

**City Council of the City of Greenville
Work Session**

**Monday, March 14, 2022
3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Location:
Greenville City Hall, Council Chambers, 206 S. Main Street**

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White; Councilmember John M. DeWorken, Councilmember Lillian B. Flemming, Councilmember Kenneth C. Gibson, Councilmember Wil Brasington; Councilmember Russell H. Stall; and Councilmember Dorothy H. Dowe

CITY STAFF: City Manager John F. McDonough; Interim City Attorney Leigh Paoletti; City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

Mayor White called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond (NIB) Projects

Office of Management and Budget Director Matt Efird provided an update on the proposed Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond project recommendations. Regarding roads, streets, and bridges, Mr. Efird stated that the Dallas Road Bridge project was removed and that the City will seek County C-Funds to complete the project. Mr. Efird also stated that the Webster Road sidewalk project has been added to the list since the retreat.

Councilmember Dowe asked about the amount of footage for the Webster Road sidewalk and if it completes the sidewalk project. Director of Public Works Clint Link responded it is approximately 1,100 feet and that the additional feet comes close to completing Webster Road. Councilmember Brasington asked about the appropriate crosswalks where new connections are made. Mr. Link responded that appropriate ADA ramps and crosswalks will be provided.

Regarding Parks and Community Center Projects, Mr. Efird advised that the West Greenville project has been removed to seek alternative funding and approximately \$2 million has been removed from Cleveland Park related projects for potential funding from hospitality taxes.

In summary, Mr. Efird referred to approximately \$36 million in bonds that will be issued in two tranches (FY22 and FY24). Councilmember Dowe asked about the submission of the Land Water Conservation Fund grant for the Gower Courts and asked what makes that project eligible for the grant versus the courts at Cleveland Park. Parks and Grounds Administrator Megan Young responded that the grant focused on projects that received LWCF funding in the past and that Gower Park received money twice in the 1970's.

Councilmember DeWorken expressed his excitement for the bond and the impact it will have on the City. Councilmember Gibson asked how many pickleball courts the City will have. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Angie Processor responded the City will have between 18-20 courts and that the number of courts is considered to be an appropriate one.

Councilmember Brasington stated this is a monumental investment and asked for a percentage representation. Councilmember Dowe commented that the NIB will be helpful with the traffic challenges and quality of life.

With no further comments, Mr. Efirid advised that the NIB will be presented by Resolution for Council's consideration during today's Formal Meeting.

Duke Energy Update

Duke Energy District Manager Linda Hannon introduced Engagement Manager Ted Allen and Area Manager Brandon Crawford who provided a presentation on twelve large capital projects located within the City and redundant (stub) poles. Ms. Hannon stated that the projects presented today address functions of capacity and reliability. Ms. Hannon also shared plans on improving communications with the community and its constituents.

Mr. Allen provided comments on the current large capital projects and system capacity and upgrades including new technology. Regarding Augusta Street and Faris Road, Mayor White commented on the location of the poles, the number of times the poles have been hit, and the need to have the temporary poles removed. Councilmember Dowe asked if Duke is working on West Faris Road and Melville Avenue at the same time and shared concerns about area schools in session and traffic flows. Mr. Allen provided a summary of the work that is anticipated through Q2-2022 and the estimated time for completion.

Councilmember DeWorken asked where the financial responsibility lies when a new development occurs and there is a need for more capacity. Mr. Crawford responded responsibility lies with both the developer and Duke and referred to available cost benefits. Regarding McDaniel Avenue, Councilmember Brasington expressed his concerns about the McDaniel Avenue Bridge that is scheduled to be closed five to seven months due to construction.

Regarding communications, Mr. Allen provided information on steps they are taking for public engagement and advised he is going to work with city staff to share project status updates for posting on the City's website.

Councilmember Flemming recommended Duke include their contact information on the mailers and share potential rerouting assistance as necessary. Councilmember Brasington expressed concerns about informing city residents about power outages when scheduled work is taking place in a neighborhood. Councilmember Brasington requested conversations with city staff sooner rather than later to filter anticipated work to the constituents. Mr. Crawford thanked Council for their comments and stated they are resuming quarterly meetings with Public Works staff. Councilmember Dowe commented on the City accepting six new electrical buses in the next year and a half and the need for capacity to run those buses. Councilmember Dowe stated that while the City is assisting with communications, the buck stops with Duke and it is their responsibility to use their resources to communicate with the community. Councilmember DeWorken thanked Duke for their willingness to communicate and serve as a partner with the City.

Mr. Crawford provided comments regarding redundant (stub) poles in the City and examples of different utility lines and types of poles. Councilmember Stall asked about the process for pole removal, and Mr. Crawford responded the expected timeframe is 60 days between each company. Councilmember Flemming expressed her concern with AT&T's lack of responding to the process. Councilmember Gibson stated there are some poles that are unreasonably close to

the thoroughfare and shared his concerns with new poles being placed in the same locations. Councilmember Gibson asked if there is a way to contact the City to coordinate better locations in troublesome areas. Mr. Crawford offered to receive information and review any situation or concern identified by city staff.

Civil Engineer Nancy Sue stated that a majority of the poles are Duke owned poles and the City works closely with Duke; however, the issues they have had recently is with communication companies. Ms. Sue shared comments as to her contact with those companies and attempts to address the issues. Ms. Sue also shared that the City does not have agreements with those companies and since they are not directly paid for it, those companies do not consider it a priority.

Councilmember Brasington asked how common it is for Duke to remove redundant poles without notification or request. Mr. Crawford shared information on the process of capturing the work internally versus receiving notifications from the public. Councilmember Brasington also asked if Duke has third-party agreements and if they spell out the requirements. Mr. Crawford responded that they do, that there are expectations outlined, and that 60 days is the turn around time.

Mayor White stated that the City does not have the same franchise agreement with Spectrum and AT&T as it does with Duke Energy because they are private companies. Councilmember Brasington asked about the stub pole process and if it is common to see two to three stub poles. Mr. Crawford responded the most common is two, but it is not uncommon to see four to five poles.

Unity Park Opening Events and Parking Update

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Angie Prosser provided an update on the opening of Unity Park and parking updates. Ms. Prosser stated that Unity Park will host a number of events from May through July with the first Ribbon Cutting – Grand Opening occurring on Thursday, May 19, with additional ribbon cuttings scheduled as portions of the park are opened. Ms. Prosser referenced to additional events and activities taking place through July.

Councilmember Brasington asked if reservations are being taken for the Welcome Center. Ms. Prosser replied that public reservations will start on July 5. Ms. Prosser referred to available parking in the area and potential future parking along the park parameter. Council commented on parking in the neighborhoods and working with Traffic Engineering to assist with parking habits. Councilmember DeWorken suggested parking technology for paved parking lots to assist with locating available parking spaces. Councilmember Stall asked what is being planned for direction signage to the park, and Ms. Prosser offered to speak with Communications about their plans.

Councilmember Dowe asked if there is any additional parking included in the scope or absorbable in the budget. Mr. McDonough responded the plan is to utilize a triangle portion referenced as Parcel B on the presentation for additional parking. Mayor White stated that Parcel A referenced on the presentation is already prepared for parking. With no objections expressed, Mr. McDonough advised the plan will be to move forward with additional parking on Parcel B.

Parks and Recreation: Keeping Up with City Growth and Demand

Ms. Prosser provided an assessment of the existing parks and the level of service the City is working to provide to 21 neighborhood parks, 6 regional parks, 3 public gardens, 3 signature parks, and 2 historic cemeteries. Ms. Prosser commented on the tourism district which consists of 14 staff and 22 acres and Unity Park which will consist of 4 staff and 60 acres. Ms. Prosser also commented on Parks Maintenance which includes 19 staff and 206 acres. Ms. Prosser

provided service statistics for 2021 and commented on the current manpower which is inadequate with the current workload and high levels of expectation. Ms. Prosser stated while there is a total of 1,200 full time hours, almost 1,500 overtime hours were reported in 2021.

Councilmember DeWorken stated some of the biggest complaints he receives is during growth seasons and expressed that the City needs more people in this area. Councilmember DeWorken asked what the staff number would look like and how much would it cost. Councilman Gibson referred to morale issues, asked for the number of people needed, and suggested use of temporary employees for the events to help take the burden off of full-time employees. Ms. Prosser responded it is hard to find temporary workers currently and the ones used for the cemeteries usually come up as “no shows.”

Ms. Prosser stated one of the issues in the downtown district is when the City signs a development agreement including additional work for the staff, and there is no additional staff to assist. Ms. Prosser referred to aging infrastructure in the parks as well as space constraints for staff which need to be addressed. Ms. Prosser provided solutions including (1) continuing to use City Works as an opportunity to maintain division efficiencies and improve workflow, (2) finding educational opportunities for staff development, and (3) adding staffing to each crew or contract resources and a dedicated litter focus team.

Councilmember Dowe stated the community and stakeholders are not willing to accept compromises to make hospitality tax parks look better. Councilmember Dowe also stated the City must take care of our neighborhood parks with the same tender hand that we take care of our tourist parks. Councilman Gibson recommended letting Council know of additional expenses and impacts when contemplating development agreements. Councilmember Brasington asked for information using industry data, and Ms. Prosser responded that the City is using RPA standards. Councilmember Stall referred to the Vision 2025 plan including a goal of 100% percent residents being within a quarter of a mile or walking distance of a park and requested an updated map.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Latoria Mayes
Deputy City Clerk