

Prosperity & Livability Committee

Chaired by Councilman Hudson

Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Jefferson, and Peters

June 7, 2023 –9 :00 a.m.

3rd Floor, Council Chambers

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wesley Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Following a roll call, the following attendance by Committee Members was duly noted.

Present (4):

Chairman Wesley Hudson, Committee Member Monica Peters, Committee Member Cyril Jefferson, and Committee Member Michael Holmes

Staff Present:

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager; Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager; Travis Stroud, Police Chief; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; Meghan Maguire, City Attorney; Greg Venable, Transportation Director; Jeremy Coble, Customer Service Director; Nena Wilson, Community Development Director; Sandra Keeney, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *PowerPoint Presentation-Hillcrest Place/N. Main Street Signal Installation Cost.*
2. *PowerPoint Presentation-Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI).*
3. *PowerPoint Presentation-Panhandling.*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2023-278

Presentation-Hillcrest Place/N. Main Street Signal Installation Cost

Staff will provide a presentation regarding costs associated with the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Hillcrest Place and N. Main Street (Brown Truck Brewery); and is requesting direction from the committee on the next steps.

Greg Venable, Transportation Director made a PPP regarding the Hillcrest Place/N. Main Street Signal Installation Cost; said that the city had contracted with Kimley Horn and Associates (KHA) to do a study for N. Main Street from Lexington Ave. to Church St. to provide recommendation for pedestrian safety improvements, streetscape improvements, speed reduction strategies, and complete street concepts; KHA provided a list of potential interim improvements; staff recommendations were to enhance roadway lighting at the crosswalk location, enhance existing RRFB with double posted signs and flashers, and concrete median refuge island with detectable warning surfaces with an estimated total cost of \$45,000; noted that the committee had requested staff investigate possible installation of either a High Intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK) or a full signalized intersection; provided reasons why NCDOT would not approve the HAWK option; the N. Main St signal must be approved by NCDOT and explained the modification/removal of the Brown Truck driveways for this option with an estimated timeline for completion of 9-10 months; for this signal, if completed in house, estimated cost would be \$261,000; if this option was contracted out, the estimated cost would be \$430,000; and asked the committee for direction on the next steps on how to proceed.

Discussion took place regarding the NCDOT requirements for approval; the inhouse installation process; temporary street closures; staff working evening and night shifts; and how the options provided would affect the study.

Council Member Peters inquired on repairing the potholes in the alleyway for the signal installation location. Meghan Maguire, City Attorney responded that most alleyways were privately owned; and that staff would confirm ownership of the alleyway and report back.

Mr. Venable advised the committee that staff would be communicating with the NCDOT regarding the HAWK signal and Hillcrest Court/N. Main St. Singal installation options and report back.

It was the consensus of the committee for staff to take both options to the NCDOT for a response regarding approval.

2023-281

Update-Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Staff will provide an update regarding the Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project.

Jeremy Coble, Customer Service Director made a PPP regarding the Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project; explained what an AMI was and how it worked; said that the goal was to modernize the city's utility information system capabilities and services; the accomplishments to date are as followed; request for proposal (RFP) was developed, published, and process in Q2 of 2021, the city secured a contract for the AMI system in Q1 of 2022, strategic planning, business design, solution architecture, and organization activities began, and that the RFP responses were received, scored, and a selection was made for the Meter Data Management (MDM) and Customer Engagement

Portal (CEP); said that the initial deployment area would be to install approximately 400 electric meters and 500 water meters; and entertained questions.

Committee Member Jefferson asked if the timeline for total deployment was for the year 2026; and asked what the cost for the AMI investment would be for the city. Mr. Coble replied, “yes”, and that it would also depend on the supply chain; and the estimated investment cost for the city would be \$12 million.

Committee Member Peters asked would the AMI system reduce meter tampering. Mr. Coble replied, “yes”; and that the city would be notified immediately for meter tampering.

2023-282

Update-Panhandling

Staff will provide an update regarding resources available to individuals who are panhandling in the community.

Chief Stroud made a PPP regarding an update on panhandling in the community; existing laws that are enforceable; provided three applicable statutes or ordinances that would make panhandling illegal as followed:

- *G.S. 20-175(B): No person shall stand or loiter in the main traveled portion, including the shoulders and median, of any State highway or street, excluding sidewalks, or stop any motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting employment, business contributions from the driver or occupant of any motor vehicle that impedes the normal movement of traffic on the public highways or streets.*
- *C.O. 10-1-138: Pedestrians Soliciting Rides, Business or Contributions*
 - (a) *No person shall stand, sit or walk in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, business or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle traveling in or upon a roadway or stopped momentarily in compliance with duly erected traffic control device or traffic sign located upon the highway.*
- *C.O. 12-1-13: Aggressive Solicitation Prohibited*

Aggressive solicitation includes approaching or following pedestrians, repetitive soliciting despite refusals, the use of abusive or profane language to cause fear and intimidation, unwanted physical contact, or the intentional blocking of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Locations noted: at or near banks, automated teller machines, public transportation facilities, and crosswalks Intended to protect citizens from the fear and intimidation accompanying certain kinds of solicitations, and not to limit constitutionally protected activity.

Chief Stroud shared the city of Greensboro’s ordinance Sec 18-44: Blocking or impeding street and sidewalk access; spoke to charging and reality for violations; provided number regarding calls for service for panhandling; spoke to resources available on preventing panhandling; said that panhandling had become an increasing problem in the community

creating concerns around resources and housing available to individuals/families, as well as public safety concerns; and entertained questions.

Committee Member Holmes thanked the HPPD for their efforts; and inquired on the availability of resources for the community; and voiced concerns of not dismissing individuals in distress; and spoke to the need for mental health resources. Chief Stroud responded and spoke to having a social media campaign for resource; and that handouts were not readily available at the moment.

Committee Member Peters asked staff to implement research regarding what other cities were doing regarding panhandling solutions; and Committee Member Holmes asked staff to create a resource guide for individuals. Chief Stroud said that staff would provide that information.

Panhandling and Homeless Resources

Nena Wilson, Community Development Director reported that resources for panhandlers are the same as those for homeless individuals/families or those at risk of homelessness; spoke to the three components as followed: Housing (case management) – Emergency, transitional, rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH); HPHA and other affordable housing providers Services (case management) – Health/mental health, transportation, education (GCS)/GED, food insecurity, etc.; High Point Library (Community Café) Job skills (case management) – GTCC, construction training programs, Welfare Reform Liaison Project (WRLP); said that emergency shelter aren't operating at 100% due to staffing challenges; and said that some communities require homelessness individual to show proof of residency (such as where they receive their mail such as at an agency, etc...); spoke to how individuals could be refused servis; and spoke to reapid rehousing to help prevent homelessness. Ms. Wilson discussed having a QR code on signage to provide resource and to contribute/donate; and provided an update on the Day Center; said that they were in the negotiation stage.

Committee Member Holmes thanked staff for their efforts regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wesley Hudson, Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
Deputy City Clerk