

CONCORD CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION
JANUARY 28 and JANUARY 29, 2021

A special meeting of the City Council for the City of Concord, North Carolina, was held on January 28 and January 29, 2021. The January 28th session began at 5:00 p.m. and the January 29th session began at 8:00 a.m. Mayor William C. Dusch presided.

Due to COVID-19 and the 6 foot separation requirement, the meetings were conducted electronically via Zoom.

Council members were present as follows:

Members Present:

- Mayor Pro-Tem W. Brian King
- Council Member Andy Langford
- Council Member Ella Mae P. Small
- Council Member JC McKenzie
- Council Member Terry L. Crawford
- Council Member Jennifer H. Parsley
- Council Member John A. Sweat, Jr.

Others Present:

- City Manager, Lloyd Wm. Payne, Jr.
- City Attorney, Valerie Kolczynski
- City Clerk, Kim J. Deason

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Mayor Dusch called the January 28th meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The following was discussed:

Concord United Committee Discussion

The Council continued discussion regarding the establishment of the Concord United Committee.

It was suggested to add educational training for the members to explain the City, County and State's jurisdiction and to also explain what the City and staff have already completed.

The terms were decided to be 3-year terms instead of 2-year terms. The first appointed members will have staggered terms so as not all the members will have the same term expiration date; for example, a group of members will begin with 1-year terms, another group of members will begin with 2-year terms, and the last group of members will begin with 3-year terms.

The City Manager stated that he had been discussing with the Human Resources Director about adding a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position in the FY21-22 budget, but now feels that the position is needed in the current FY with the establishment of the Committee. He stated this request would be included on the February Council meeting agenda for Council's consideration if Council agrees.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Council Member Parsley, and duly carried, to recess the meeting to Friday, January 29, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.—the vote: all aye.

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On January 29, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., Mayor Dusch reconvened the virtual meeting.

Council members were present as follows:

Members Present:

- Mayor Pro-Tem W. Brian King
- Council Member Andy Langford
- Council Member Ella Mae P. Small
- Council Member JC McKenzie
- Council Member Terry L. Crawford
- Council Member Jennifer H. Parsley
- Council Member John A. Sweat, Jr.

Others Present:

- City Manager, Lloyd Wm. Payne, Jr.
- City Attorney, Valerie Kolczynski
- Assistant City Manager, Josh Smith
- Assistant City Manager, LeDerick Blackburn
- Assistant City Manager, Pam Hinson
- City Clerk, Kim J. Deason
- Department Directors

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Mayor Dusch presented a Proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month.

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The following items were discussed:

Financial Analysis - Comprehensive Financial update for FY 20-21 and FY 21-22 projections

The Interim Finance Director, Jessica Jones, summarized the local economic conditions including unemployment rate, new construction of single family homes, residential home sales, and average home sales price. The top ten taxpayers represent 10.77% of the City's revenues.

General Fund

Operating revenues will continue to outpace operating expenditures in 2021.

In 2021, total operating expenditures are estimated to increase 9% and operating revenues are estimated to increase 6%. Local option sales tax increased 1.4% in FY ending 2020. A 3% growth is estimated for FYE 2021 and a 2% growth in 2022.

The Interim Finance Director stated assessed values increased 15% due to the property reevaluation. A growth of 2% is estimated for FY2022.

Utility Sales Tax collection in FY21 is estimated at \$4.7 million. In 2020, beer and wine distribution increased 1%. FY21 collections are estimated at \$400,000.

The Powell Bill collection for 2020 was \$2.3 million. Development fees collected in FY20 was \$300,000. FY21 estimates are stable at \$318,000.

Fund Balance

The Interim Finance Director stated that the City is always very conservative and has always tried to keep adequate reserves. A City Council goal is to keep 30-35% in the

Unassigned Fund Balance, which has been achieved.

Debt Administration

New debt budgeted for FY21 includes Fire Station #12. Future debt issues for consideration include Recreation Master Plan Projects, Fire Stations, Public Safety Training Center, Solid Waste Services In-House Transition, Fleet Services Facility, and Water/Wastewater System Improvements.

Upcoming Budget Issues

The Interim Finance Director stated upcoming budget issues include the possibility of the federal government withholding funding for HUD, transportation, and airport; possible loss of Powell Bill funding; growth; and personnel requests.

Aviation – FY2020

Operations (takeoffs and landings) decreased 17%. Allegiant Enplanements decreased 12% and Allegiant passengers decreased 12%. Parking revenue increased 4%. There was a 32% decrease in the number of Jet A fuel gallons sold.

Utility Funds

- Water – Consumption and rate revenues were flat.
- Wastewater – Consumption and rate revenues were flat.
- System Development Fees – The next rate study is due July 1, 2023. Current Development Fee project reserves projections include \$7.3 million allocated to water projects and \$5.2 million unreserved for sewer projects. These fees must be spent as described in the NC General Statutes.
- Stormwater – Revenues are flat.
- Electric – Usage billed and rate revenue has decreased 6%. Usage billed decreased 7% and demand billed decreased 4%. There has been no rate increase in 5 years. There is not a rate increase planned for 2022. Electric Capital Project reserves is \$28 million. The rate stabilization reserve is currently \$9 million. The new electric power purchase contract with NTE began January 1, 2019. FY2020 was first full year with NTE

Other Funds

- Transit – Fixed route ridership decreased 34.09% for calendar year 2020. ADA Paratransit ridership decreased 0.70% for calendar year 2020. The total budget is \$4.9 million.

Bond packages for future years

The Interim Finance Director explained there are three primary financing structures available to fund capital needs. These are Revenue Bonds, General Obligation Bonds, and Limited Obligation Bonds.

She explained General Obligation (GO) Bonds are used for typical projects such as streets, greenways, parks, city halls, public safety, municipal buildings, etc. GO Bonds require a bond referendum, a public hearing during the bond referendum and also LGC approval during the bond referendum. She further explained the timing and steps involved in the issuance process differ depending on the financing structure chosen. Regardless of financing type, the general policy of the Local Government Commission (LGC) is to have the majority (over 70%) of bids and major permits in hand prior to LGC approval and selling of the bonds.

She presented an overview of GO Bonds. GO Bonds are considered the safest type of bond by investors and rating agencies. No collateral is required.

The referendum can only be held on a date when all precincts in the City are open (primaries or general elections). The referendum process typically starts 5-6 months prior to election day. She outlined the steps that would need to be taken.

She then explained, once a referendum passes, the City has seven years plus an optional three year extension to issue the bonds.

The costs associated with GO Bonds include staff time to implement the referendum process. If the referendum passes, the City could expect \$150,000 - \$175,000 per bond issuance, costs to cover bond counsel, financial advisor, LGC, rating agencies, and posting of offering document. Interest rates on GO Bonds tend to be 0.20% - 0.25% lower than LOBS.

Transportation – MPO Restructuring

Transportation Director, Phillip Graham, stated the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (CRMPO) is responsible for the development of transportation plans and programs for all transportation modes within the urbanized area. As the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) for the CRMPO, Concord manages a contract with a third-party consultant, Mobility Solutions, to administer these planning efforts. The current contract amount is \$275,000.

He stated of the 19 MPO's recognized in North Carolina, the CRMPO is the only one that is independently contracted. The adopted Unified Plan Work Program (UPWP) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year allots \$348,820 for MPO planning purposes, and an additional \$95,751 in Transit 5303 funding. The City's portion of the local match for planning currently equates to \$16,188 annually.

According to national statistics, an MPO can be expected to have an average of one employee per 50,567 people. Based on this metric, the CRMPO, which has a population of 347,516 (2010 Census), should have at least seven staff members. The CRMPO is significantly understaffed compared to other MPOs of its size in the State. The CRMPO currently has only two contracted staff members; an Administrator and MPO Manager. Due to being under staffed, and lack of specialized personnel, additional services and support are rendered by City of Concord employees without compensation.

The need for additional staff is exacerbated by the probable impacts of the 2020 Census results, which will affect population numbers and available funding, and could also increase the total area of the urbanized MPO region. The CRMPO region is shown to be growing faster than most, with Cabarrus County being ranked 7th highest growth county in North Carolina according to the NC Office of State Budget and Management (2017). It is apparent that additional staff are needed to adequately serve the growing CRMPO.

It was the consensus of the Council to:

- Approve the final extension year with Mobility Solutions ending July 1, 2022.
- Reassess contract needs for CRMPO consultant with input from member jurisdictions and TCC/TAC approval.
- Send out a Request for Proposals (RFQ) for a consultant firm with a minimum of four dedicated employees to run the MPO.
- Include member jurisdictions, NCDOT and FHWA in the selection process.
- Potential Implications include – potential higher overall cost, separation of jurisdictions and MPO ensures objectivity, Concord will continue to oversee contracted services.

The following timeline was proposed by staff:

2021

Spring - Meet with NCDOT and FHWA to assess legalities of MPO contract in regards to the responsibilities of the consultant, and internal staff time compensation;

Summer - Meet with other CRMPO member jurisdictions in order to ascertain current

needs, and to assign fair RFQ scoring criteria;

Fall - Wrap up contract document with legal, and review conformity with NCDOT and FHWA

2022

January - Advertise CRMPO Request for Qualifications

February - Receive submittals and review with selection committee.

March - Conduct interviews with NCDOT and FHWA present. Make final firm selection

Solid Waste – Transition to In-House Services

The Solid Waste Director, Robin Barham, stated current contracted services include:

- Garbage – Weekly
- Recycling – Every other week
- Household bulky waste – Every other week
- Small business garbage and recycling (subscription service) – Weekly
- Corrugated cardboard collection (subscription service from businesses) – Weekly
- Dumpster service for City facilities and a small group of condos - Weekly.

Current inhouse services provided include:

- Yard waste (bagged grass clippings / leaves and limbs / brush piles) – Weekly
- Seasonal loose leaf – 3 cycles between November and February
- School recycling program – Weekly
- Dead animal collection and disposal – As requested
- Cart management services (repairs, delivery, asset management) – As requested

She stated Concord is the largest NC City to contract out the majority of its solid waste services.

Staff recently compared costs in the new contract addendum with estimated costs to provide the same services inhouse. Staff determined that the City is now able to provide the same services at or below the current contracted costs.

The current contract term ends in June 2022, with the option of two one-year extensions. Staff feels that bulky services, including collection of construction debris, tires, carpet, appliances and electronics, can be brought inhouse in July 2022 as they do not require necessary changes for Fleet Services and shed space. She stated, under the current contract addendum terms, the City is in a position to negotiate a one-year extension of the current contract for garbage and recycling services in July 2022 while City facilities are being constructed.

She explained the staff needs anticipated for in-house services and the proposed fee. There would not be a rate increase associated with bringing the services in-house

It was the consensus of the Council to:

- Provide bulky waste collection services in-house beginning July 1, 2022, as the initial contract term expires and utilize the one-year extension with WastePro to continue garbage and recycling service until the City could provide those services in July 2023.

Administrative, Financial and General Policy Issues

Federal Legislative Agenda Presentation from Jennifer Imo, The Ferguson Group

Ms. Imo discussed the following 2021 Federal priorities:

- Concord Regional Airport – Ensure projects that are included on FAA's Work Plan maintain priority and funding; secure discretionary funding for development projects on the north and south ends of the airport; support full funding for the contract tower program in FY 2022 budget and appropriations; support contract tower staffing/annuity bill to address growing shortage in qualified air traffic

controllers at federal contract towers; ensure FAA's AIP funds can be used for remote tower operations; highlight the need to prioritize non-hub airports, which do not collect passenger facility charges; work with TSA to become an approved gateway airport and participating Fixed Base Operator in the TSA's DCA Access Standard Security Program into Washington Reagan National Airport.

- Rider Transit – Support increased funding for FTA programs and efforts to secure discretionary funding for system needs; assess and support transit options around the light rail, Concord Mills, the Speedway, and the airport; maintain special operations cap (100 bus rule) in FAST Act reauthorization; pursue change to federal policy that does not allow FTA funds to be used to purchase buses from the General Services Administration.
- Transportation – Support continued funding for DOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program; explore opportunities to address sidewalk gaps using federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Safe Routes to School funds.
- Water Infrastructure – Monitor federal funding opportunities for improvements at Hillgrove and Coddlecreek WTP's.
- Brownfields – Review potential brownfield locations and monitor EPA funding opportunities.
- Concord Police Department – Monitor funding opportunities for law enforcement technology; two K-9's and related training; training for de-escalation, simunition, co-responders; monitor and report on police reform initiatives.
- Concord Fire Department – Pursue federal assistance for department needs, including the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and FEMA SAFER Grant; support firefighter cancer registry and other health and wellness legislation.
- Housing – Pursue federal assistance for department needs; HUD FSS Services Coordinator Grant, Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Program, Emergency Safety and Security Grant, Lead-Based Paint Capital Fund Program, Mainstream Voucher Program, Family Unification Program through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Project Safe Neighborhood, and Good Neighbor Next Door; support HUD VASH Program and continued efforts to secure VASH vouchers working with the VA hospital in Salisbury .
- Future Park Sites – Pursue federal assistance to secure land for future park site.
- Open Space and Connectivity Plan – Pursue federal assistance to implement parts of the City's Open Space and Connectivity Plan.
- Greenways – Pursue federal assistance for greenway system; work with NC Division of Parks and Recreation to secure funds through Recreational Trails Program and with the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO to secure transportation enhancement funds.
- COVID-19 Legislation – Support direct and flexible funding to all units of government when, or if, Congress considers another COVID-19 bill; monitor and report on employer/employee benefits in future legislation.
- Opportunity Zones – Monitor and report on federal guidance related to the Department of Treasury's Opportunity Zones.
- Financing – Support tax-exempt municipal bonds and advance refunding bonds.
- Infrastructure Package – TFG will monitor and report on Administration's infrastructure package and resulting legislation.

State Legislative Agenda Presentation from Rose Vaughn Williams, Associate Executive Director of Public & Government Affairs, NC League of Municipalities

Ms. Williams discussed the State Legislative Agenda and legislative issues that are being discussed or proposed for discussion.

The City Council received the information as presented and will consider adopting the 2021 State goals at a future Council meeting.

Fleet – Construction of new Fleet Facility

The Fleet Director, Daniel Nuckolls, stated one of the areas identified as being

problematic in the 2008 Brown Operations Center (BOC) space needs study was the Fleet building. The location of the building near the west edge of the BOC property negated any expansions in that direction.

He stated the current facility was constructed in 1998 and has:

- 5 light duty bays
- 2 heavy duty bays
- 1 fire apparatus bay
- 1 small engine bay
- 945 sq. ft. parts area
- 7 fuel pumps at BOC and 4 at FS9
- Current fleet – 1,065 vehicular assets and approximately 250 small engine assets

The study revealed a larger facility is needed to address the following:

- 20 year fleet expansion
- In-house solid waste and recycling
- Vehicle staging areas
- New fuel facility
- Increased parking at BOC

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the construction of a new fleet facility on the 33-acre parcel located the BOC beginning in FY22, provided solid waste services are brought in-house

Concord-Padgett Regional Airport – Commercial Airline Expansion

The Aviation Director, Dirk Vanderleest, stated Allegiant Travel announced on March 4, 2020 plans to establish a base of operations at Concord-Padgett Regional Airport. They plan to invest \$50 million to establish a new base, which will create approximately 66 high wage jobs and will house two Airbus aircraft. Due to COVID-19, this project was placed on hold.

Since that time, airport staff has received several inquiries concerning new commercial airline service. One airline has expressed interest in establishing a base of three aircraft.

He stated the economic benefits to community from the airline service would be substantial (over \$800 million and 4,500 jobs) and would result in additional direct revenue and taxes to the City.

Based on usage projections, the current airline terminal building, parking deck, and airline apron cannot accommodate five aircraft at the same time without some type of significant restrictions. The existing was designed for expansion for future demands, but prior to that, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be completed.

Due to the EA taking approximately 18 months to complete, staff is recommending the EA be scheduled for the current FY budget. The cost is estimated between \$300,000 - \$350,000; however, the project would be eligible for federal reimbursement at 90% making the estimated cost to the City less than \$35,000.

It was the consensus of the Council to prioritize expansion of the air carrier ramp, authorize the EA and request federal funds from the FAA for the EA, and to begin the critical path plan.

Parks and Recreation – Future Expansion Efforts – South, Central, and Northwest Areas

South Area

The Deputy Parks and Recreation Director, Sheila Lowry, stated the south area has experienced a substantial amount of residential growth over the past several years.

Future park considerations at WW Flowe and additional properties should also be considered for public park amenities outside of athletic fields that are lacking in this area, such as additional playgrounds, a dog park, splash pad, reservable shelters, disc golf, tennis and sports courts, plus additional trails and connectivity. In addition, staff will explore opportunities in this area for a new recreation center, therefore, a Recreation Center Feasibility Analysis (RCFA) would be considered as part of the design of any park site, including the possibility of including said facility as part of WW Flowe Phase II.

The study will determine the adequate size for indoor facilities, including gymnasium space, community rooms, classrooms, meeting rooms, fitness facilities, and other spaces. Staff will also continue exploring additional partnerships in this area for shared gymnasium and community space should it become available.

The need to create and improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists is also a high priority to the City with the adoption of the Open Space Connectivity Analysis in May 2019. The Parks and Recreation Department is focused on implementation of this plan over the next several years in a strategic fashion, in coordination with other departments, and as part of future developments.

The south area focus is also on connectivity, greenways, and park development. This would include expanding greenways along the Rocky River Corridor, such as extending the existing Mills at Rocky River trail from where it currently dead ends to Flowe Store Road, expand Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway in this area, including tributaries of Irish Buffalo that connect from WW Flowe Park to the main creek system thereby also connecting to several neighborhoods in this area, and providing connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists on many roads within this area from surrounding neighborhoods to WW Flowe Park, Central Cabarrus High School, other area destinations, and to each other.

Staff's recommendation is to:

- Complete a master plan for WW Flowe Park, including the existing park site, and the undeveloped property across the street. The master plan should include a robust public input process and athletic and programming coordination to determine what facilities and amenities to include. The master plan and recreation study should evaluate cost options, revenue potential, opportunities for collaboration and partnerships, programming and athletic recommendations both outdoor and indoor, and connectivity. This analysis will be both data driven, and driven by public input and feedback from City Council.
- Upon Council adoption of the Park Master Plan, and Conceptual Design, the Parks and Recreation Department requests approval to fund the development of the park.
- The Parks and Recreation Department requests approval to advance the acquisition, design and construction of greenway and connectivity projects in the south region, including sections of Hector Henry Greenway (Rocky River), and Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway in addition to on road connections.

Central Area

Park Planner, Jason Pauling, stated the Central region, based on the increased number of youth sports registrations, the Department has a need for a centralized recreation, and additional athletic fields. This will include additional baseball/softball diamonds, and multi-purpose fields. The neighborhood park site should be between 10 and 20 acres in size, and should be in the area that stretches from I-85 at the north end, to George Liles Parkway at the west end, to Highway 29 at the south end, to Concord Parkway and Irish Buffalo Creek at the east end.

The City has had success partnering with public and charter schools in Cabarrus County in recent years, but those opportunities are limited and not long term. An analysis with public input should also include the feasibility of an aquatic component in the central region of Concord. The need to create and improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists is also a high priority to the City.

In the central area, connectivity includes the continued development of Coddle Creek and Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway, as well as on road connections in this area, which may feature sidewalks, bike lanes and multi-use paths. This will also include many State road corridors such as Poplar Tent Road, Highway 73 and George Liles Parkway. Although the plan for greenways provides the spine for connectivity, the central area also has the unique opportunity to provide an east-west connection between the Rocky River, Coddle Creek and Irish Buffalo Creek systems. Through the Planning Department's small area planning efforts, parts of this corridor, as well as additional open space and potential neighborhood parks is an achievable goal.

The Parks and Recreation Department request funding for acquisition and master plans for the central region of the City. An RFQ will be released once properties are acquired for additional park sites in this area. The park design for the Central area will include community input as part of the master plan process addressing programming, athletic needs and connectivity. The Parks and Recreation Department requests to advance the acquisition, design and construction of the Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway, Coddle Creek Greenway and extend the George Liles Greenway.

Northwest Area

The Park Planner stated the Northwest region is mostly north and west of I-85 stretching from the County line near Concord Mills, to Highway 73 on the north end, and to Lake Howell and Coddle Creek on the east side. The acquisition of the first park site on Cox Mill road was a significant step toward meeting the needs in this area. The Comprehensive Plan also identifies the need for a new recreation center in this area to meet the growing needs of athletic and programming activities.

The City has had success partnering with public and charter schools in the County in recent years, but those opportunities are limited and not long term. Staff continues to analyze park sites for active, passive, indoor and outdoor amenities and facilities, which includes an extensive public input process. Additional parks are needed in this area, and the City will continue to explore acquisition opportunities for park sites, or continue to establish joint-use partnerships/agreements for land and/or development and operation to achieve these needs, along with additional funding for design and construction.

Finding additional park sites that have direct, walkable access to future segments of the Hector Henry Greenway, Clarke Creek Greenway, and schools in the area such as Cox Mill Elementary and High School, Odell Elementary School, Harris Road Middle School, and the Carolina International School is ideal. Residential growth in this area at such a rapid pace has had a tremendous impact on available land, and the price of land.

The need to create and improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists is also a high priority to the City. In the Northwest, the connectivity needs include development of the Cox Mill Loop and Hector Henry Greenways, as well as the development of sidewalks, multi-use paths, and multi-use corridors. This may include State road corridors such as Poplar Tent, Cox Mill, Derita, Harris, and Odell School Road.

The Parks and Recreation Department requests the City Council to adopt the Northwest Park Master Plan. Fund the construction based on community input, programming and athletic needs of the Department and the City, and which provides connectivity. Staff will continue searching for land and partnerships in the northwest to expand parks and programming opportunities. Staff requests authorization to advance the acquisition, design and construction of the Cox Mill Loop, Clarke Creek Greenway, HH Greenway and the connectivity within the Northwest/Cox Mill area of the City.

2020-2023 Strategic Plan update

The City Manager provided updates on the ongoing 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Goals & Objectives.

The following Goals & Objectives were complete or almost complete:

Public Safety

- Complete the Weddington Road communication tower relocation.

Public Works

- Explore options for implementing a solid waste fee
- Secure property for Electric Delivery #4 and budget for construction

The following Goals & Objectives are ongoing:

General Government

- Continue to adhere to approved financial management policies that maintain the City's financial strength and integrity including continuation of conservative revenue estimates that reflect economic conditions.
- Invest in coworker compensation and benefits to ensure the recruitment and retention of talent to deliver community services.
- Continue to enhance partnership among management, directors, and Customer Service Advancement Team to serve our employees and citizens, apply best practices to enhance satisfaction levels, and focus on continuous improvement.
- Implement recommendations from employee survey to ensure employee voice is a priority throughout our organization.
- Support the recognized neighborhood program and seek opportunities to enhance the quality of relationships, strengthen communications, and build capacity of neighborhood leaders.
- Explore additional resources to provide enhanced communications and outreach in the form of more original content and improved social media engagement.
- Redesign City website to make it more user and mobile friendly.
- Continue to establish and cultivate relationships at the local, State, and Federal levels to facilitate collaborative projects for Concord.

Public Safety

- Support the projected Public Safety facility, equipment, and personnel needs to meet service demands.
- Secure property for Fire Station #12 and budget for construction.
- Actively look for property to construct a Fire/Police training facility.

Public Works

- Fund recommendations to fully implement Water, Sewer, and Storm Water master plans.
- Continue emphasis on improving community appearance through regular street sweeping, litter pick-up and removal of signs that violate City ordinance. Focus on litter through enforcement, communication, and City-led roadside activities.
- Strengthen the City's fiber infrastructure and ensure all City facilities have fiber capability.
- Continue to pursue strategies to promote water conservation, water re-use, and investigate alternatives to reducing individual water use.
- Examine ways to better educate the public on importance of recycling.

Recreation and Culture

- Support the connectivity of City parks, neighborhoods, and community centers through the enhancement of greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths.
- Continue to explore options to acquire property in the northwest area of Concord for the development of passive and active recreation.
- Work with internal City departments to identify projects that offer opportunities for greenway, park, and connectivity development.
- Consider enhancing the City's support of public art installations with process and funding models recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee.
- Address the deteriorating health of downtown street trees and communicate with stakeholders and the community in general about how street trees and lighting relate to the Downtown Master Plan's streetscape and beautification goals.

- Actively look for opportunities to open space/greenspace in Downtown Concord.
- Work with Planning Department with a goal of having ordinances in place by 2020 to require dedication and potential construction of greenways and connectivity. Supporting language exists in the Parks and Recreation section of the draft 2030 Land Use Plan.
- Pursue funding for acquisition and construction consistent with the Parks & Recreation Open Space Connectivity Analysis and Comprehensive Master Plan.

Economic Development

- Evaluate ways to enhance the City's role in maintaining and building affordable housing, including exploring the pros and cons of investing in a General Fund allocation, creation of an affordable housing non-profit entity, and/or establishing formal designation as a Housing Authority.
- Implement the 2030 Land Use Plan, including prioritization of follow-up corridor and area plans.
- Continue strategic implementation of the Downtown Master Plan, according to the plan's existing implementation matrix.
- Continue to regulate the design criteria for commercial development in accordance with the Concord Development Ordinance (CDO), with emphasis on low impact development.
- Continue to work closely with economic development partners in Cabarrus County to present a complete coordinated recruitment and retention effort.
- Work with public and private partners to redevelop and revitalize abandoned and blighted properties.

Transportation

- Continue, at a minimum, appropriating existing revenue amounts using 2-cents of the Ad Valorem tax and \$5.00 of the Vehicle tax for the Transportation Fund.
- Continue to routinely monitor projects and consider participation in additional projects to assure Transportation Fund revenues are being used to fund highest priorities and funds are available for local matches to leverage additional projects with a focus on City infrastructure.
- Continue efforts to secure funding for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), Federal Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program (TCSP), Economic Enhancement, Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP), and small construction projects from the federal government and/or the NCDOT and continue to coordinate associated local activities with NCDOT Division 10.
- Develop a viability analysis process to support privately and/or publicly-owned corporate/general aviation hangars at Concord Regional Airport.
- Work with CATS, Cabarrus County, and the City of Kannapolis on the extension of the light rail into Concord/Cabarrus County.
- Work with Cabarrus County and the City of Kannapolis to implement recommendations from the Public Transit Master Plan.

Open Discussion by Mayor & Council on other issues

Broadcast City Council meetings

Council Member Langford suggested exploring the possibility of broadcasting City Council meetings to allow citizens to view the meetings more broadly. He asked if the Public Affairs and Projects Manager, Lindsay Manson, could review other cities and towns to see how if, and how, they conduct their meetings.

It was the consensus of the Council to explore the possibility to record the meetings to allow viewing of the meetings after they are held.

Gateways into Downtown (Church St, Cabarrus Ave, and Corban Ave)

Council Member Langford stated, in his opinion, this area needs some attention to make the entrance to downtown more attractive.

Discussion was held and Mayor Pro-Tem King suggested the Public Arts Committee could review ways to enhance that area without spending City funds to do so.

Litter

Council Member Crawford stated the litter issue in Concord has gotten worse. He stated he knows there is not an easy solution to the problem, and with COVID requirements the annual litter sweep has not been held, but asked if something could be done to keep the community clean.

The City Manager stated that there are not dedicated City staff for just picking up litter, but staff are being taken to help keep the streets and roadways cleaner. He stated as time allows during the work week crews are used to assist with collecting litter.

General discussion

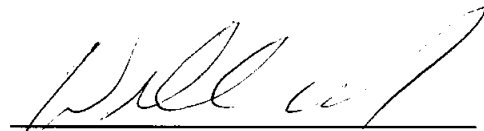
Council Member McKenzie stated he would like to have a 2nd Work Session just for the Mayor and Council to meet and discuss items. This meeting could be held in the afternoon during lunch to allow for those Council Members that work to attend. City Department Heads would not be required to attend.

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With there being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Council Member Crawford, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem King, and duly carried, to adjourn the meeting—the vote: all aye.



Kim J. Deason, City Clerk



William C. Dusch, Mayor