

**DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Committee Room – 101 City Hall Plaza**

Present: Mayor William V. Bell, Mayor Pro Tempore Cora Cole-McFadden and Council Members Eugene Brown, Diane Catotti, Eddie Davis, Don Moffitt and Steve Schewel. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield, City Attorney Patrick Baker and City Clerk D. Ann Gray.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden welcoming all in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked for priority items from the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk.

City Manager Bonfield stated that Katina Parker, a citizen who had requested to speak before the Council today, would not be present. The City Manager provided the council with a memo indicating that on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the City successfully completed the negotiated sale of its Taxable Limited Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 and its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015. The combined par amount of the two issues was \$80,980,000.00 and resulted in over \$10,200,000 of gross savings for the City. Since the transactions were originally approved in December, interest rates had improved and the results of the sales were significantly better than previously anticipated.

There were no priority items from the City Attorney and City Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden asked if there were any announcements from the Council.

Council Member Schewel referenced the report from the Environmental Affairs Board regarding trees and asked the manager if at some point would a discussion be held.

City Manager Bonfield stated he anticipated the discussion would come through the budget process in May.

Council Member Davis stated that the Environmental Affairs Board would like to make a presentation in the near future; and the City Manager stated he would schedule it.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden announced each item on the printed agenda, the following items were pulled for comments and/or discussion.

**[CITIZENS' MATTERS]**

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**SUBJECT: GWYN SILVER**

To receive comments from Gwyn Silver regarding the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

Ms. Gwyn Silver referenced her concerns and presented a Powerpoint presentation showing a ledger of Neighborhood Improvement Services Department delays, denials and substitutions of PAC 1 requests to spend funds allotted. In addition, she provided several emails that had been sent between PAC 1 and city staff.

**SUBJECT: JAMES CHAVIS**

To receive comments from James Chavis regarding the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

Mr. James Chavis noted he was not a worker for the City of Durham, he was a volunteer. He referenced a conversation he had with Mayor Bell whereby PAC 1 voiced concerns about being placed under Neighborhood Improvement Services and dictating to their PAC on what should be done. Mr. Chavis stated when PAC 1 was under the police department, they did not have the concerns that now exist being under Neighborhood Improvement Services.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden referenced the PAC leaders coming together and sharing their concerns, the Citywide PAC.

City Manager Bonfield stated he would review the issues raised and stated he was not aware of other PACs having concerns. He referenced the situation that initiated the matter and stated each PAC is allocated a certain amount of money and the City was the responsible overseer; and stated if something appeared out of the ordinary or expensive, the staff was expected to ask questions.

The City Manager stated he would follow-up on some of the questions but was uncertain if all of questions/concerns would get resolved to the satisfaction for the persons who spoke today.

**SUBJECT: JOHN TARANTINO**

To receive comments from John Tarantino regarding solid waste management issues.

Mr. Tarantino provided a song selection regarding solid waste management issues.

**SUBJECT: TIA HALL**

To receive comments from Tia Hall regarding racial equity training.

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Tia Hall addressed the council regarding racial equity training sponsored by Spirit House being held in Durham and the positive impacts. Ms. Hall stated she would like to formally invite the Council to take part in their citywide initiative to read and study Michelle Alexander's book entitled "The New Jim Crow." In addition, she referenced their community partners involved with the read and study endeavor.

Council Member Schewel stated he thought the read and study was a positive initiative and stated his class at Duke would be reading the book and hoped some of his students would be able to attend the citywide event.

**[DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS PULLED]**

**SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTRACT WITH ECOFLO, INC.**

The staff report indicated that in January 2004, ECOFLO, Inc. was selected as the City's contractor to operate the Household Hazardous Waste facility for a period of four years. Both Household Hazardous Waste and electronic waste, such as old computers, televisions and small appliances, were accepted and managed at the HHW facility at that time.

The Solid Waste Management Department made the decision to issue a Request for Proposal for these services. The Department received three proposals, of which ECOFLO, Inc., was determined to be the best, based on criteria established in the RFP.

The administration recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Household Hazardous Waste contract between the City of Durham and ECOFLO, Inc., for a period of five years, at a cost through the remainder of the 2014-15 fiscal year for \$87,850.00; and \$210,840.00 per year thereafter, for a total contract cost through June 30, 2020 for \$1,142,050.00, plus applicable increase for CPI in accordance with the contract terms.

Due to the widely different pricing structures for municipalities mentioned in the staff report, Council Member Schewel referenced the somewhat difficulty in trying to compare what the City of Durham was paying vs. what Wake and Greensboro were paying. He asked the staff to explain why they felt the City of Durham would be receiving the best payment plan; and stated he was pleased that the City was getting a lower price than in the past.

Robert Williams, of the Solid Waste Management Department, stated through the RFP process, they were able to obtain a better price. He referenced their research with Wake and other municipalities; noted that Wake and Greensboro probably received a better price due to the volume of material they have.

Bruce Woody, of the Solid Waste Management Department, stated they did receive a reduction in cost because they were paying 67 cents per pound for all waste; and with the new proposal it would be 59 cents. Mr. Woody stated that to him was in good faith and said they have a great history with the company selected; and the RFP process allowed them to obtain the reduction in cost.

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## **SUBJECT: DURHAM POOL ASSESSMENT FINDINGS**

The staff report indicated that during May 2014, the General Services Department contracted with Szostak Design, Inc. to provide consulting services for a City of Durham Swimming Pool Facilities Assessment Study for all of the City's pools and sprayground facilities.

The Long Meadow Pool was closed for the 2014 summer season due to safety issues regarding ongoing water infiltration into the below-grade pump room. During October 2014, the City Council was briefed regarding the findings of the Long Meadow Pool assessment. The General Services Department has moved forward on recommended short-term repairs at Long Meadow Pool, with the goal of mitigating the pump room water infiltration, so that the pool may reopen for the 2015 summer season.

Roger Spears, representing Szostak Consultants, gave a Powerpoint presentation which provided the assessment findings of the City's other four pool facilities along with an update on the Long Meadow repairs.

### Status of Szostak Assessment Study included all five City Pools and four spraygrounds

- Long Meadow Pool
- Hillside Pool and sprayground
- Forest Hills Pool and sprayground
- Campus Hill Pool
- Edison Johnson Pool and sprayground
- East End Park sprayground

For each of the city pools and spraygrounds, the consultant, Mr. Spears, identified major facility deficiencies; identified facility code violations and minor deficiencies; provided options and cost estimates for repairs and improvements for five city swim facilities totaling \$2,225,910; and referenced short-term and long-term planning implementation strategies to address concerns.

### Long Meadow Pool Update

Short-Term Option – minimum repairs required to reopen the pool:

- Pool shell leak repairs – six leaks - repairs complete
- New gutter leak identified and repairs underway – 70% complete

Stormwater Inlet/Piping Flushing

- Video investigation revealed the storm drain pipe has collapsed and cannot be flushed
- Replacement cost quoted
- Surveying is underway
- Internal design, then bid phase/construction phase

Pump Room Stairwell Cover

- Work complete

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#### Seal Cracks in Pool Deck

- Work complete

#### Further Repairs that may be Required

- Foundation Drain (this work would require design services and municipal approvals)
- Electrical upgrades in pump room (includes testing for all fixtures/fittings, water-tight fittings, high water sensor alarm, shunt trip breaker, & staff training)
- Building Code Requirements (includes ADA lift, stairwell improvements, & latching gates)
- Health Code Requirements (includes gutter covers, removal of trip hazards, depth marker replacement, & elevation of chemical storage)

#### Durham Pool Assessment Schedule

- March/April – Pool Assessment Report Finalized
- Late April – Evaluate the Short-Term repairs at Long Meadow for effectiveness in mitigating the water infiltration in the pump room
- June – Potential Long Meadow reopening. Note: If water infiltration is still a problem, pool to remain closed and foundation drain work to begin

#### Durham Pool Assessment Recommendations

- Short-Term (Develop Funding Strategy to Address Critical Issues at all pools)
- Long-Term Planning (Develop Aquatics Master Plan) demographic analysis; aquatics needs assessment; define future program requirements; and recommend new construction and facility renovations

Further discussion on the pool assessment report/findings will be discussed during the upcoming budget deliberations in May.

Council Member Catotti asked the administration to provide “usage statistics” for the facilities in order for the Council to see which ones are most popular with the public.

#### **Settling the Agenda – February 16, 2015 City Council Meeting**

For the City Council Meeting scheduled on February 16, 2015, City Manager Bonfield announced the following items: Consent Items 1 thru 11. Also, he stated that the Council had disposed of Items 12 thru 16 at the work session.

**MOTION** by Council Member Catotti seconded by Mayor Bell to approve the February 16, 2015 City Council Meeting agenda as stated by the City Manager.

The motion was approved unanimously at 2:17 p.m.

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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

D. Ann Gray, MMC, NCCMC  
City Clerk