Council-Manager Memo #11
Wednesday, February 8, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

2012 Fiscal Mid-Year Audit Summary
Staff Resource: Greg McDowell, Internal Audit, 704-336-8085, gmcdowell@charlottenc.gov

Attached (see "2. Audit.pdf") is the 2012 Fiscal Mid-Year Audit Summary prepared by the Internal Audit (IA) division of the City Manager's Office. IA staff completed a number of performance audits during the first half of fiscal year 2012. IA staff continues to support the City's efforts to properly report and manage American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), or Stimulus Act funds. In addition, staff completed a follow-up procurement audit, which was expanded to include contracting issues at Utilities. With the issuance of one CATS-related report, along with a separate draft report in late 2011, staff is nearing completion of its review of contracts associated with the South Corridor Rail Line. A report of Recommendations Cleared during the period is attached at the end of this report.

February 9 – Public Sounding Board Meeting on Proposed Stormwater Fee Credit Methodology
Staff Resource: Daryl Hammock, E&PM, 704-336-2167, dhammock@charlottenc.gov

The City and Mecklenburg County operate a joint stormwater utility, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, through an inter-local agreement. The City and County strive to have consistent stormwater policies when possible. An outreach process to solicit feedback on a proposed revision to how stormwater fee credits are determined has begun. Stormwater fee credits allow property owners to lower their stormwater fees by building and maintaining devices that reduce flooding and improve the quality of runoff passing through the devices.

The current fee credit methodology does not offer credit for all the benefits provided by stormwater control measures such as wet ponds, and does not adequately provide credit for the enhanced benefits provided by new basins built since more protective ordinances were enacted in the City and County in 2006 and 2008.

To meet the County's schedule drivers, a public sounding board meeting will be held Thursday February 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center in room 267. The City will participate in this meeting to receive feedback on the changes. Approximately 350 potentially affected commercial properties throughout the County have been invited to attend through a direct mailing. Fee credit revisions will also be discussed at the February 16 Storm Water Advisory Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the Hal Marshall Services Center, 700 North Tryon Street, Auditoriums 1 & 2.

Staff anticipates briefing Council on the proposed revisions at the February 29 Council budget retreat.

February 15 – "The Original Green" Enduring Development Techniques Discussion
Staff Resources: Danny Pleasant, CDOT, 704-336-3879, dpleasant@charlottenc.gov
Debra Campbell, Planning, 704-336-2671, dcampbell@charlottenc.gov

The City of Charlotte, with support from ULI Charlotte, will present a discussion on "The Original Green" on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center room 267. Architect, urban designer, speaker, and author Steve Mouzon will delve into the concept of "The Original Green" – a phrase used to describe sustainability methods that were commonplace prior to the thermostat age – and which have enduring value for the continuing development of the nation's cities and towns. This program relates to City Council's Focus Areas for Environment, Transportation, and Economic Development, and City Council is invited to attend. More information on "The Original Green" concept is available at www.originalgreen.org

March 17 – Peachtree Hills Tree Planting Event
Staff Resources: Aisha Alexander, N&BS, 704-336-2175, valexander@charlottenc.gov
Sarah Morris, E&PM, 704-336-4996, smorris@charlottenc.gov

The City is partnering with the Catawba Lands Conservancy to pilot a neighborhood-level approach to tree planting in the Peachtree Hills neighborhood. The City will supply approximately 60 trees to the effort. Peachtree Hills homeowners will be invited to sign up for the planting event which will be held on Saturday, March 17 beginning at 9 a.m. Homeowners will volunteer to plant trees in the neighborhood park and at their homes. Participants will sign a stewardship pledge and will receive guidance and resource materials to help them know how to properly plant, nurture, and maintain the trees.

This pilot effort will inform the City's future efforts to encourage citizens in tree planting, management, and stewardship. City staff will learn from this pilot event and will plan to continue to partner with local groups and neighborhoods for similar planting events each year. Creating well-treed neighborhoods is a vital part of the City Council's goal to achieve 50% tree canopy coverage in 2050.