



City of Lowell
Special Called Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM
City Hall
101 W. First Street
Lowell, North Carolina 28098

1: Call to Order

2: New Business

- 2A. Salary Study and Personnel Policy Updates Presentation and Discussion
- 2B. Projects - Finance and Bonds Discussion
- 2C. Water and Sewer CIP Update
- 2D. Fire Tax District Discussion
- 2E. Former Boys and Girls Club Facility - YMCA Discussion
- 2F. Discussion of Draft 2024 Advocacy Agenda
- 2G. FY 2024-2025 Budget Discussion

3: Adjourn

Date Posted: April 12, 2024



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Salary Study and Personnel Policy Updates Presentation and Discussion

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2A
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council

From: Scott Attaway, City Manager

Date: 3-18-25

Re: Salary Study and Personnel Policy Updates Presentation and Discussion

Cheryl Brown, with the MAPS Group, will present her findings and recommendations from a salary study.



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Projects - Finance and Bonds Discussion

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2B
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 3-18-24
Re: Projects - Finance and Bonds Discussion

Mitch Brigulio, with Davenport Public Finance, will present the Council information regarding various bonds and financing techniques for multiple City projects.



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Water and Sewer CIP Update

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2C
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 4-12-2024
Re: Water and Sewer CIP Update

Our consultant, Withers Ravenel, will present the updated Water and Sewer CIP and findings from a fee/rate study.



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Fire Tax District Discussion

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2D
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 4-12-2024
Re: Fire Tax District Discussion

The City Manager will present information regarding the fire tax district related to questions from the March 2024 Council Work Session.



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Former Boys and Girls Club Facility - YMCA Discussion

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2E
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 4-12-2024
Re: Former Boys and Girls Club Facility - YMCA Discussion

Staff from the YMCA will continue discussions with the City Council about a possible partnership at the recreation center recently purchased. City staff will provide information regarding a city-only scenario and get feedback from the Council in order to proceed in a certain direction with this project.



Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

Discussion of Draft 2024 Advocacy Agenda

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2F
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 4-12-2024
Re: Discussion of Draft 2024 Advocacy Agenda

See the attached Draft 2024 Advocacy Agenda that will be discussed with Council. After any changes, this will be placed on the May 2024 Regular Council meeting for adoption. Once adopted, the Advocacy Agenda will be transmitted to our State and Federal delegations and Gaston County Commissioners/Government.

Attachments

DRAFT 2024 Advocacy Agenda Revised_4_12_24.pdf



2024 ADVOCACY AGENDA



FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL SEEKS FUNDING FOR MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES.

COUNTY PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL SUPPORTS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

STATE PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL WILL FOCUS EFFORTS ON PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT THE CITY'S FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNANCE, UTILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS AND RECREATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING, AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

LOWELL CITY COUNCIL

CITY VISION

LOWELL WILL BE A THRIVING, MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ACTIVE LIVING.

CITY MISSION

THE CITY OF LOWELL DELIVERS EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES THROUGH TRANSPARENT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

COUNCIL VALUES

WE BELIEVE IN BEING POSITIVE STEWARDS OF OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR COMMITMENT TO:

INTEGRITY - INCLUSIVENESS - TRANSPARENCY - FAIRNESS - ACCOUNTABILITY - COMPASSION

GOALS

- CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE AND EXPAND WATER, SEWER, AND STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
- CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE AND EXPAND CITY STREETS AND SIDEWALKS
- DEVELOP AND UPDATE PUBLIC FACILITIES
- ENHANCE MULTI-GENERATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES
- DEVELOP LAND USE MASTER PLANS FOR TARGETED AREAS



LOWELL CITY COUNCIL

LEFT TO RIGHT: MAYOR LARRY SIMONDS, MAYOR PRO-TEM SCOTT BATES, PHIL BONHAM,
DWAYNE CHITWOOD, SHANE ROBINSON, TRAVIS SMITH



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FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL SEEKS FUNDING FOR MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES.

- THE CITY SEEKS FUNDING FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THROUGH VARIOUS ESTABLISHED GRANT PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE RAISE PROGRAM, RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS (RCN) PROGRAM, INFRA PROGRAM, SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL PROGRAM, RAIL CONNECTIVITY, SMART PROGRAM, AND ALL PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FUNDING TO IMPROVE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS AND RAIL CONNECTIVITY.
- THE GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION ARE PREPARING A PLAN TO BUILD A HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE FROM ATLANTA TO CHARLOTTE. THE CITY SUPPORTS ROUTE OPTIONS THAT INCLUDE STOPS IN GASTON COUNTY.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS WORKING WITH THE FEDERAL RAIL ADMINISTRATION TO FURTHER STUDY INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL FROM KINGS MOUNTAIN TO CHARLOTTE AS PART OF THE CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS MAINTAINING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BONDS. PROPOSALS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT BONDS TAXABLE WOULD MAKE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS COSTLIER TO LOCAL TAXPAYERS AND RATEPAYERS AND MAY MAKE THEM LESS ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS CONTINUED FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES IN THE AREAS OF TRANSPORTATION, BROWNFIELDS GRANTS, PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATIONS AND EXPANSIONS, TARGETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS, AND HOME PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND REDUCE HOMELESSNESS.



STATE PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL WILL FOCUS EFFORTS ON PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT THE CITY'S FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNANCE, UTILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS AND RECREATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING, AND PUBLIC SAFETY.



FINANCIAL

- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE POSITION THAT THE STATE SHOULD NOT CUT OR ELIMINATE STATE-SHARED REVENUES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNLESS OTHER SUITABLE REVENUES REPLACE THEM.
- THE CITY OPPOSES UNFUNDED MANDATES, WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED THROUGH LEGISLATION OR REGULATION AND REQUIRE ADDITIONAL LOCAL EXPENDITURES WITHOUT CORRESPONDING REVENUES.
- TAX REFORM OR REDISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CITY'S REVENUES NECESSARY FOR LOCAL SERVICES.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MUNICIPALITIES WITH AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL LOCALLY--CONTROLLED REVENUE OPTIONS AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF THOSE OPTIONS, INCLUDING – BUT NOT LIMITED TO – CITY-ONLY SALES TAX, CITY OCCUPANCY TAXES, A PREPARED FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX, AND IMPACT FEES FOR TRANSPORTATION, PARKS AND RECREATION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR STATE-LEVEL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO KEEP NORTH CAROLINA COMPETITIVE IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ADDITIONAL JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHEN COMPETING WITH PROJECTS IN OTHER STATES. THIS INCLUDES THE GOVERNOR'S ONENC FUND, GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION, JOB DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT GRANTS (JDIG), AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN PROPERTIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CITY BELIEVES CHAPTER 160D COULD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATION OF ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS AND THE SALE OF CITY PROPERTIES WHEN ADDRESSING URBAN BLIGHT AND DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS AND ADVOCATES FOR THEIR CONTINUED EXISTENCE. THESE CREDITS ARE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS FOR LOWELL AND THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MILLS TAX CREDIT OR A SIMILAR INCENTIVE THAT WILL STIMULATE THE MARKETPLACE TO RESTORE AND REUSE LARGE VACANT INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND UTILITY BUILDINGS.
- SUPPORT THE STATE IN CONTINUING TO FUND A STRONG FILM INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND CONSIDER PUBLIC POLICY THAT POSITIVELY IMPACTS FILM JOBS IN OUR STATE.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE P&N RAIL LINE FOR COMMUTER RAIL AND APPROPRIATE FREIGHT USE.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE REVITALIZATION OF VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES WITH FUNDING.
 - MANY TOWNS AND CITIES DO NOT HAVE FUNDING TO ADDRESS ABANDONED PROPERTIES.
 - THESE PROPERTIES AFFECT SURROUNDING HOME AND BUSINESS PROPERTY VALUES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CRIME RATES.
 - WITH FUNDING AND ADDITIONAL LEGAL TOOLS, SUCH AS THOSE ALLOWING FOR PROPERTIES TO BE MORE EASILY CONDEMNED, THESE PROPERTIES COULD SERVE TO ADDRESS LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS.



LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- THE CITY SUPPORTS AMENDING STATE ANNEXATION LAWS TO ALLOW CITIES TO CLOSE DOUGHNUT HOLES AND RESTRICT ALL WATER AND SEWER EXPENDITURES TO AREAS ONLY WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS A SYSTEM OF SPIRITUOUS LIQUOR SALES THAT MAINTAINS A LOCAL REFERENDUM ABOUT THE DECISION TO SELL, PRESERVES LOCAL CONTROL OVER THE LOCATION AND DENSITY OF OUTLETS, AND PRESERVES THE LOCAL REVENUE STREAM.
- THE CITY SEEKS AUTHORITY TO CRIMINALLY ENFORCE CITY REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWING AND BOOTING INDUSTRY (SUCH AS MANDATORY SIGNAGE, PROCEDURES TO TOW OR BOOT, BUSINESS HOURS' OPERATION, AND MANDATORY ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARDS).
- THE CITY SUPPORTS STATE REGULATIONS THAT PREVENT ABUSIVE PRICE GOUGING AND EXTORTION IN THIS INDUSTRY.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON PROPERTY TAXPAYERS BY EXPANDING LOCALLY-CONTROLLED OPTIONS FOR REVENUE GENERATION.
 - PROPERTY TAXES REMAIN THE PRIMARY REVENUE STREAM OVER WHICH MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS EXERCISE CONTROL.
 - A LACK OF DIVERSE LOCAL TAX OPTIONS CAN AFFECT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CAUSE LARGE SWINGS IN REVENUE BASED ON ECONOMIC CHANGES.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION CLARIFYING A CITY'S RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A TREE ORDINANCE AND OPPOSES LEGISLATION IMPAIRING THE RIGHT OF A CITY TO PROTECT ITS TREE CANOPY.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA OPEN MEETINGS LAW THAT WILL CLARIFY WHEN AND HOW ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN PARTICIPATE REMOTELY IN CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS EVEN WHEN THE CITY IS NOT OPERATING UNDER A GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER OR A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY. THESE AMENDMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE THE SITUATION WHEN A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL CAN MEET IN PERSON. HOWEVER, ONE OR MORE COUNCIL MEMBERS CANNOT BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT BUT STILL WISH TO PARTICIPATE VIA TELEPHONE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE IN VOTING ON SOME ISSUES. THE CITY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT VOTES ON SPECIFIC ZONING AND QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH AMENDMENTS.

UTILITIES

- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE COOPERATIVE INTERCONNECTION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATION AND ENCOURAGES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES FISCAL AND REGULATORY INCENTIVES IN SUPPORT OF SUCH INITIATIVES. CONVERSELY, THE CITY STRONGLY OPPOSES STATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD COMPEL THE TRANSFER OR SALE OF UTILITY SYSTEMS OR THAT CURTAILS THE ABILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES TO SECURE NO-INTEREST LOANS AND GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER INTERCONNECTIONS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (SRLF) OF THE NCDEQ.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING OF THE NC LAND AND WATER FUND (FORMERLY THE NC CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND) FOR STORMWATER AND WATER QUALITY PROJECTS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO BUILD BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTNER WITH PRIVATE PROVIDERS, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO HELP CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.
- THE CITY SEEKS ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS SCIENCE-BASED PFAS DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER REGULATIONS AND THE FUNDING OF TREATMENT UPGRADES TO REMOVE PFAS FROM DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO CONTINUE ACCURATELY IDENTIFYING LEAD WATER SERVICE LINES AND THE FUNDING FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.
- THE CITY SEEKS ADDITIONAL STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, ADVANCE ITS STORMWATER PROGRAM, AND REPAIR AND IMPROVE ITS STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.



TRANSPORTATION

- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE CATAWBA CROSSINGS TRANSPORTATION PROJECT. IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY FROM LOWELL TO CHARLOTTE-DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ITS INTERMODAL FACILITY IS A KEY TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY. BRIDGE CROSSINGS OF THE CATAWBA AND SOUTH FORK RIVERS ARE A HIGH-PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION GOAL IN OUR REGION.
- THE CITY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EXTENSION OF LIGHT RAIL, INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL, AND RAPID TRANSIT FROM CHARLOTTE THROUGH LOWELL AND BEYOND, INCLUDING DAILY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE THAT WILL EXTEND FROM CHARLOTTE TO GASTON COUNTY. THIS INCLUDES THE FULL UTILIZATION OF THE P&N RAIL LINE.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW (FOR ALL NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED INTERSTATE HIGHWAY PROJECTS) FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF UTILITY RELOCATION PROJECTS TO BE PHASED IN OVER FIVE YEARS. NCDOT SHOULD ALLOW MUNICIPAL UTILITIES WITH ADEQUATE, FUNCTIONING, AND EXISTING UNDERGROUND LINES WITHIN STATE ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAYS TO REMAIN IN PLACE FOR NCDOT ROAD-WIDENING PROJECTS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE NCDOT-FUNDED PROJECT TO WIDEN INTERSTATE 85 AND PARTNERING WITH NCDOT TO ENSURE THAT THE CITY HAS INPUT IN THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING AESTHETICS.
- THE CITY SEEKS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT THE AMOUNT OF POWELL BILL FUNDS OR A FUTURE-LIKE MODEL FUNDING SOURCE APPROPRIATED BY THE STATE ARE SUSTAINED AND DISTRIBUTIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES ARE INCREASED AND GROW OVER TIME.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS.



PARKS & RECREATION

- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM (PARTF GRANTS).
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE CONTINUATION OF ALLOCATIONS FOR THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM (RTP GRANT).
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE LAND AND WATER TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM (LWCF GRANTS).
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL AND THE CATAWBA LAND CONSERVANCY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT TRAILS CONNECTING SPENCER MOUNTAIN THROUGH LOWELL TO THE DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDEN.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

- THE CITY SEEKS LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
- THE CITY SEEKS FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT, WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PUT MORE VACANT PROPERTY BACK INTO USE – AND TO DO SO BY TREATING PROPERTY OWNERS FAIRER WITH FEWER COURT-ORDERED FORCED SALES AND WITH A STREAMLINED PROCESS TO SORT OUT OWNERSHIP INTERESTS. THESE VACANT PROPERTY SITUATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY APT TO ARISE IN PROPERTIES HANDED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER WITHOUT A FORMAL WILL LEFT BY THE ORIGINAL OWNER.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- THE CITY SEEKS PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING AND THE EXPANSION OF ALLOWABLE USES.
 - IMPROVING POLICING WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING AND MORE FLEXIBILITY IN ITS USES.
 - MORE EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE POLICING CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS THE ALLOCATION OF MORE FUNDS TOWARD ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS THAT SEEK TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH CALLS AND OTHER ISSUES THROUGH NON- UNIFORMED PERSONNEL.
- THE CITY SEEKS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF THE CHARLOTTE AREA URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REGIONAL AND FEDERAL PARTNERS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION PROVIDING ADDITIONAL POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES THAT INCLUDES A FUNDING MECHANISM TO FULLY SUPPORT THE COST AND LIABILITY OF THE BENEFIT, AND SUPPORTS THE STUDY OF EXISTING POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, SUCH AS SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT THE LIABILITY OF PROVIDING THE BENEFIT IS NOT SOLELY BORNE BY THE LAST EMPLOYER.
- THE CITY SEEKS IMPROVED STATEWIDE FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR LEO TRAINING FOCUSED ON THE USE OF FORCE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND DE-ESCALATION SKILLS.
 - HIGHLY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS OF POLICE USE OF FORCE IN RECENT YEARS HAVE UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR ENHANCED AND EXPANDED LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.
 - IMPROVED TRAINING IS NEEDED TO BUILD TRUST AND LEGITIMACY IN THE COMMUNITY WHILE SERVING THE PUBLIC IN A PROFESSIONAL AND EQUITABLE MANNER.
 - NUMEROUS STUDIES SHOW THAT ADDITIONAL AND EFFECTIVE TRAINING FOCUSED ON CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE POLICE USE OF FORCE.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS INCREASED RESOURCES FOR THE NC DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS DIVISION TO EXPEDITE THE ONBOARDING OF POLICE RECRUITS.



COUNTY PRIORITY ISSUES

THE CITY OF LOWELL SUPPORTS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

- THE CITY SEEKS TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY AND AREA NON-PROFITS TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY ON THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY FOR INDUSTRIAL USE AND JOB CREATION.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY ON MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL STUDIES THAT INCLUDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY TO FUND AND CONSTRUCT STRATEGIC UTILITY EXTENSIONS.
- THE CITY SUPPORTS A COUNTYWIDE INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS THAT INCLUDES FUNDING FOR MASS TRANSIT.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY ON DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS, SPECIFICALLY IN PUBLICLY OWNED SPACES AND PUBLIC ARTWORK.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO PARTNER WITH GASTON COUNTY TO INCREASE TRAVEL AND TOURISM THROUGH CAPITAL PROJECTS AND STRATEGIC MARKETING.
- THE CITY SEEKS TO CONTINUE CONTINUE INVESTING IN THE CATAWBA THREAD TRAIL WITH THE CONNECTION TO SPENCER MOUNTAIN.





Special Called City Council Meeting Memorandum

Prepared By: Scott Attaway

FY 2024-2025 Budget Discussion

Meeting	Agenda Group
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1:00 PM	New Business Item: 2G
Reference File	Presented By

To: Lowell Mayor and City Council
From: Scott Attaway, City Manager
Date: 4-12-2024
Re: FY 2024-2025 Budget Discussion

The City Manager will present preliminary information regarding the contents of the Proposed FY25 Budget and receive feedback from the City Council.