

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, NC, convened for a Special Budget Meeting on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 12:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Anthony Foxx presiding. Councilmembers present were: John Autry; Warren Cooksey; Andy Dulin; Claire Fallon; LaWana Mayfield; James Mitchell and Beth Pickering.

Absent until noted: Councilmember Patsy Kinsey

Absent: Councilmembers Michael Barnes, Patrick Cannon, and David Howard

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Due to technical difficulties, there was no audio or video of this meeting.

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Mayor Foxx stated that we have all seen and heard the horror of what happened in Newton, Connecticut on December 14th. He noted that our hearts and minds are heavy with the senseless tragedy of losing 20 children and 6 adults at the Newtown Elementary School.

Councilmember Patsy Kinsey arrived at 12:11 PM.

The Mayor expressed that this discussion pales in comparison to the events in Newtown, but are still important issues. He stated that he's spent a lot of time since the summer contemplating how best to resolve the budget impasse, but sensed that the Council is not ready. The Mayor stated that clearly there are several uncertainties. He highlighted the uncertainties as being, the economic impact of the "fiscal cliff". He noted the possible implications the "fiscal cliff" will have on the federal budget. He asserted there is a sense that some time should be taken to examine how the situation will play out. Mayor Foxx pointed out another uncertainty as being a "new" State government taking place in January. He mentioned a couple schools of thought as to what effect the election of the new legislature will have on the City, as well. Finally, Mayor Foxx pointed out that Mecklenburg County is in the middle of revaluation. Having said all that, the Mayor stressed that it won't hurt [the Council] to wait on making a decision on the Capital Investment Plan (CIP), but advised Council that they would eventually have to make a decision. Mayor Foxx emphasized that Council will have to decide which is most cost effective for the citizens or determine whether waiting is a better strategy. The Mayor stressed that if this Council doesn't make a decision, it will be left for another body to make the decision. He suggested that the better course is to make a decision.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, to defer voting on the recommended CIP budget at this time and to vote during the normal Spring budget process plus to refer individual CIP items to Council committees for review and recommendations

Councilmembers expressed their viewpoints on the proposed motion; some asking for clarification and others expressing their support of the motion.

Councilmember Mitchell highlighted the intent of the motion as being that each committee would, with staff input, work to identify the resources necessary to fund individual projects and then report out their findings.

Mayor Foxx commented that there was a lot of room for discussion and collaboration. He further commented on the proposed Streetcar Project and the East Independence Economic Development Strategy. He suggested that there may be a better way to get to the question, even though the answer may not change.

The vote was recorded as unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 25 Minutes
Minutes Completed: June 10, 2013