

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

The September 1, 2009 Special Council meeting of the Rocky Mount Town Council was held in the Closed Council Chambers Room of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding. The following members of Council were present:

Vice Mayor Posey W. Dillon and Council Members Jerry W. Greer, Sr., John H. Lester, Roger M. Seale, Robert W. Strickler and Gregory B. Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

The Town Clerk read for the record the following being present: All members of Town Council as noted, Town Manager C. James Ervin, Assistant Town Manager/Community Development Director Matthew C. Hankins, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to the meeting, Council had received the agenda for review and consideration of approval.

- Motion was made by Council Member Strickler to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Seale and carried unanimously.

WORK SESSION

The work session began with the Town Manager stating that at the request of Council, a work session was held to further review the current plans for the uptown revitalization project and proposed cost reduction options in order to look for areas to economize where possible and still have a great project.

The work session was turned over to the Assistant Town Manager, who stated that he has looked through the plans and has some recommendations for Council that he believes can cut down on the project cost significantly. He further stated that since most of the cost is for utilities, moving the overheads, putting them underground, and then having to repave that area, the cost for utilities overall would be hard to tinker with. Areas that could be looked at for cost reduction would be at a projected savings of approximately \$120,000:

- Pavers: Eliminate use of asphalt brick pavers at Court Street and Main Street, replacing with standard pavement, with an estimated savings of \$78,388.
- Benches: Reduce number of benches to two, purchase seven durable street benches in bulk purchase with other items on the list, and have the Public Works Department install, with an estimated savings of \$15,000.
- Trees: Reduce street trees from 31 to 25, including one in a grate, and explore purchasing of trees from another provider, still to be installed by the contractor, with a projected minimum savings of \$2,100.
- Planters: Purchase similar planters from a separate source, still to be installed by the contractor, with an estimated savings of \$11,200.
- Trash Receptacles: Purchase suitable, similar replacement receptacles to be placed by the Public Works Department once sidewalks are replaced, with a projected savings of \$5,000.
- Tree Grates: Reduce from seven to six, change procurement, to be placed by contractor, with an estimated savings of \$8,000.

The Assistant Town Manager stated that these estimates are based on catalog prices, not counting bulk purchase, and that staff anticipates being able to bring prices down even further by lumping benches, planters, trash receptacles, and tree grates into a single order and bidding them out. Additionally, other available materials could reduce costs further, such as heavy-duty plastic tree grates, but staff has made the effort to be consistent in materials and appearance of the original design presented by the landscape architect in order to ensure durability of the fixtures to be added to the streetscape.

It was pointed out by the Assistant Town Manager that the \$1.8 million that Council authorized staff to borrow toward this project has a ten percent construction contingency, and that staff will make every effort to minimize the expenses that come from the contingency, particularly for change orders. It was further pointed out by the Assistant Town Manager that if staff can keep at least half of the contingency from being spent, adding these cuts to unspent reserves would reduce the estimated project cost by \$220,000.

Discussion and comments were made by Council and staff:

- Need to be careful where the landscaping cost is cut in order to be reimbursed from Virginia Department of Transportation (which includes anything intermodal), or from the Department of Housing & Community Development.
- Different type of material for pavers need to be considered, but to keep in mind that it needs to be consistent with what is being replaced in the downtown area. Also, the material must be durable.
- Considering removing the asphalt pavers from the intersection of Court Street and Main Street (in front of the Franklin County Court House).
- The benches for uptown may be slightly different from what is in the

downtown area, but will be durable.

- Need to make sure that any outside business or club wanting to assist in areas that they can help enhance the project be able to do so, as long as it is not taking away from the project, or jeopardizing any potential funding for the project. One idea was for businesses to know that they can invest in one of the benches, with a small metal plate inserted into the bench signifying who the business is.
- Bike racks were discussed also, with Council wanting staff to see if this was something someone locally could do, or a project for the school. Also mentioned that the bike racks could be added to the catalog order so that costs could be kept down
- Need to talk to the contractor regarding which landfill he will be using, as the County of Franklin will be allowing the Town up to \$45,000 credit in tipping fees for the project. Also mentioned that staff needed to see if anyone needed the debris from the project area for non-compactable fill.
- Need to talk to the contractor regarding using Public Works Department staff for traffic flaggers, but that it may not be possible due to insurance requirements for the contractor to use their own employees to flag traffic.
- A group has contacted the Town regarding donating trees to replace the ones that will be removed from the project, and by them donating the trees, it will keep the aesthetics of the project area looking like it was proposed to be originally.
- Since the Town will be spending right at one million dollars for this project, need to make sure that the project looks like a million dollars in order to maintain the overall scope of the project.

The Assistant Town Manager confirmed to Council that he would be meeting with a representative from the contractor on Wednesday, September 2, and he would be discussing with them the proposed cost reductions as outlined earlier, which also including the possibility of using Town staff for flaggers, and asking them what landfill they will be using.

As no motion was needed at this time, it was the consensus of Council that the Assistant Town Manager pursue with the cost reductions, plus, asking the contractor representative if the Town can use the Public Works Department staff as flaggers, and asking them what landfill they will be using, as the Town has a \$45,000 landfill tipping fee credit from the County of Franklin. The Assistant Town Manager confirmed to the Mayor that this information would be put into their weekly packet of September 4. Also pointed out by the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager was that the review and consideration of approval of the contract would be set before Council during their September 14, 2009 regular Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:45 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Strickler to adjourn, seconded by

Council Member Lester and carried unanimously.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

/phk