

COUNCIL CHAMBER – May 3, 2010

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS: MENTAL HEALTH MONTH; 20th ANNIVERSARY VIRGINIA DISCOVERY MUSEUM; BUILDING SAFETY MONTH; TOURISM WEEK; CIVILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. Norris presented proclamations for Mental Health Month, the 20th Anniversary of the Virginia Discovery Museum, Building Safety Month, Tourism Week, and Civility Awareness Month. He also noted a proclamation for National Foster Care Awareness Month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Szakos welcomed the high school students in attendance and thanked them for coming. She thanked the hundreds of volunteers who put together the Dogwood Festival this year.

PUBLIC

Pat Napoleon, 700 Lyons Avenue, requested that the city again open McIntire Park on first Sundays during the remainder of spring through the fall.

Charlottesville High School students Morgan, Kiana, and Alaina, representing Teens Taking Action, said that May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and highlighted teen pregnancy issues.

Paul Long, 1410 Grady Avenue, asked requested the city work to locate Fortune 500 companies in the city.

Brandon Collins, 536 Meade Avenue, spoke in support of the Living Wage resolution. He encouraged Council to pressure UVA for a Living Wage.

Colette Hall, 101 Robertson Lane, asked that the city use a collection contractor that can assure recyclables are being properly treated.

Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge Street, thanked Council for their work in repairing fountains on the Downtown Mall.

Greg Casar, 808 Cabell Avenue, said UVA should promote a decent standard of living in the city of Charlottesville. He was pleased to hear Council is taking a stand on the issue. He thanked college and high school students for attending the meeting and asked supporters of a Living Wage to stand.

COUNCIL RESPONSES TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Dr. Brown said the curbside recycling is taken to Tidewater Fibers in the city of Richmond. He agreed that McIntire Park should be re-opened for First Sundays. He thanked Teens Taking Action for eloquently pointing out the importance of teen pregnancy.

Ms. Edwards suggested coordinating First Sundays with Teens Taking Action to involve and engage our youth. She said Mr. Long's suggestion for expanding our job base is consistent with the city's idea of expanding the work force.

Mr. Huja encourage Teens Taking Action to follow up with their convictions.

Ms. Szakos was impressed with Teens Taking Action. She commended them for trying to help peers understand teen pregnancy issues. She echoed Mr. Collins' confidence in the moral fiber of UVA students. She supported First Sundays.

Mr. Norris said opening McIntire Park for First Sundays is in the works for the coming year. He commended the youth and teens in attendance for their positive example. He welcomed them to speak more often at Council meetings.

Mr. Jones thanked the city staff who worked on the fountains.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Brown removed the Living Wage resolution from the consent agenda.

Ms. Szakos said it is important to remember we forwarded money for the Washington Park pool repairs that would have otherwise been in the CIP.

On motion by Dr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the following consent agenda items were approved by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None.

a. Minutes of April 12 and April 19

b. APPROPRIATION \$85,000 – Summer Lunch Program Grant (2nd reading)

c. APPROPRIATION \$1,900 – Fire Programs Grant (2nd reading)

d. APPROPRIATION \$250,395 – Foster Families Stipends (2nd reading)

e. APPROPRIATION \$14,806.66 – Extradition Costs Reimbursement (2nd reading)

f. APPROPRIATION \$5,100 – Donations to Dialogue on Race (carried over)

- g. APPROPRIATION \$34,150 – Police Overtime for Special Events (carried over)
- h. RESOLUTION \$500,000 – Washington Park Pool Repairs
- i. RESOLUTION Approval of Annual CDBG/HOME Action Plan
- j. RESOLUTION Special Use Permit for PETCO at 1615 Emmet Street
- k. RESOLUTION Appointing Aubrey Watts to Airport Authority
- l. RESOLUTION Granting Easement to Virginia Dominion Power for Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center and Boys and Girls Club
- m. RESOLUTION Authorizing Purchase of 110 Summit Street (Fontaine Fire Station)
- n. ORDINANCE “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1512 EAST MARKET STREET TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)” (carried over)

REPORT: LIVING WAGE

Dr. Brown said he is proud the City of Charlottesville has a living wage order. However, UVA has been a thoughtful partner with the City of Charlottesville, and a resolution is not the appropriate way for Council to express their opinion. He asked that Council table the resolution and schedule a meeting for the Mayor to welcome the new president of UVA and point out issues that are important to the city, particularly the Living Wage, via a letter or meeting.

Ms. Szakos said it is not the role of Council to try to change another body, but she does not view the resolution as a confrontational tool. Instead, it makes a statement of our stance. The city has had a living wage ordinance in place for ten years, and Council passed a resolution in June 2000 asking other employers to join us.

Mr. Huja said the resolution conveys our values and views.

Mr. Norris suggested Council reaffirm the resolution from 2000 and communicate their support with a letter to UVA administration, specifically naming UVA as the city's largest employer. On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the resolution was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT THROUGH GREENBRIER PARK TO SERVE TARLETON ROAD PROPERTY

Mr. Brown presented the request from Alex and Joan Gulatta, 2110 Tarleton Drive. Mr. Gulatta addressed Council regarding his request.

The public hearing was opened, but as there were no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Dr. Brown, the ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PERMANENT EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY TO ALEX AND JOAN GULOTTA FOR A SEWER EASEMENT THROUGH FREENBRIER PARK” was offered and carried over to the next meeting for consideration.

REPORT: CITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Mr. Ric Barrick, Director of Communications, said a challenge of holding Council meetings in alternate locations is that they could not broadcast live. City Hall is centrally located, so moving it may be an impediment to some. He researched other communities that took meetings on the road but could not find an example. Other efforts towards Community-wide town hall meetings have been listening sessions rather than meetings with specific topics and an agenda, which reduces intimidation some may feel. He said barriers that should be addressed include access to childcare, meeting times during the dinner hour, and notification. We must cast a wider net to get information out to a larger audience.

Mr. Barrick asked Council for advice on how to proceed. Specifically, how many Councilors would be present at these meetings? How do we segment the city equitably across neighborhoods? There are 18 neighborhoods in the city; perhaps we can parallel neighborhoods with similar concerns. He said we should identify neighborhoods that are the most difficult to reach in the beginning. We could also reinstitute open office hours.

Mr. Jones said this as an opportunity to reinvigorate neighborhood associations that have become somewhat dormant and bring them back into discussions regarding the city.

Mr. Barrick said he has engaged the neighborhood associations to find venues appropriate for meetings of various sizes.

Ms. Szakos thanked Mr. Barrick for his work and said the details are less important than making sure everyone is able to interact with Council.

Mr. Brown said it is important that all five Councilors attend some portion of these meetings because it makes a statement.

Ms. Edwards said she is open to consistent office hours for City Council. It provides a way for neighborhoods to see that what happens in one neighborhood effects another instead of functioning in silos.

Mr. Huja said going to citizens is a healthy idea. He emphasized the importance of communicating the schedule and making sure the agenda is meaningful so that people have a reason to attend. He advocated quarterly meetings.

Mr. Norris thanked Ms. Szakos and Mr. Bellamy for championing this issue. He said he would rather be out in the community and convey general openness than have structured office hours. Mr. Huja and Dr. Brown agreed. Ms. Szakos recommended building an email list for communicating the schedule of community meetings to citizens. Mr. Jones recommended putting together a macro-marketing plan for distributing information.

REPORT: DIALOGUE ON RACE

Mr. Jones said over 600 ppl signed up to be a part of the Dialogue on Race Study Circles. Groups average eight to ten people and are led by a trained volunteer. Members of steering committees met to prepare ideas for the action forum on Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the King Performing Arts Center at Charlottesville High School. He invite everyone to attend, regardless of whether or not they participated in the past.

Mr. Norris: commended Mr. Jones and staff for an excellent job in continuing this vital community discussion. He found participating in the circles to be a rewarding opportunity. Mr. Jones said he is in the process of hiring a project coordinator, a long term temporary employee who will provide support for this project for six to fourteen months.

REPORT: SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Ms. Stephanie Cangin, Chair of the Social Services Advisory Board, provided a report to Council. Child Protective Services is experiencing an increase in referrals for assessments and investigations, which is anecdotally economically driven. There have been good results with foster care prevention initiatives. The number of children being served has dropped, and Charlottesville no longer has the highest per capita rate in the state. The Youth Internship Program was a great success last year and is continuing to expand this year.

Ms. Cangin said there has been an increase in the number of SNAP users (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps). Recipients are staying on the program for longer. State budget cuts are potentially 1-2.4%. The Workforce Center is up and running and has been under new management since July 2009.

Mr. Huja asked for the total number of citizens served by Social Services. The best estimate is between 7,000 and 9,000 per year, but it is difficult to be accurate because there is overlap in the programs. The trend is going up. Calls to the agency have continued to climb.

Dr. Brown asked the advisory committee to gather data regarding family transfers between county and city. He said he wanted this transition to be more seamless.

Mr. Norris said merging city and county social services departments may improve accessibility. Ms. Cangin said it could harm the quality of services and does not save money.

Ms. Edwards asked about the opportunity to have a joint meeting with the county's counterpart on their social services board. Ms Cangin supplied contact information for social services and the community retention department, which may be reached at (434) 970-3400. More information may also be found on their website.

REPORT: SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Ms. Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities, presented an update on sanitary sewer infrastructure. The city suffers from aging infrastructure/system maintenance and increased capacity demands, which have been issues nationwide. Three agencies, City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) and Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) are working closely with the department of environmental quality to formalize agreements and form a long-range plan. Issues such as improper connections to sewers, infiltration, and cracks reduce sewer line carrying capacity, expose diseases and pollutants, and impact the receiving treatment plant.

Ms. Hildebrand presented repair initiatives, including smoke testing and slip lining, operations and maintenance programs, the Fats, Oils and Grease Program, and sanitary sewer evaluation surveys. She said the city must have appropriate funding in place because of federal budget issues.

Ms. Szakos asked how long the slip lining lasts. Ms. Hildebrand estimated about 50 to 60 years. The city is utilizing it mostly on terracotta pipes. They can be relined when the lining wears out. They are implementing regulations to be sure the lining process lasts a long time.

Mr. Norris said some neighborhoods are concerned about the prospect of enlarging the pump station at Riverview Park. Much of the increase is from sewer inflow from Albemarle County, so he asked if there are other measures we can take to more aggressively alleviate the impacts of the potential expansion. Ms. Hildebrand said the city is researching a number of alternatives and will evaluate what makes sense in terms of relocation. They will get input from neighborhoods once they formulate alternatives.

REPORT: CITY MANAGER SEARCH UPDATE

Mr. Galloway introduced Mr. John Anzavino of Springsted. Mr. Anzavino provided Council with a process overview. He outlined the search process and offered options for community participation. Council agreed to one community meeting, individual interviews with up to twenty community leaders, and a survey tailored to the community.

Mr. Anzavino described the recruitment process and estimated that it would take 120 days to find a candidate.

Mr. Norris said Springsted laid out an excellent process. Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, and Dr. Brown expressed support for the public meeting and community leaders meetings. Ms. Szakos said we should be sure to promote the survey throughout the city.

PUBLIC

There were no matters by the public.

The meeting was adjourned.