

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

March 4, 2013
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony III, presiding; Council Members Christopher H. (Chris) Mabry, David W. White, Jeanette D. Patterson, Dennis C. Bailey, Joel R. Shores, Jr., Dicky Amaya; City Manager Rick Howell, City Attorney Robert W. (Bob) Yelton, City Clerk Bernadette A. Parduski, NCCMC, MMC, Director of Finance Justin S. Merritt, MPA, Director of Human Resources Deborah C. (Deb) Jolly, Director of Utilities Brad R. Cornwell, PLS, EI, Police Chief Jeffrey H. (Jeff) Ledford, Fire Chief William P. Hunt, MPA, Director of Public Works Daniel C. (Danny) Darst, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Director of Planning Services and Interim Director of Development Services Walter (Walt) Scharer, AICP; and media representatives

Mayor Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all who were in attendance, especially City Attorney Bob Yelton who was returning from medical leave. The Mayor gave the invocation and Mr. White led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

A. Approval of agenda:

- 1) Motion to adopt the proposed agenda

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. Amaya, City Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

B. Special Presentation:

- 1) Shelby City Park Recreation and Sports Complex Lighting – Allen Langley, Chair, Shelby Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mr. Langley introduced the subject matter of the presentation specifically the benefits of lighting the Shelby City Park Recreation and Sports Complex. On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, he commended the City for making the commitment to create the facility in a first-rate manner, expressing the hope to reap its fullest potential in the near future with the addition of lighting. Mr. Langley outlined the specific advantages of the Recreation and Sports Complex and the additional benefits of adding ball field lighting as follows:

- How sporting activities benefit youth
- Impact on local sports leagues and events
- Impact of hosting large youth sporting events through lodging, dining, and shopping by visitors to local businesses

Mr. Langley recognized his Vice Chair Craig Ferree in attendance.

Next Mr. Holtzclaw substituting for Board member, Michael Shawn Collins, summarized and shared Mr. Collins' statistics and comments by stating when youths are involved in organized extracurricular activities, those activities can and will reduce the juvenile crime rate and the burden on the court system.

Mr. Holtzclaw then tied the City's current policy and adopted planning documents to quality recreational facilities which are created and maintained for the enjoyment of area residents and to bring visitors to the area and athletic competitions to Shelby. He emphasized approximately 1,000 coaches, baseball and softball players, and their family members use City Park facilities during the season.

Upon questioning, Mr. Holtzclaw responded that some infrastructure is in place at the complex and the proposed lighting project would cost approximately \$350,000.

Next Jackie Sibley, Director of Travel and Tourism for the Cleveland County Chamber, added that Shelby City Park is a huge tourism attraction because it is a very versatile venue, hosting private and family events, the Merry Go Round Festival, Cycle North Carolina, the Hog Happnin', and many others. Mrs. Sibley stated in 2011 local tourism spending increased by 18 percent, ranking Cleveland County fourth in the State.

According to Mrs. Sibley sporting events have proved to be one of the better attractions. Last summer Shelby City Park hosted a state baseball tournament, a four-day event that drew in 25 teams from across the state and \$500,000 to local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. She said if Shelby could host 12 tournaments per year on those ball fields due to lighting, then it could generate \$6 million that could remain in Cleveland County. Mrs. Sibley requested Council to consider lighting the sports complex as an investment in the venue for the betterment of the local community and increased tourism income. She anticipated the return on this investment could be almost immediate.

Upon questioning, Mrs. Sibley responded she is awaiting verification of the 2012 tourism spending figures.

Mr. Langley concluded the presentation by reiterating the advisory board's request to consider funding the sports complex lighting project at City Park.

Council received the information and took no action.

C. Consent Agenda:

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Anthony presented the consent agenda. Mrs. Patterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda and each item as presented. The consent agenda and following items were unanimously approved:

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2013
- 2) Approval of Special Event Permit Application:
 - a. Foothills Farmers' Market, requested dates: Wednesdays and Saturdays, April – November 2013
- 3) Approval of a resolution approving the contract for the performance of the City of Shelby's annual audit and preparation of financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013: Resolution No. 14-2013

END CONSENT AGENDA

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of appointments to City advisory boards and commissions:

- a. Shelby Housing and Redevelopment Advisory Board

Mrs. Parduski reported the terms of three incumbents, Talmadge Strickland, Derrick Haynes, and Gaye DeVoe, conclude March 2013. All the incumbents wish to continue their service.

There are three applications on file in the Clerk's Office: Michael Shawn Collins, Anthony Franklin, and Chavis Gash.

Mr. Amaya nominated the incumbents, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Haynes, and Mrs. DeVoe, for reappointment.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. Amaya, City Council voted unanimously to close the nominations and to accept the nominees by acclamation.

Council requested Mrs. Parduski to contact the potential applicants and express their appreciation for their interest in serving on Shelby's advisory boards.

E. New Business: None

F. City Manager's Report:

- 1) Mr. Howell provided an update on KSM Castings NC Inc.'s plans to open its new manufacturing facility on the west side of Shelby. The project is currently in the design phase for both the site and access road. Once these designs are completed, the City can begin its delivery of utility services in accordance with the Incentive Agreement.
- 2) Mr. Howell briefed Council on the progress of the Job Ready Shell Building No. 2 Project at the Foothills Commerce Center. WHN Architects has submitted drawings for review. Due to factors not encountered with the first shell building project, site preparation is proving crucial and impacts the project budget. Matthews Construction, the previous contractor, is providing working budget estimates to the City. Mr. Howell anticipated the project will bid at the end of March 2013, with a contract awarded in April 2013, and construction to begin in May 2013. There was discussion regarding building options, which might have to be adjusted to fit the budget, including whether to pour a concrete floor or use gravel. WHN Architects will be scheduled to make their presentation at a Council meeting in the very near future.
- 3) Mr. Howell informed Council the initial bids for the Foothills Farmers' Market Pavilion Project have been accepted and are under review by the architect, Mark Patterson. It is likely project changes will be necessary and may include a decrease in the size of the facility as well as less amenities. Mr. Howell said the pavilion will not be completed this season and further updates will be forthcoming.
- 4) As a follow-up to the comments received from the Washington Heights neighborhood representatives, Mr. Howell recently met with Emanuel Hunt, Jr. The discussion included sidewalks and connectivity to Holly Oak Park and the expansion of the City's sewer collection system into the Washington Heights community as well as the related costs. Mr. Howell said staff will continue to assist and reach out to the residents to address

both their short and long-term concerns. A litter sweep of Eaves Road was organized and conducted by Keep Shelby Beautiful on March 2, 2013 and a neighborhood walk through has been scheduled for March 21, 2013.

- 5) Mr. Howell reminded Council that staff will begin planning the implementation of the City's Stormwater Phase II Program including the funding and impact on the General Fund budget, which will become apparent starting this year.
- 6) Mr. Howell announced ElectriCities of North Carolina will again be hosting a series of regional meetings throughout the state and one will be held in Shelby at the Don Gibson Theatre on April 4, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- 7) Mr. Howell also announced the 2013 ElectriCities of North Carolina Annual Conference is scheduled for August 1 – 3, 2013 at Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina.

There was discussion about how to fund the proposed lighting project at the Shelby City Park ball fields ranging from disbursing travel and tourism funds from the local occupancy tax collection to grant funding options to sales tax distribution to private donations to the efforts by the Friends of the Parks.

Upon questioning, Mr. Holtzclaw agreed with Mrs. Sibley's comments and clarified that lighting the ball fields would significantly increase the City's opportunities in the larger tournament market, which would greatly increase tourism spending and positive exposure for Shelby.

G. Council Announcements and Remarks:

- 1) Mayor Anthony encouraged Council members to attend the North Carolina League of Municipalities Town Hall Day on March 27, 2013 in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 2) Mrs. Patterson reminded Council that several months ago she requested consideration of her proposal for an ordinance requiring pet owners to remove animal waste/fecal matter within the City limits. At that time there was general discussion but the issue remains unresolved. Further discussion followed and by consensus Council requested staff to study the matter and to report back with recommendations.

Mr. Amaya requested to be excused at 7:11 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey, City Council voted unanimously to excuse Mr. Amaya from the meeting.

H. Adjournment:

1) Motion to adjourn

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. Shores, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bernadette A. Parduski, NCCMC, MMC
City Clerk**

**O. Stanhope Anthony III
Mayor**

Minutes of March 4, 2013