Council-Manager Memo #65
Wednesday, September 1, 2010

CHARLOTTE.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Information:

Water and Sewer Rate Study Public Meetings Schedule 2-3
Walk Friendly Communities Pilot Program..... 3
Johnston & Mecklenburg Mills Update 4
Real Estate Transfer System ("Ledger System") FY2010 Annual Report..... 4
Annual Wastewater Report Announced..... 4

INFORMATION:

Water and Sewer Rate Study Public Meetings Scheduled
Staff Resource: Barry Gullet, CMU, 704-391-5060, bgullet@charlottenc.gov

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities has scheduled two sets of five public meetings across Mecklenburg County to gather community input related to the existing water and sewer rate structure, then discuss potential alternatives. Citizens are encouraged to attend and provide input as the department evaluates and considers alternatives to the existing water and sewer rate structure. The first meetings will include sharing introductory background about rates and fees, and soliciting public input. The second set of meetings will be spent presenting alternative rate and fee structures for public comment. This meeting schedule and additional information about the rate study is detailed at www.cmutilities.com.

WEST MEETINGS
1. September 14 at 6 p.m., Clanton Pavilion in Clanton Park, 3132 Manchester Avenue
2. October 26 at 6 p.m., Clanton Pavilion in Clanton Park

CENTRAL MEETINGS
1. September 15 at Noon, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (1st floor Meeting Chambers), 600 East 4th Street
2. October 27 at 6 p.m., Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

NORTH MEETINGS
1. September 15 at 6 p.m., Lee Dukes Water Treatment Plant, 7980 Babe Stillwell Road, Huntersville
2. October 28 at 6 p.m., Lee Dukes Water Treatment Plant

SOUTH MEETINGS
1. September 16 at 6 p.m., South County Regional Library, 5801 Rea Road
2. November 3 at 6 p.m., South County Regional Library

EAST MEETINGS
1. September 21 at 6 p.m., Hickory Grove United Methodist Church, 6401 Hickory Grove Road
2. November 4 at 6 p.m., Hickory Grove United Methodist Church

This public involvement piece of the 2010 Rate Study will assist Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities and its rate consultant as they evaluate water and sewer rate structures, fees and charges. The goal of the project is to recommend a rate structure that is considered fair and equitable while generating revenues required to operate the public water and sewer system.

Fifteen community volunteers are participating as part of a Water/Sewer Rate Study

Stakeholders Advisory Group, which will act as a sounding board during this process. Red Oak Consulting, a division of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., is the rate study expert working with Utilities staff. A rate structure recommendation will be shared with the Utilities Advisory Group and the City Council Restructuring Government Committee and presented to City Council for consideration in February 2011.

Walk Friendly Communities Pilot Program

Staff Resource: Vivian Coleman, CDOT, 704-353-0481, vcoleman@charlottenc.gov

The City of Charlotte has been selected as a pilot community to test and evaluate the Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) program and assessment tool. The U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration selected six communities out of 44 applications submitted to participate in the pilot. These communities included municipalities and counties competing nationwide.

The assessment tool is designed to evaluate a community's pedestrian safety and walkability in a comprehensive manner. Staff from several departments will help complete the assessment over the next month.

Charlotte's participation in the pilot program is important for a number of reasons:

- Through the TAP and USDG's goals, policies and objectives, the City is committed to becoming more walkable.
- Communities who participate in pilot testing will be recognized for their efforts and will automatically be evaluated in the first round of WFC awards.
- Pilot testing provides a unique opportunity to elevate the need for pedestrian safety and walkability for other communities around the country.
- The assessment will help provide City staff with additional information to address a variety of pedestrian safety issues.
- City participation will help to promote the City's efforts to provide residents and visitors with a safer and more comfortable walking environment.

Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) is a national recognition program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration. It has been developed to encourage towns and cities across the U.S. to establish or commit to a high priority for supporting safer walking environments. WFC will recognize communities working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort. The recognition program will officially be launched in the fall of 2010. The recognition program is maintained by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center's Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC), with support from a variety of national partners.

Johnston & Mecklenburg Mills Update

Staff Resource: Patrick Mumford, N&BS, 704-336-5612, pmumford@charlottenc.gov

On August 2, 1010, the Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee (H&ND) unanimously voted to recommend a private sale process designed to solicit the highest bid for the purchase of the Johnston & Mecklenburg Mills properties (the "Mills") with limited restrictions.

Since that time, staff realized that an issue involving the encroachment of a small portion of the Mill property into the North Carolina Railroad right-of-way has not been resolved. Mac McCarley and Pat Mumford met briefly with representatives from the North Carolina Railroad on Monday, August 30, to discuss the encroachment issues. The Railroad representatives responded positively to the City's request for assistance with resolving the encroachments and both parties are working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. Once the issue is resolved, staff will place the H&ND recommendation on the full Council agenda for action.

Real Estate Transfer System ("Ledger System") FY2010 Annual Report
Staff Resource: Jonathan Wells, Planning, 704-336-4090, jwells@charlottenc.gov

Attached is the Real Estate Transfer System Annual Report for FY2010 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). As the report indicates, there were no transactions recorded on the ledger during the reporting period, and the current ledger balance is $1,125,280 with credit to the City.

In early July, 2010, the City and County entered into an agreement whereby the City would provide assistance to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library system in an amount up to $1.4 million during FY2011, and that as the amount was drawn it would be represented on the ledger. These transactions will be tracked and will subsequently be shown on the FY2011 Annual Report to be produced in Summer 2011. *(see attachment, left side table of contents)*

Annual Wastewater Report Announced
Staff Resource: Barry Gullet, CMU, 704-391-5070, bgullet@charlottenc.gov

This month, customers will receive the attached bill insert about how Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities successfully collected and treated the community's wastewater before recycling it to the environment. Wastewater treatment plants continued their award winning performance, treating 30 billion gallons of wastewater during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010. There were 349 spills in the community, a decrease of nine spills compared to the year before. The number of spills per 100 miles of sewer lines continued to decline from 10.9 in 2007 to 8.6 spills in fiscal year 2010.

The bill insert and a detailed annual report are posted on www.cmutilities.com. An advertisement will also be placed in a local Spanish newspaper as well as on the CMU website. *(see attachment, left side table of contents)*