

MINUTES

July 28, 2021

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OPERATIONS CENTER | 305 WILLIAMS ST. | 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk and Council Members: Jeff Miller, and Dr. Jennifer Hensley

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Smith, Council Member Lyndsey Simpson

Staff Present: City Manager John F. Connet, Assistant City Manager Brian Pahlc, City Attorney Angela Becker, City Clerk Angela Reece, Communications Manager Allison Justus, and others

Special Guest: NC Commissioner of Labor, Josh Dobson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Volk called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with three members in attendance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. **SHARP Designation Fire Station #2** – *Lu Ann Welter, HR Coordinator*

City Manager John Connet extended thanks and appreciation to LuAnn Welter and Fire Chief James Miller for their efforts over the last five years to focus on the City's safety program. Manager Connet stated Ms. Welter has gone above and beyond in her new role to strengthen the safety program and announced her recent accomplishment is the implementation of the ASK M.E.E. program. Manager Connet explained that the program develops a safety culture and reminds employees to watch out for themselves and each other both on and off the job. Manager Connet stated all of these efforts have culminated in a safety award being presented to Fire Station #2 by the NC Department of Labor.

The N.C. Department of Labor's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is administered through the Consultative Bureau of the Occupational Safety and Health Division. It is designed for small and mid-size employers that have established, implemented, and maintained exceptional workplace safety standards. Currently, there are 169 SHARP-designated entities in North Carolina, six of them fire stations falling in the Public Sector Recognition Program. There are no other SHARP designations in Henderson, Polk, or Transylvania Counties and only one in Buncombe County.

North Carolina Commissioner of Labor Josh Dobson presented an award to the Hendersonville Fire Department Station #2 for achieving the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) designation. Commissioner Dobson stated the NC Department of Labor regulates approximately 200,000 to 270,000 private and public sector business and organizations in North Carolina and said approximately 200 have received this award. Commissioner Dobson thanked Mayor Volk, City Council Members, City Manager Connet, and staff for their commitment to safety.

B. **Sidewalk Mural Project** – *Friends of Downtown, Downtown Manager Jamie Carpenter*

Downtown Manager Jamie Carpenter announced the Friends of Downtown Hendersonville are one of 244 communities across the United States who have been awarded an AARP grant. Ms. Carpenter outlined the 5th Avenue Art Route project stating it is a sidewalk mural design project involving the community. Ms. Carpenter stated the work must be completed by November and announced community members have been invited to submit their ideas.

C. King Street Pedestrian Improvements and S. Main Roundabout Concept Presentation by Kimley-Horn – *City Engineer Brent Detwiler, and Jonathan Guy, Vice President Kimley-Horn*

City Engineer Brent Detwiler recalled prior discussions regarding the possibility of narrowing King Street and increasing connectivity along 3rd and 4th Ave. Jonathan Guy, Vice President of Kimley-Horn presented concepts to implement improvements along this corridor utilizing the third lane to provide on street parking and buffering. Mr. Guy presented various renderings of the proposed concepts. City Manager John Connet stated there will need to be conversations with the First Contact regarding repositioning the sidewalk and relocation of a driveway. Manager Connet stated staff recommends moving the sidewalk adjacent to the street is a better option rather than having persons opening their doors into the plant bed.

Mr. Guy stated the NCDOT has plans to resurface this street in the next year and a half and said there could be a significant cost savings to the city to proceed with the project to take advantage of NCDOT’s resources to repave the area. Mayor Volk inquired if reducing lanes would impact traffic flow and Mr. Guy stated the proposal is a natural transition and said the proposal is in line with the NCDOTs complete streets model and said he does not believe it will be disruptive. Council Member Jeff Miller inquired about parallel parking along this section and Mr. Guy stated this is a consideration but did not think it would diminish the day-to-day operations or be a detriment long term. Council Member Miller stated he would not prefer parallel parking in front of the Azalea Drive section and Mr. Guy stated there could be a wider sidewalk in that area.

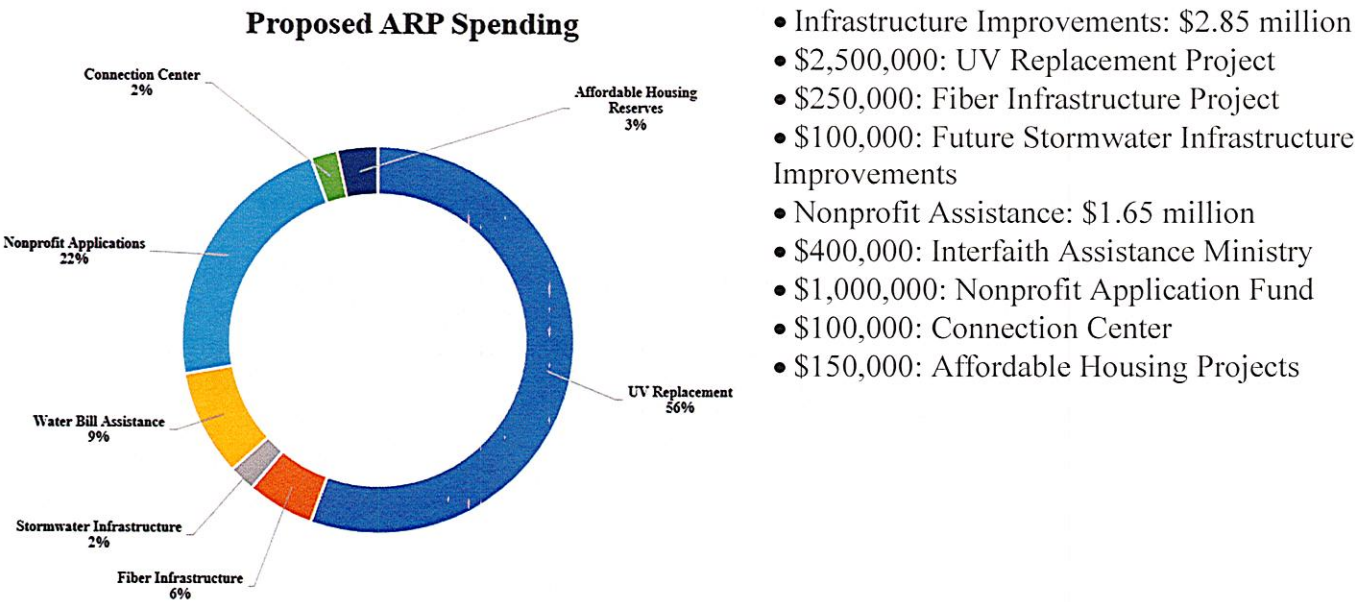
Mr. Guy discussed the proposed roundabout by NCDOT becoming gateway for multimodal transportation and stated there are a multitude of opportunities to work with NCDOT to replace gateway signage and landscaping in this area. Mr. Guy presented concepts to incorporate future connectivity between the Ecusta Trail, city owned properties, and future sewer infrastructure projects.

City Manager John Connet reiterated this is a concept and said there are opportunities to open discussions with NCDOT and Ecusta Trail project and clarified staff would come back to City Council with formalized designs which will suit and benefit the community as a whole.

D. ARP Funding Presentation – *Alex Norwood, Intern, UNC Chapel Hill*

Mr. Alex Norwood, UNC Chapel Hill Intern presented an overview of funding city has received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), staff recommendations for city allocations, and a potential framework for awarding ARP funds to nonprofit organizations. Mr. Norwood stated the city has been awarded \$4.5 million as part of the ARP and has received \$2.25 million to date. Mr. Norwood stated funds must be obligated by the end of calendar year 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Mr. Norwood stated staff have also developed an application which nonprofits would use to apply for ARP funds for the City Council to consider allocation. Mr. Norwood discussed criteria for eligibility stating the two goals that staff believes the City is in the best position to address are making improvements to water and sewer infrastructure and addressing negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

Mr. Norwood stated staff have developed a list of potential projects that would qualify for ARP funding ranging from water/sewer infrastructure improvements to funding nonprofit organizations and provided the following recommendation for expending ARP funds.

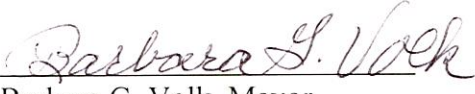


City Manager John Connet reminded everyone that the recommendations will ultimately come from City Council and said staff proposed projects that benefit the community as a whole. City Attorney Becker further clarified funding requests must meet certain criteria and be directly related to COVID or the ARP funding may not be used. Attorney Becker stated each request will be evaluated according to the federal rules.

City Manager John Connet stated staff are recommending proceeding with the \$100,000 special appropriation funding which is Council usually allocates in their annual budget at their August meeting.

3. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. upon unanimous assent of the Council.


Barbara G. Volk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Angela L. Reece, City Clerk