

City of Anderson
Retreat Issues and Major Projects
January, 2012

Retreat Issues

- **Neighborhood and Transit Services**

- Neighborhoods and Housing Task Force
 - City Council appointed a Task Force composed of community members that can assist in developing plans to redevelop neighborhoods.
 - Adopted Neighborhood Revitalization Implementation Plan November 9th council meeting
 - Amended APD contract August 23rd for implementation at Murray/Franklin & gateways
 - Held combined meeting with Southeast Anderson Task Force meeting, Eastside Concerned Citizens, and East Anderson Alliance Task Force to inform residents of day labor job opportunities associated with Quarry Street public facilities improvement project
 - Homes of Hope Ribbon cutting ceremony on July 26, 2011 signifying 5 new affordable homes within the City of Anderson
 - Held monthly Project Team Meeting with APD to discuss RFQ solicitation package. Task Force agreed by consensus with moving forward with the RFQ to be distributed on August 19, 2011
- Murray/Franklin, Lincoln/Grant, McCully developments
 - Incorporated Murray-Franklin/Lincoln-Grant/McCully Street in APD plan as catalyst development areas in neighborhood strategy plan
 - Murray Franklin RFQ distributed on August 19, 2011 – mailed to 18 potential developers; publicized on City website and cable channel; ran in Anderson Independent Mail on Sunday, August 21, 2011
 - Murray Franklin RFQ Pre-Response Meeting held on September 7, 2011; Facilitated by Willie Day and Jesse Wiles with two development groups in attendance
 - Received three responses to Murray Franklin RFQ prior to September 30, 2011 deadline
 - Met with Tom Faulkner of Nehemiah Corporation on September 12, 2011 regarding first and second phase of McCully Street development and progress to date
 - Housing Task Force Executive Committee and Neighborhood and Housing Council Committee interviewed developers who responded to RFQ. The three developers were TRG Communities, Greenville, SC; Woda Developers, Savannah, Ga; The Vantage Group, Fyffe, Al.
 - Arranged 11 January 2012 second interviews with Task Force and Neighborhood/Housing Council Committees.

- **Downtown**

- Parking Garage
 - Constructed 250 space West Whitner Street Parking Garage with retail component.
 - Initiated paid parking May 1, 2009; offered seasonal free parking during Nov/Dec 2010 and 2011; added pole banners indicating parking garage (June 2011)
 - City Council approved Colliers International's contract proposal on June 27, 2011.

- Displayed “available” signs on garage in August 2011; seeking buyers/tenants; reviewing leasing scenarios with Colliers.
 - Continuing to monitor usage
- Belk Site
 - Original plan: redevelop E. Whitner Street site as mixed use w/ 50-80 room hotel, 5,000 sq. ft. meeting facility, and 80-space underground parking garage.
 - Explored development options, estimated costs, funding options and RFQ process during second quarter 2010.
 - Contracted with design firm of RSCT Architecture + Design August 2010 to develop plans for greenspace at this site, including façade improvements to adjacent city-owned building (phased if needed); assessed adjacent City properties.
 - Conducted public input sessions in Sept 2010; planning committee refined design options in Nov/Dec 2010;
 - Received conceptual approval from BAR.
 - Authorized and secured funding in August 2011.
 - Interviewed 3 general contractor firms in November 2011
 - City Council approved design-build contract with Trehel Corporation for \$75,900 on January 9, 2012 for pre-construction services
 - Expect Guaranteed Maximum Price March/April 2012.
- Streetscapes
 - Constructed 6 streetscapes, investing \$3 million in public infrastructure over 3 years
 - Closed out contract in 12/09; maintenance and coordination w/private sector ongoing; routine inspection ongoing.
 - Continuing to explore opportunities to accelerate streetscapes with other entities and funding sources such as private sector, ACTC, etc.
 - Completed public infrastructure associated with the Bleckley Inn and reimbursement to developer is complete.
 - Investigating and planning for the use of grant funding in design and construction for one block of West Church Street anticipated first quarter 2012.
- Master Plan Projects
 - Implementing downtown master plan
 - Continued course of action identified by the public process: Continued streetscape on Main from River to Tribble; Develop additional partnerships to leverage resources (Connections Booklet – in circulation); Establish new programs and guidelines that further encourage development (fine-tune encroachment regulations – in process); transitioned downtown maintenance from contract to full-time employee
 - Approved the first Economic Development Incentive Grant October 2010 -provides total Incentive Grant of \$200,000, paid over six years to developer of Bleckley Inn.
 - Initiated phase 2 parking/ directional signage; improved event security/process; continue to evaluate parking enforcement; added parking banners to West Whitner Street Garage, etc.

- Downtown Development Commission (see Master Plan above for more)
 - Continuing regular meetings with nine-member advocacy group to support the City's revitalization efforts through implementation of the master plan.
 - Identified the following as priority areas to accelerate: development of visitor advertising (regional market, too), continuing distribution of hospitality package for hoteliers, and initiated implementation of wayfinding plan.
 - Completed installation of directional signage at highway gateways Nov. 2010 at 12 locations approved by the SCDOT; completed installation of new street name signage in the Westside Historic District (and others)– brown signage indicates “attraction” as per state branding and corresponds to City's marketing efforts and publications
 - Continue this ongoing process of implementing the master plan, refining the management and maintenance details, all coordinated with TIF budget and general fund dollars.

- **Recreation**
 - Master Plan Update
 - The Recreation Department's 2000 Recreation Master Plan has been updated by Arbor Engineering.
 - Twelve sealed bids were received for the Phase II project. Thrift Brothers, Inc. (Seneca, SC) submitted the low bid of \$883,575.43.
 - Council approved awarding the bid to Thrift at the January 9, 2012 meeting.
 - An on-site pre-construction meeting has been set with Arbor, Thrift Brothers and city staff for January 18th.
 - City staff is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits from DHEC to stockpile dirt removed from the site. The dirt will be moved to Anderson Memorial Stadium.

Major Projects

- **Courts**
 - Study Court System and develop modification plans as needed
 - Review court system to maximize efficiency and fairness
 - City Council approved 12-13-10 clarification of terms and processes for appointment/re-appointment of judicial positions
 - Transitioned court collections from APD to Court April 2011
 - Completed RFQ process for Assistant Municipal Judge April 2011
 - Completed appointment of Steve Haigler as Assistant Municipal Judge May 2011 for 2 year term (July 1 2011-June 31, 2013).
 - Reviewed with Public Safety Committee the process for judicial appointments and initiated review of auditor's recommendations for court system with expected progress in February 2012.

- **Fire**
 - Station 3 – First Responder Fire Station
 - Construction completed and operational on July 10, 2009

- Initiated Citywide Medical First Responder Program on July 1, 2010
 - We are responding to 9 – 12 high priority Medical First Responder calls per week
 - The program has already been credited with several saves
- Received SAFER grant July 1, 2010, providing for 6 additional personnel.
- Remodeling of Hdqts. Fire Station is completed with exception of punch list items.
- The Fire Department has a new fire rating of Class 2.
- The City Arson Task Force is now operational.
- Work continues to receive accreditation through The Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Battalion Chiefs Dunlap and Guest attended a seminar in Atlanta concerning this.

- **Planning and Development**

- Imagine Anderson
 - Develop a community vision plan to serve as a catalyst for improving Anderson County over the next 20 years. The focus areas are Growth Management, Education, Economic Development, Health and Human Services, and Recreation.
 - Completed various focus area committees that are working to implement the elements of the plan. Plans such as this will typically see some elements implemented, while others may be revised over time.
 - Implement action plans over next 20 years.
 - The second Economic Development Summit was held on May 15, 2009.
 - Established the City as the Growth Management Vision Partner as part of the Vision Plan in October 2010. Met in August with Imagine Anderson Committee.
- Comprehensive Plan Update
 - Update, in accordance with the 1994 SC Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act, Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Must be updated every ten years. Last revision was in 1999.
 - Staff will prepare this document along with limited field-work assistance from the Appalachian Council of Governments.
 - Complete Comprehensive Plan and adopt in 2012 as 2010 Census date is released and evaluated.
- Long-Range Transportation Plan
 - Develop a long range transportation plan. This plan is a necessary tool that is generated as per the ANATS Policy Committee. It outlines existing conditions and provides recommendations for improvements to the City's transportation network. Last update was 2004.
 - Projections and data collection for the transportation model were completed first quarter of 2009.
 - Adoption of plan was delayed due to the need to determine the impact of stimulus funding on existing projects.
 - Conducted an ANATS workshop on possible long range projects on October 11, 2010.
 - 3 Public meetings on long range projects took place in January 2011.
 - Adopted by the ANATS Policy Committee on April 25, 2011.

- Housing Demolition Program
 - Council awarded the 2010 demolition bid to J&J Specialties.
 - Twenty (20) structures were demolished by the end of the first quarter of 2010. Special target areas include the Eastside, Alphabet Streets and the Southside.
 - Approximately 323 houses have been demolished since this programs inception in 2006.
 - Continue program as budget permits.
 - Program is ongoing with no completion date.

- Abandoned Autos and Nuisance Abatement
 - Remove or abate all nuisances related to abandoned autos and overgrown lots. These programs directly impact aesthetics and the general safety of the City by eliminating inoperable vehicles and other hazards, such as overgrown lots and housing code violations.
 - Continue abatement program. Since January 1, 2010, approximately 321 autos have been tagged, covered, or removed. Over 941 overgrown lots, 106 unfit structures, and 378 other property nuisances have been addressed since January 1, 2010.
 - Continue identifying and eliminating nuisances in the community on a proactive and complaint basis.
 - Continue programs that are ongoing with no completion date.

- **Police**
 - 5 year strategic plan (5YSP)
 - In July 2007, the APD submitted a 5YSP (2008-2012) to Anderson City management. The plan remains the blueprint for providing direction and guidance for improving the APD's operations, management and administration. The 5YSP identified the programs, projects, partnerships, and initiatives that the APD would implement or acquire in order to be more efficient in the services we provide and more effective in reducing crime and protecting citizens and residents. These programs are categorized under four areas - technology, training, reorganization, and community partnerships.
 - Strategic Plan Accomplishments in four and half years:
 - Acquired Body Armor for all Officers and Reserves - Tech
 - Acquired Tasers for all Officers - Tech
 - Acquired in-car videos for all Patrol cars - Tech
 - Acquired speed radar devices for all Patrol vehicles
 - Acquired Mobile Data Terminals for all Patrol vehicles
 - Acquired AR-15 rifles for all Patrol vehicles
 - Detention Stand Alone Unit – Reorg
 - Electronic Evidence Control System – Reorg/Tech
 - Crime Scene Forensic Unit/Lab – Reorg/Tech/Train
 - Digital Computer Forensic Unit/Lab - Reorg/Tech/Train
 - Internet Crimes Against Children Unit – Reorg/Tech/Train
 - Polygraph Unit – Reorg/Tech/Training
 - Warrant Unit – Reorg
 - COPS Unit – Reorg/CommPart
 - Improved Detention Video Security – Tech
 - State Accreditation – Reorg/Train
 - Public Information Officer – Reorg/Train
 - Internal Affairs Unit – Reorg/Train/Tech
 - Business Watch/Linking Communities –Tech/CommPart

- SC Law Enforcement Command College – Train/CommPart
 - Mutual Aid Agreements/LE Assn – Reorg/Train/CommPart
 - ACSO/APD Vice/Narcotics Gang TF
 - Anderson Mall Substation
 - Anderson Housing Authority/Security Cameras Fortson Homes
 - Increased Neighborhood Watch Groups
 - Crime Stoppers
 - SCLEOA/IACP/SCLETOA/IAPE Associations
 - March 2011, APD became the 45th agency in South Carolina to receive accreditation. Less than 20% of law enforcement agencies have obtained State and/or National accreditation.
 - Future project in the APD Strategic Plan is to 1) develop a comprehensive plan to install security cameras in City parks, schools, high crime areas, and major thoroughfares; 2) Create a Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory in partnership with Anderson University, ACSO, SLED, and FBI; 3) Create a Tri-County Law Enforcement training center designed with driving track, firearm ranges, multi-purpose tactical training rooms, and conference classrooms; and 4) coordinate effort with Anderson County Emergency Services to partner with private industry and Clemson University to develop an infrastructure to support IT network for law enforcement applications.
- **Public Works**
 - Stormwater Projects
 - Develop a stormwater program that complies with Federal and State Regulations, and improve identified major stormwater projects.
 - Projects completed
 - North Main Street Regional Detention Pond
 - Orr Street Regional Detention Ponds
 - Huntington Hills Lake Restoration
 - Linley Park Stream Rehabilitation
 - Stream restoration project
 - Council approved resolution to remove James Street and Watson Avenue from SCDOT system at Dec. 12th council meeting.
 - Arbor Engineering has completed over 90% of engineering drawings and intends to submit for state/local permitting by end of January.
 - Project on schedule to bid out in February.
- **Recreation**
 - Recreation Projects
 - Quarry Street project: Phillips Brothers has completed the following: the installation of three picnic shelters, sidewalk along Quarry Street and around the cul-de-sac and the bridge across the concrete flume to connect the walking track. Landscape and Irrigation bids are due January 20th.
 - The majority of the work is completed at the Maintenance/Beatification building (former Lunsford Cabinet Shop). Public Works currently grading the area behind the building and the installation of gravel/crush-run and fencing will take place. Once the

fencing is installed the remainder of equipment will be moved from the Rec Center to this site.

- The second phase of the park upgrades have begun. Thirty picnic tables, twenty-five trash receptacles and four benches will be installed at various park sites.

- **Utilities**

- ARJWS Dispute

- Resolved dispute with ARJWS board and staff over necessary Transmission Improvements to deliver 45 MGD peak demands to member agencies.
- Approved construction contract at the September 2011 Board meeting.
- Discussed new project funding opportunities to help reduce or eliminate upcoming budget impacts at November 2011 Board meeting.
- Monitor project to completion.

- Utility Master Plan

- Update the City's Water and Sewer Master Plan to determine capital needs and improvements for the next 5 years (FY2012-2016).
- Met with Council committees in November 2011 to discuss future impacts of the proposed plan.
- Assemble appropriate presentation for future Committee meetings in budget process.
- Proceed as directed by Council.

- Rocky River WWTP Storage Pond Liner Replacement

- Replace existing 10MG storage pond liner.
- Met with engineer to review final design and bidding documents.
- Advertised project and set date for pre-bid conference (January 17, 2012) with interested contractors and set bid date for February 2, 2012.
- Evaluate all bids received to determine successful low bidder and begin construction process.

- Liberty Hill Water Line Replacement Project

- Replace existing infrastructure with between 2,500 and 4,000LF of 6" and 2" water line.
- Completed survey of the area scheduled for replacement.
- Assist city engineer with final design as needed.
- Schedule advertisement and bid project as project allows.

- **IT**

- Computer replacement plan

- Continue implementing our long range hardware replacement plan for all pc's, servers, and network equipment.
- The 2011 phase of new computer purchases began in March of 2011 with the lease of 65 new computers. This is an ongoing project that will be completed in phases on an annual basis.
- The new shipment of 65 computers is 80% installed.

- Deep Freeze/Power Save/Anti-Virus software implementation

- Deep Freeze is a software package that freezes computers at their current state. When installed it prevents users from installing unauthorized software and protects the computer from malware and spyware. We are mainly installing this software on new computers or computers that have been imaged – 75% complete.

- Power Save software controls the power settings on the computer to save money by reducing energy costs. The software will turn off monitors and hard drives after a period of inactivity and turn the computer off at night. 70 % complete.
- Recently switched to Faronics Anti-Virus software. Began the process of installing new clients in December – 70% complete.

- **General**

- Communications Program

- Continue City's communication program allowing the City to tell its story through the City's communication tool kit: ECTV, monthly marketing materials including videos, still photos, power point slides, direct mail, brochures, guest columns, and specialty promotions, all focused on retreat issues, major projects, and timely subjects.
- Renewal of 3+ Evaluation Committee work will begin with City Manager/Assistant City Manager's employee meetings beginning in November 2011.
- Completed during September through mid-January the addition of AT&T Uverse as city broadcast option
- Developed new intro and music for Current Buzz in August 2011
- Introduced new video segment "City Insights" in September 2011 – ongoing
- Initiated development of new "neighborhoods and housing" video segment
- Developed new 18 month Municipal Government Professional Development Program; held info session September, classes began October 2011 with monthly meetings ongoing and case studies identified.
- Initiated special neighborhoods and housing video segment to advocate priority and community involvement; expected completion February 2011.
- Continue ongoing marketing and communications including special activities, press releases, council member info, community videos for website & ECTV-14, and new Current Buzz episodes

- Joint City/County Committee – (City Council Committee members Terence Roberts, Steve Kirven, Tom Dunaway)

- Renewed Joint City/County Committee to explore areas of common interest that offer opportunities to work together for the betterment of the community.
- Held first meeting on March 10, 2010 and shared list of joint projects and success stories with County Council Committee members and administrator.
- Committee met with County Council Committee members Tommy Dunn and Francis Crowder 10-1-10 (along with staff Rusty Burns, John Moore, Linda McConnell)
- Committee had three topics on agenda: East/West Connector (r-o-w maintenance and residential corridor standards); aquatics/swimming facility; and transit transfer station @ former McCants
- Committee's direction to staff: explore details of partnering on maintenance for E/W Connector (including but not limited to contracting w/city to cover costs of manpower & equipment, etc.); planning staffs continue to work together to develop residential corridor standards and integrate into written planning documents for both city and county; Aquatics – review and analyze comprehensive recreation system; continue to look at a strategic aquatics plan in which partners can be identified and components determined; Transit transfer – explained the FTA funding and ownership requirements

which provide for city upfitting space in furtherance of mutual transit goals on same site. Staff was directed to continue to look for areas of consolidation.

- County Council passed resolution 12-7-10 in support of Rep. Bowen's legislation aimed at municipal water systems despite City's request not to do so.
- Committee met on 1-31-11 and learned of the County's areas for consideration:
 - 1) Consolidating functions – permitting & inspection, MIS, Stormwater
 - 2) Downtown redevelopment
 - 3) Aquatics
 - 4) Water rates
- Staff (Rusty, John, Linda) met 2-23-11 with Davenport & Associates re: potential for analysis and evaluation of combining any county & municipal services;
- Joint Committee met again on 3-3-11 & presented City's subjects for consideration:
 - 1) Transit – Regional opportunities with center transfer station at former McCants – this is ready to go upon County's deeding of property
 - 2) Recreation – the 3% ATAX funds previously approved for building the Sports Complex – bond paid in April 2012 – how will \$ be used in future for joint facilities (including aquatics)
 - 3) Metro services – Police, Fire, & others where economies of scale can be achieved, benefitting those that receive the service
 - 4) EMS – Equitable funding for service
- **** The key to all of the city recommendations is how to best match the service to those who pay for the service.
- RFQ for professional services drafted by City, forwarded to County for advertising/processing in March 2011. No further action to date.
- Ongoing individual discussions among City and County regarding Transit Transfer Station at McCants and also the discussion of potential added bus route to Belton Honea Path area; decisions hopeful in first quarter 2012.