm Water Revenue Bonds were upgraded to Aa1 from Aa2. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities now carries AAA from all three agencies and Storm Water carries AAA from S&P and Aa1 from Moody's. Aa1 is the second highest rating available from Moody's. The rating agencies see the City of Charlotte as one of the strongest municipal credits in the nation.

USDOT Approves MUMPO 2035 Transportation Plan and Conformity Determination

Staff Resource: Eldewins Haynes, CDOT, 704-336-7621, ehaynes@ci.charlotte.nc.us

On April 28, 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced that the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) had approved the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and accompanying (air quality) Conformity Determination for the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO). May 3 was the effective approval date for both the 2035 LRTP and the Conformity Determination.

The LRTP is MUMPO's federally-mandated, fiscally-constrained, long-term planning document detailing the transportation improvements and policies to be implemented in MUMPO's planning area through 2035. The accompanying Conformity report is required by the Clean Air Act. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate that the motor vehicle emissions on the roadway network resulting from the highway and transit projects in the LRTP will not hinder the process of achieving air quality goals in the Metrolina ozone nonattainment area.

Demonstrating Conformity is independent of actually meeting air quality goals. Air quality goals are concerned with the measured concentration of pollutants (such as ozone) in the air, while Conformity is concerned with analyzing estimates of emissions (i.e., Nitrogen Oxides, or Volatile Organic Compounds) from motor vehicles.

At the same time, and with the same effective date, USDOT also approved the 2035 LRTPs for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations of the urbanized portion of Gaston County, and Cabarrus and Rowan Counties. Also approved were the transportation plans for eastern Union County, and the rural portion of Gaston County, and Iredell and Lincoln counties.

The next update of the LRTPs may not be required until four years from now, although it is likely that changes in funding or project delivery schedules could result in preparing updates sooner.

INFORMATION (continued):

Nominations Sought for “Charlotte’s Crown Tree Awards”

Staff Resource: Tom Johnson, E&PM, 704-336-3622, tjohnson@charlottenc.gov

The Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission is seeking nominations for awards that recognize efforts to support Charlotte’s trees and promote the canopy’s many benefits. The awards are presented annually on behalf of the Mayor and City Council and support the City Environment Focus Area Plan. Charlotte’s tree canopy is an essential part of Charlotte’s identity and has led to the city’s designation as "Tree City USA" for an unbroken string of 30 years.

This year the “Charlotte’s Crown Tree Awards” program has been expanded to honor businesses, organizations and individuals for achievements in the four categories; tree planting, tree preservation, advocacy and education. Nominations may be made by citizens, businesses, Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission members or City staff. Nominated sites must be located in Charlotte or Mecklenburg County (excluding the Mecklenburg towns) and must be complete for at least a year.

Nomination forms are available online at <http://landpermits.charmeck.org>. Click on “Trees” at the bottom of the left-hand column. The deadline for nominations is May 7.

Police Week Activities

Staff Resource: Chief Rodney Monroe, CMPD, 704-336-2337, rmonroe@cmpd.org

Next week law enforcement agencies across the country will observe National Police Week, which honors officers who have given their lives in the line of duty and recognizes current officers for their contributions to the community.

Mayor and City Council are invited to join CMPD personnel at the following events:

Friday, May 7: FOP Auxiliary Candlelight Service at 8:15 p.m. at Sharon Memorial Park.

Monday, May 10: Mecklenburg County Peace Officers Memorial Service at 10:30 a.m. at CMPD Headquarters. The event will begin with a wreath laying ceremony at the peace officers monument on the front lawn of Old City Hall. There will then be a procession to First Baptist Church at 301 South Davidson Street where the memorial service will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 12: Police Promotion and Awards Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Police and Fire Training Academy. The event will begin with a promotion ceremony at 10:30 a.m. and the Police Awards Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. The Awards Ceremony honors officers for outstanding accomplishments during the previous year and recognizes citizens who provided assistance to police.

Friday, May 14: Police Community Relations Awards at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The event honors police officers, nominated by citizens, for their work with neighborhoods.

INFORMATION (continued):

June 2 - Utilities Partners with Joseph W. Grier Academy to Share Water Education

Staff Resource: Barry Gullet, CMU, 704-391-5070, bgullet@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Students at Joseph W. Grier Academy will be immersed in the world of water on Wednesday, June 2, as Utilities employees bring educational stations to the school. While Drinking Water Week is being celebrated nationally this week, Charlotte's local celebration will take place after End-of Grade testing concludes.

Educational stations on water treatment, water conservation, water/sewer field work, laboratory testing, wastewater treatment, proper grease disposal and more will enlighten students and teachers as they learn about our community's water system. Tappy the Water Drop also will be making appearances to encourage students to conserve water resources.

Council member Barnes will join employees and students as we recognize poster contest and Water Star conservation award winners during the 11:30 a.m. ceremony. Utilities welcomes any Council members or City leadership who are interested in attending. The school is located at 8330 Grier Road, Charlotte, 28215.