

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Workshop on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 5:16 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Patrick Cannon presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, John Autry, Michael Barnes, Ed Driggs, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

ABSENT UNTIL NOTED: Councilmember David Howard

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Mayor Cannon called the meeting to order and said the first topic on the agenda is the Fiscal Year 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and a Report of the external Auditor. Mr. Manager is there anything further you would like to say with regard to some of the key points that might be addressed?

FISCAL YEAR 2013 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

City Manager, Ron Carlee said there is a danger in a lot of communities that these annual reports become overly perfunctory, but the reality is this is one of the most important oversight functions that elected bodies serve and that is really understanding the financial position of the jurisdiction of the City, and also understanding how well we are doing actually accounting for the resources, and that is the purpose of having an annual audit, not only to trust our staff, but also to verify and demonstrate to the public how we are doing. The way we have structured the presentation tonight is to begin with Greg Gaskins doing a financial overview and then our external auditor himself, Eddie Burke will be here to present his findings. Overall I think we are in an extraordinarily good situation, but there were a few concerns that were raised in the audit. Again this is why you do an audit so you can identify things and address them, so after his presentation we will have staff from the Finance Department go through the specific findings, clarify what they are and exactly what we are doing to address them to insure that we are as good a stewards as we possibly can be of the public's resources.

Greg Gaskins, Finance Director said this is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, some light reading if you want to entertain yourself at night. I'm going to give you a few highlights to this report before Eddie talks about his findings and the process by which he did that, which is part of the transparency issues that the Manager just mentioned. I would say to you that if you peruse this later and have additional questions we will be glad to address that. If there are questions tonight that you want us to follow up with, we will take that information in and provide answers. As you know we typically do have some questions that we follow up with. With that let me talk for a second about what the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is supposed to be. Clearly, it is the statistical information and the financial information that reports what the City has done and its activities during the year. We are privileged to have received a certification from the Government Finance Officer's Organization for 28 straight years related to doing a good job of compiling this. This is a national standard that we try to adhere to in which the City has followed for many years, and we do that because that helps us in meeting the transparency issues and the statutory compliance issues that we hope to achieve with this report. Our legislative and oversight bodies use this document; we have investors and creditors that use this document; our citizens use this document, and of course management itself uses the document. I will tell you that recently as we've had more independent credit analysis; we tend to during the year, get more questions than we used to related to this, telling us that additional people are starting to look at the document, possibly as a result of the impact of 2008 and the aftermath of that financial crisis. We are seeing more independent groups using and looking at this particular document.

Here is a statement of results of the general fund in terms of the actual sources of fund. I always remind you that there will always be a slight difference between this and the budgeted number that you get as we are doing the budget reports. That is simply because sometimes actual results differ from budgets, but the relative size is there. Property tax is our number one source; sales tax is number two. You see the others and particularly for us a business privilege license tax is a substantial minority figure of \$17 million; which as we talk about the future and budgets, that

becomes more important because that has been targeted in the past by the General Assembly as an area for potential reform. That is a fairly substantial issue for us.

I also want to talk a little bit about revenue estimation techniques that we've used to help us with that figure and it will also be important to you as we go into the budget process; clearly property tax is going to be a big issues for us this year because of the problems that we had in the County Assessor's Office and the Pierson's Report, which is the people they hired to help them with that assessment. It is going to be coming back to us in the near future and we will be working with them related to that, and to assisting us with providing those numbers by which we produce the property tax estimates. In this particular case we have for about 5 years been on a similar schedule between the City and the County offices, working with the Assessor to get the information at the same time. We have assurances from the County that we will be able to continue that process such that we will receive the same information that they receive, and we do have confirmation that process will continue with them. On the sales tax, it is a statewide collection process; the state does that for us, remits that revenue back to us, even that part of the sales tax which is as a transit portion, is collected here for us. It still passes through the State and comes back. The one issue that causes problems for us, is because of the delay, it sometimes makes it difficult to look at historic sales tax numbers and compare them to results, and be exactly able to contribute by time period how that is occurring and how those sales tax are occurring. As a result of that one of the things we do is work with the State in terms of what they are seeing from other local government entities and see what they are predicting and measuring against our actual sales tax activity and process. That is the process by which we produce the sales tax estimate. Other revenues are basically done using historic data and it is modified generally by economic conditions and economic activity, which is both projected, and what has occurred in the recent past. Estimates are collaborative; we work with both the County Budget and Finance offices, and the City works very closely together in both making the estimates for these revenues, and ultimately how that compares to the expenditures. That will be how you will choose and make the determination about your budget.

Here are the uses of the funds or the expenditures (Slide #5 on Page 3.) You will notice the largest part of that is for Public Safety, followed by Solid Waste and the others. Public Safety, Police and Fire somewhere equates to what we gather in property tax if you just want to compare revenues. This is also slightly different than budget to actual but those are relatively minor differences. I will talk for a second about Fund Balance Policy (Slide #6 on Page 3.) There is a guideline which is issued by the North Carolina Local Government Commission which is about 8%, and is equivalent to two months expenses. That is the minimum guideline. Most units exceed that by a fairly large amount. As you might expect smaller cities tend to exceed it by quite a lot because the relative amount of dollars is small, and the risk to them of having some type of interruption in their flow either from the revenue sources or from some event is pretty high. As cities get bigger, then they are slightly smaller. We would fall at our 16% level for cities our size fairly close around the mid-point in terms of that area. What are the concerns that you would have; why do you have the fund balance policy? The big two that have happened in Charlotte's actual history, one has been event Hugo, the hurricane where there was a lot unanticipated expenses and also when the General Assembly encountered some difficulties and withheld utilities franchise tax from us. That was obviously a huge thing; it was over \$35 million at the time that was being withheld. That was a big risk and those type risks are the primary reasons why you have a fairly healthy fund balance policy. This is an issue that is looked at related to credit ratings, however along with many other issues as we've talked about before. The Fiscal Year Fund Balance in 2013 was above 16% so it was \$12.5 million. This is typically by policy, been used for Pay-As-You-Go capital.

The Enterprise Funds – (First slide on Page 4.) We have four major enterprise funds, water/sewer, aviation, transit, and storm water. By far water/sewer is the largest and storm water is the smallest. You can see the major sources of revenue there and what the primary expenses are for these funds. This chart may be more illustrative. The part that has the stripes on it is the capital grants that we receive; and I point that out particularly because in the transit area and the nature of that funding; where there is a large component that is federal funding. You will notice that it is the capital grants part that makes the revenues exceed the expenditures. That is just the nature of that particular type of funding. You will notice again the storm water is the smallest and water/sewer is the largest in terms of those expenses.

Councilmember Lyles said, Mr. Gaskins in the Enterprise Funds, and their fund balances for example water and sewer, that amount difference between revenue and expense, are there policies regarding the fund balance and the use of those excess funds for capital expenses as well?

Mr. Gaskins said each of the Enterprise Funds has slightly different policies; however all of them have a component of some type of fund balance. Because of the nature of the funds, for example where you are dealing with revenue bonds many times it is coverage ratios that are more significant, so what you would find is that each one of those have slightly different policies, and in fact I can list them out for you if you want to and we can give you that in writing. You will notice on the revenue coverage ratio, the ability to cover the expenses from the revenues generated by the rate payers are the primary issue in terms of a credit rating for these four enterprises.

Ms. Lyles said so in addition to the fund balance ratios do they also cover capital expense, for example in water and sewer?

Mr. Gaskins said yes.

Ms. Lyles said is that part of the policy as well?

Mr. Gaskins said typically what you see for example with water and sewer, one of the things that is a driver related to that is the demand for capital. Where you have an enterprise fund that is growing, where there is a lot of growth in that, you will see a higher debt component because of the fact that you have to supply new lines, etc... versus a mature system where all you are doing is maintenance and not supplying new lines. There are variances of that, but that is covered in the policy and in the coverage ratios.

Councilmember Driggs said according to those pictures we've got a significant surplus for the year which I assume isn't actually the case. Why is it that the revenue numbers exceed the expense numbers?

Mr. Gaskins said typically you would rather have them exceed than not exceed, but what you will generally find is that, as part of what Ms. Lyles was talking about, is that the policy requires that there be some pay-as-you-go capital as a component to offset the debt component. While that is looking at one year's operations, if you look at the overall profile related to that once again the policy related to that fund balance will be within the range of those rules. For example if we wanted to look at water/sewer, we could show you that so you could compare not just one year, but like where they sit over a 5-year period or within their projected 5-year capital program. Which in fact when water/sewer comes to talk about it again they will be showing you that and they will show it to you in a 5-year, both projected and actual results. It is a little bit easier to see when you see it on a 5-year projection. You will be seeing that particular number.

These types of issues are key to the credit rating the City has achieved. There are various methods by which you can maintain your credit. There is not just one simple methodology, there are multiple ways. We are privileged to have good credit generally in North Carolina partially because of the state laws and regulations related to that, and because the Local Government Commission and the fact that they have a very strong oversight into the methods by which we issue debt, and which we maintain records, and which we create capital. In addition to that the rules that we mentioned for each credit entity where there are coverage ratios and fund balance ratios that support good credit is also a key issue of that. The benefit to that has been that we've had good access to the ability to do financing and that we've also been able to achieve very low rates in terms of achieving the capital programs for these. We do review that on a periodic basis. I think most of the current policies that we have were developed between 2004 and 2008 with some changes in 2008, particularly geared to the crisis which occurred in that year.

These are some of the comments the rating agencies have said about us (Slide #10 on Page 5). Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's generally looks at us as having fairly aggressive capital needs simply because of the nature of this community and the fact that we need infrastructure

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items to support a growing population. But they also recognize that we've done a good job of managing that and issuing debt where it is necessary to support those capital items. I will point out that in our Debt Portfolio (Slide #11 on Page 6,) unlike the federal government, is just for capital purposes. We are not borrowing, as you know, for operating, nor can we run a deficit. We don't borrow money to operate the government; we do that with the taxes and the revenues that come in. The federal government basically looks at the capital, operating, all of it in one, determines how much money it needs and if doesn't have enough then it simply creates that money by printing presses in order to make up for it. This is just capital borrowing and it is borrowing that is based on identified needs and where we have revenue actually to repay the debt that we were issuing for those capital needs, so there is a big difference between federal government debt and local government debt. We do have a risk associated with debt. Right now some of the concerns they have is the elimination or partial elimination of tax exemption, which is a proposal that has been on the table recently. That would impact us in the sense that to get the same amount of capital it would cost us more if that happened. We would have to issue the debt at a slightly higher rate because instead of being tax exempt we would be paying taxes when they purchase our obligations. The revenues have been relatively flat and I say relatively flat, that is given our past history in many of those revenues, including sales tax and property tax. The financial markets themselves have been somewhat volatile; there have been periods where to issue debt was at a higher cost than it was in a short period before, simply because of the volatility of international markets which has happened particularly since 2009.

Finally, the change in rating standards; Moody and Standard and Poor's have both changed their methodology related to ratings. It will take some period of time for all of that to shake down and for us to figure out exactly what that is going to mean. Moody's was first and Standard and Poor's has just issued theirs. The first unit of government in North Carolina to actually go and deal with those new standards was Greensboro. They have just gone and at a meeting this Thursday, Ron Kimble and I will be getting a report from Greensboro about that experience and what they learned or discovered in the new rating procedures. At this point in time we don't have a lot of experience with what those are going to be. We do know from reading them that they are more concentrated on actual results from a comparative basis than previously in either of those standards. It may be that benchmarks related to other people's activities could be more important under these standards than they formerly were. That is one potential impact.

Councilmember Barnes said Mr. Gaskins sometime in the last couple of years when we had this presentation and we talked about the second bullet point, the \$4.377 billion in outstanding debt, we've also talked about the City's cash flow and the amount of cash the City has. Do you have that number as of June 2013?

Mr. Gaskins said yes, we can get that for you.

Mr. Barnes said it was a very healthy number.

Mr. Gaskins said one of the reasons it is a healthy number is that the way we issue debt actually draws down on the debt fund balance. In other words you actually have cash sitting in a fund balance in the debt fund that will actually be drawn down to help repay the debt that is issued. That is one of the reasons it is fairly large. It is \$1.7 billion cash and cash equivalents for the entire City.

Mr. Barnes said \$1.7 billion.

Mr. Gaskins said this is that debt number which shows in the general fund, in green, water/sewer in blue and then the Airport, Transit and Storm Water. That is that total you looked at broken down by the various components, so it is not just the part that is related to the General Fund obviously, it all the enterprise funds as well.

Mr. Barnes said I'm not a finance guy, but one question I have is, you say we've got \$1.7 billion in cash and \$4.3 billion in debt which would seemingly mean we are bankrupt. Could you clarify why that is not the case?

Mr. Gaskins said fortunately \$4.3 billion doesn't happen to be due today. The debt is issued on average. That total amount of debt is about 20 years. You have 20 years to pay it off and that is the reason you are not bankrupt, and in fact the reason you have very good credit. Related to that, this is a statistic that particularly in the new Standard and Poor's version, the overall net debt is a percentage of full value, and full value means the taxable value. Different states laws have different ways that they interpret what the value is to apply the property tax rate to; this chart attempts to balance that to make equivalent differences in various state laws. It is a chart, (Slide #13 on Page 7,) a statistic that is now being used by Standard and Poor's as a measurement, and it is just a relative measurement of where people's debt burden is as a percentage of full value. If you will notice the red line, Charlotte, we are kind of towards the end and far away from the other end, but this doesn't tell you a lot unless you understand the differences between the various items. One of the things that we are trying to do is to look at these type standards, if this is what S & P and Moody's are going to use, and try to determine what the differences are between our community and some of these communities that are on this chart. For example, Cincinnati and Columbus are way down on the high end related to that and one of the reasons probably is that they have another big tax that we don't have that supports some of that debt so they are not using the property tax. They have an income tax in both of those cities. For example that may be a difference in their operations that would explain why there is a difference in these type issues. If you will notice Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte, the three of us are very similar; we have similar state laws and we are fairly similar on this end. One of the things we want to do is to make an analysis related to this type of comparison and see where we stand versus the top credits in the US, and as we go with the S & P/Moody's changes we will be doing that. This is just one grouping of peer cities but we will be doing that for an even larger grouping of peer cities than appears in this chart.

Councilmember Driggs said related to Mr. Barnes' question if we have \$1.7 billion in cash and \$4.3 billion in debt is there a big carry cost associated with having those items on our balance sheet?

Mr. Gaskins said that is a little deceiving in terms of what the \$1.7 billion is related to the \$4.3 billion. You have a number of things operating, first of all you have a large budget, and the way the laws are crafted in North Carolina you are going to have a lot of money that is not invested long-term, that is committed short-term and cash equivalents to balance that budget, so the bigger budget you have, that takes a lot of that money. Then the part where you have money that is offsetting that debt obviously, in some years there has been a huge boom to the City in terms of extra money that goes to pay-as-you-go capital, and currently it has been much less in terms of that because of the conditions where we are almost below historic averages in terms of earnings. That is the kind of thing that is very difficult to turn around in a short period of time. It is a fairly minimal loss and it wasn't ever devoted to any type of budgetary expenditure. It was only there if the pay-as-you-go capital could be used.

Mr. Driggs said what is the duration of the average term of the debt?

Mr. Gaskins said about 20 years.

Mr. Driggs said for the whole portfolio?

Mr. Gaskins said 50% is paid off in 10 years.

Mr. Driggs said do we have interest rate sensitivity where we have to market if rates change?

Mr. Gaskins said no, we do not.

Councilmember Fallon said where do we stand in relation to pension debt?

Mr. Gaskins said as you know pension debt in North Carolina is done statewide. The City itself for its general pension does not maintain that fund; the State Treasurer is the sole trustee for that. There are new rules related to how that is recognized. We are fortunate that North Carolina is number 3 in terms of funding in the United States in all pensions. We are the third rated and I

think that came out about the end of December, so we are basically fully funded, over 98% funded.

Councilmember Phipps said in view of the fact that the rating agencies are moving toward a more quantitative analysis as opposed to qualitative, do you foresee any potential appreciable impact that might have on our credit rating?

Mr. Gaskins said our initial analysis is no. That is one of the reasons we are very interested in talking to Greensboro and other people who have gone through the process. What we would like to do is by the time we go up there to have made the determination with comparative cities about where we are going to stand. That is something we are doing right now.

With that I would like to turn the program over to Eddie Burke who is with Cherry Bakaert, our outside accountants.

Eddie Burke, Cherry Bakaert said thank you for having me with you tonight. I'm going to spend the time that I have this evening in the four basic areas, first just sort of a brief overview of what our responsibility is in this process versus management and the Council itself. Every audit has what I refer to as an area of focus where we spent a lot of our time for whatever reason. I would like to go through what those key areas were. By no stretch was the only thing that we did was work in these particular areas. Third, I spent a few minutes on what the results were, and what our findings were, and finally there is certain required communication that I would like to spend a few minutes on and going through that information.

First we did complete the audit for June 30, 2013. The field work or when we completed our work was October 31, 2013. We actually completed our work in accordance with four basic standards. First general accepted auditing standards, second government auditing standards, third OMB Circular A-133, and finally the state single audit implementation act. Circular A-133 and the State Single Audit Implementation Act; those standards were required to be followed primarily because of the federal and state funding that you receive every year. The audit that we have just completed does not relieve Management of their responsibility, which is basically setting the overall strategic direction for the City and also establishing and implementing policies and procedures that governs the City on an annual basis. Our responsibility in this process is three things – first, is to plan and perform our audit in accordance to the standards that I just went through. Secondly, to express an opinion on the financial statements, and third if certain matters have occurred during our audit process, is to make sure we communicate those matters to you which I will be doing tonight. Finally, the objective of any audit is to provide reasonable, not absolute assurance that the financial statements are fairly stated. The reason I say that, in order for anyone to give absolute assurance we would have to be doing pretty much 100% audit of every transaction that goes on in the City. Our audit along with everyone else's is based upon statistical sampling of what we audit and the areas that we focus our attention in.

The areas of focus that we spent our time on first, you always need to know any changes, any reporting standards that have to be addressed and implemented in the current year. One of the first things we do when we start our process is to meet with management and go through what those new reporting standards are. There were some new standards that did impact your financials which I will go into in a few minutes; cash and cash equivalents, we spent a lot of our time there primarily because of the volume of the transaction and the amounts that are involved. Receivables and revenue, our time is spent there primarily because of the amounts and making sure that you have a good cut-off at the end of the year at June 30. Capital assets primarily because of the dollar amounts involved. Accounts payable and other expenses again primarily to make sure the City had a good cut-off as far as expenses were concerned and the amounts. Payroll, primarily because of the amounts that were involved. Debt, primarily because of the covenants and the dollar amounts that Mr. Gaskins was talking about. Litigation, what we do there, spending primarily trying to identify any type of disclosures or any accrual would need to be made to the financial statements. From managements judgments and accounting estimates, primarily making sure that the estimates that are reflected in the financial statements are consistent and you are using best practices on an annual basis. Finally, the single audit, because of the federal and state dollars you are required to have an annual single audit in accordance with A-133 and the state Single Audit Implementation Act.

As far as the results are concerned the City did receive an unmodified opinion on all of its reports. The term unmodified is new this year because of a new reporting standard that had to be implemented. The old term was unqualified; that has now been replaced with unmodified. That is the highest level of assurance that we as a CPA firm can provide on your financial statements. From an internal control perspective there were two material weaknesses that are reported. There are two significant deficiencies reported and there is one controlled deficiency that will be reported and that we will be going into in a little bit more detail in a few minutes. Then there were also from a compliance perspective, one non-material, non-compliance reported in the report. As far as required communication is concerned there were two new reporting standards that were implemented this year by the City, one was GASB Statement 63, the other was GASB Statement 65. Basically what those two new standards did; they did some reclassification on the financial statements themselves. There are two new terms that you will see on the financial statements this year; one is a deferred inflow of resources and the other is a deferred outflow of resources. The other major impact that it had on your financial statements, historically and prior to 63 and 65, all units of government across the State of North Carolina and the United States as far as that was concerned, was required to capitalize and amortize bond issue costs. This new standard required that those be written off and moving forward will be written off as those costs are incurred.

Secondly, there were no adjusting journal entries that we proposed. There were two liabilities that were passed on in the financial statements. Basically they came up at the very tail end of the audit, having to do with some litigation that was underway. The amounts were small and they were passed, and finally there was a new auditing standard called the clarity standard that had to be implemented this year. That was the standard that changed the terminology on the auditor's opinion from unqualified to unmodified. Secondly, if you look at the actual audit reports themselves, and compare them to the prior year there is some new formatting and some new wording in the reports themselves that was required to be implemented by the Clarity Standards. The wording, our responsibilities, and all of that are very similar to what it has historically been. That concludes my part and at this time I will ask the City to come back up and they will actually be going through the findings that were reported on the financial statements.

Robert Campbell, Deputy Finance Officer said I will be joined by Teresa Smith, Chief Accountant, and we will go through each of these findings and talk about what we've tried to do to improve our process and controls to try to address each of these six items that the external auditor just referred to. The first item – there were four parcels of land associated with the NASCAR Hall of Fame Project that were not properly recorded on our general ledger, and essentially what happened was the paperwork that was associated with that closing didn't make its way up to the Finance Department so we could record that transaction. We have put in place a new capital assets policy that deals with procedures for recording assets that are donated or acquired, but not purchased. We met with our Real Estate Department in Engineering to talk about how they notify us when we have a closing, so we felt like those procedures will improve, and we can make sure we get the information we need to record the transaction. Also at the end of the year when we go through the year-end closing process we send out a lot of letters to the Departments asking for a variety of information, so we will include this in one of those letters, requesting them to let us know about any of those assets that need to be recorded as a transaction in our ledger.

Mr. Driggs said what is the amount?

Mr. Campbell said \$36 million.

Mr. Driggs said are these the parcels that we are talking about selling, to which Mr. Campbell replied yes.

Mr. Campbell said the next item was a new reporting standard. It was Governmental Accounting Standard Board 53, which dealt with derivatives. What happened there was a premium on a swap that was being amortized under the old rules so we properly had a liability on the books for it. When this new reporting standard came along and they calculated the liability they didn't quit doing it the old way, and we double counted the liability. That was found by our accounting
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folks using our normal procedures, but they are going to beef that up to go through a detailed review of all of the derivatives in our portfolio to make sure that those are being handled properly. The next item, there was a former employee at Central Parking who had misappropriated some CATS fare evasion fines and the auditors found that. Central Parking has agreed to pay us for the amount of the loss. Our internal audit has gone in and done a review of their books and they believe that we should accept the settlement from Central Parking. The employee has been referred to the Police Department to determine the prosecution possible and CATS has also implemented new procedures where they would reconcile cash receipts in our system against the citation system that they use when they issue those fare evasions. Then finally internal audit is going to go in and do another review of those new procedures in early 2014.

Councilmember Mayfield said, what is the total dollar amount that was misappropriated, and what is the amount that we are considering for negotiation?

Mr. Campbell said from the review that we've done we've been able to substantiate \$50,750 and there would be a settlement for that amount coming from Central Parking.

Ms. Mayfield said for the total amount.

Mr. Barnes said over what period of time did that misappropriation occur?

Mr. Campbell said it was two or three years. It went on for a couple of years and then it was reported to us fairly quickly, but I think it was found as part of an internal audit that was being done there.

Mr. Barnes said was this someone stealing parking cash?

Mr. Campbell said yes sir, they were issuing false receipts. They had an old receipt book and when someone would come in and pay, they would issue a false receipt instead of using a real receipt so they could keep a record of it, and then they would just keep the money.

Mr. Barnes said if I might go back on the overstated long-term liability; what was the value of that, the overstatement?

Mr. Campbell said it was \$6 million, but at this time it had already been amortized down to \$4.5 million.

Mr. Campbell said the next item is design operation or controls over cash collection sites. Those were not being monitored regularly. We have done those in the past and we have looked at those but not on a regular basis. What we've done is put a new cash collection policy in place that has procedures in there about collections and monitoring. We are going to work with the City's internal auditor, Greg McDowell, to make sure that we have a plan in place that will allow us to monitor those on a regular basis. The next item is a recommendation; we are implementing a new enterprise resource planning system and that is basically our core financials that covers our grants; it covers our procurement and projects. They are recommending that anytime you make a big change like this you run the potential of breaking the controls you had in place in the old system, so they recommend that we have a review to make sure that it is working. We've engaged them to do that, and it is kind of an internal look at our business processes and our financial processes to make sure that they are all working properly.

Councilmember Fallon said when does the parking contract go back for bid? How long does that have to go?

Mr. Campbell said that I do not know. We'll have to get an answer for you on that.

Ms. Fallon said can you get me an answer on that? Is this the same one where we have the fraud?

Mr. Campbell said you are talking about the Central Parking?

Ms. Fallon said yes.

Mr. Campbell said yes, that was Central Parking.

Ms. Lyles said I just want to make sure that I understood the answer. I wasn't sure if you were saying that in this enterprise reporting that was going to handle the parking portion of it.

Mr. Campbell said no, I thought the question was when does the Central Parking contract renew and that doesn't have anything to do with the system.

Ms. Mayfield said do we have the costs of these new implementations? Do we know what that total costs are going to be yet?

Mr. Campbell said on the ERP System?

Ms. Mayfield said correct.

Mr. Campbell said I think it is \$24 million.

Mr. Phipps said in reading this book and reading about the material findings, I noticed that the completion date seems to sort of open ended in terms of the completion date is going to be sometime in fiscal year 2014. I would like to see more specificity in terms of a date certain on when we would expect corrective action to be complete as opposed to the broad fiscal year 2014. I notice in some of these descriptions that you do indicate that certain things might have been put in place in August of 2013. Is that when the bulk of corrective action was implemented? Say in this case right here, so these explanations that we have in book – why is it that we are talking in terms of a broad open ended completion date as opposed to a more specific date that this would be completed by this date?

Mr. Campbell said we would have to take each one and go through those individually, for example this one you were just asking about, this was a reporting situation at the Airport. TSA changed the rules from quarterly to monthly and as soon as the Airport found out about it, that has been changed and is already fixed.

Mr. Phipps said is it safe to say that these material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, the lion share of corrective action have already been achieved?

Mr. Campbell said yes, I would believe that would be accurate. For example like the CATS issue with the fare evasion fines, that is all but completed. The new processes have been put in place. All we need is for the internal auditor to come back and verify that it is working as intended. I believe most of these have been resolved.

Ms. Gaskins said I think probably the only one that really hasn't is the one about the cash sites. The others have and we will give you the specific dates. The cash sites one we are working on with Greg McDowell. That is the one that we don't have a date, but the others we do. That is the one where there was an issue about what the final date is going to be. We do not know that one yet, but we will report back to Council on that date.

Mr. Phipps said do we know how many city wide cash sites we have?

Mr. Campbell said we have very many. I don't have the exact count but cash is collected in a variety of locations, and some by necessity because we are spread out and we want to make it convenient for customers to pay, so we do collect in a lot of different locations. That is something that we've tried to bring in and centralize as much as possible to reduce the number of those sites because that reduces the risks, but we do have a large number of them.

Mr. Carlee said I will be personally reviewing the work plan on this program in addition to doing a comprehensive inventory. We will be making an assessment on the necessity for the number of sites that we have and we will implement very specific audit controls of each of them.

Mr. Gaskins said on all of these I would like to point out that the people who are involved, from Carolyn's staff at CATS; all of the people that we work with have worked on it together with us on coming up with the solutions that we've talked about and are continuing to. We had very good cooperation on this. Most of the things are resolved. As the Manager pointed out, the one that is the furthest from being resolved is the one with the cash sites.

Mr. Carlee said part of the difference is that on some of the others it was a very specific deficiency that was identified and not necessarily systemic where it could have been such as the way the liabilities are recorded. We don't know that there is anything recorded incorrectly other than the one identified, but they are going to do a review to confirm it. With regards to the cash sites, it was not a specific deficiency identified, it was a question with regard to our oversight and there we are looking at it from a systemic process standpoint as opposed to correcting a specific deficiency that was identified.

Mr. Driggs said I have a question for the Auditor if he is still here. I'm wondering how confident are you that there are no other issues like these that were not detected?

Mr. Burke said in what particular area?

Mr. Driggs said you highlighted a couple of places that were identified as deficiencies and I'm wondering in your process is there a possibility that other issues of this type did not get detected. Were you able to take all the action you needed to take and do all the things you needed to do to be confident that you actually identified?

Mr. Burke said I certainly cannot say with absolute assurance that there is nothing else out there, but we did a risk assessment of the City as a whole. Based upon that risk assessment we dug down into areas and I feel confident that we caught the big areas. I cannot give you absolute assurance.

Mr. Driggs said would you say that a finding like this, for the City the size of ours, and given the complexity of our financials, that this is fairly typical thing? I know you gave us the unmodified opinion but what would be your kind of qualitative assessment of this result?

Mr. Burke said I would have to take each item individually, but the prior period adjustments I would think would be more severe than if you had a breakdown in the system, or from a communication perspective. The one site where we found the \$50,000, while that is a lot of money, this was actually a communication issue too, if I'm not mistaken. That was something that occurred at a department level and finance was not aware of it. We found it through some procedures ourselves. I would say a city the size of the City of Charlotte, you are going to have things that come up occasionally. It is too big and it is too spread out. What you really want to do is try to identify, like the cash collection points. What you really want to do there, we found one area where there was a problem; was go ahead and be proactive and look at those areas and if there are any areas where you have problems, you try to identify those and correct them and put stronger internal controls in place. Try to be more proactive instead of reacting to those things.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Manager are we going to assess to see if any malfeasance has occurred at our cash site or are we just going to make sure that we put in a system that we think moving forward will make sure that none occurs?

Mr. Carlee said we will make an assessment on both. We will be doing internal audits across all of them ultimately and if we identify any malfeasance then we will take action. My policy has been to refer any issues for consideration for prosecution; I take a pretty hard line on that kind of thing if there is evidence there and it will support prosecution. We have no evidence that is the case and the only incident that was found was with a contractor, but you've heard me say many times, trust and verify, and what our audit tells me is that we need to step back and take a deeper dive into our cash sites and make sure that we really have the appropriate controls, and that we are monitoring them on the right periodic basis.

Mr. Phipps said for the Auditor – during your audit engagement did you routinely discuss issues as they were discovered or did you wait until the end of the engagement?

Mr. Burke said we discuss them as they come up. I don't think there was anything that was a surprise. We do that very early.

Ms. Lyles said I think one of the things that are most important about this audit is that the assessment by the external auditor, to say is our risk assessment appropriate for the type of organization that we have with the type of procedures and processes that we have? I think that is the assessment that I would look to for the external auditor to say, or submit, so I will ask the question, were there any areas that you found that where you would suggest that we increase our internal controls as opposed to those that are stated there? Are there any other things that you would look at and say, not just this audit, but going forward what is the risk assessment that we are, for the size of the organization we have, and the type of enterprise funds and general fund that we operate?

Mr. Burke said the City actually does a risk assessment as a whole on a regular basis. The one thing that you do in any risk assessment is you identify all the risks, you rank the risks from highest to lowest, and then you look at resources, and then you evaluate what you can cover and that in theory, the City and the governing bodies actually willing to accept that level of risks. I'm not sure what the Council has privy too as far as that risk assessment. I would be looking to see what you are covering and what you are not covering from an internal audit perspective, and make sure that is the risk that you are willing to accept.

Mr. Gaskins said if I could elaborate just for a second because the next steps which we have talked about with the Manager, and it is a consideration that the Governance and Accountability Committee take on an additional role related to an audit review oversight role which is now the recommended practice from the GFOA. So one of the reasons for that recommendation is the very questions that Council is appropriately asking related to this. Because that actually involves a process by which the external auditor has a direct contact with Council related to this, and a different type of relationship related to management in terms of handling this. That is now the best practice, it is something we have discussed with the Manager and I will let him speak to that.

Ms. Lyles said I think that any of us that serve on any type of Board, whether it is for profit or not for profit would see one of the very first things the audit would be assigned to is one of the Board Committees. Often time an Audit Committee would actually walk through this document with a much finer tune and look at your own internal audit as well as internal risk assessment materials. There is always a balance there. We want citizens to be able to pay their water bills without having to come downtown and have a piece of plastic or a check because we have a diverse community economically, so there is always the balance and having an Audit Committee and Oversight role, or some place that it goes. I think that is very appropriate because you need both. Yes, this is what we ought to be doing for the type of organization and the customer service that we want to deliver, so I endorse and support the idea that there be audit review assigned to a Council Committee, the Governance and Accountability Committee, so I think that is a really positive step.

Mr. Driggs said I want to second that motion. I think it is important that members of Council have the opportunity for more dialogue with the Auditor than just on this occasion. I've looked at this book and I have a lot of questions that I don't feel is appropriate to hold up everybody here with. It would be useful before we come to this meeting to have at least some of us who have done that work, and that committee would get a more detailed report, would be able to ask the questions, it has the benefit at this meeting, then a lot of these issues have been given more thought.

Mr. Burke said if I may ask, if you elect to move forward with this, and I would encourage you to do that also. The thing that I would ask is that we be able to meet with this Committee twice, once on the front end where we would lay out our overall scope of what we were going to look for, look at our risk that we've identified, let this Committee provide us with input with any perceived risk that you might have. We would turn around and implement that process into our audit plan and then meet on the back end where we would go through our findings with that Committee in a more detailed structured environment.

Mr. Driggs said I would just say in response to that, the responsibilities of the Committee include the ongoing relationship with the Auditor, reviewing that the retention of the Auditor, the scope of work performed and also seeing any letters that you might write back in full detail as to findings. There are actually quite a number of ways in which members of that Committee can use to interact with the Auditor to everyone's benefit.

Mr. Carlee said this does represent a change in approach within Charlotte. It is one that I think is really important to occur and putting this in context, we have an unmodified opinion. We are in a very strong position financially in this City; we have a very strong reputation. My opinion is the time to second guess yourself and to add the belt to the suspenders is when you are in a good position. A lot of organizations wait until they have a crisis and then they start scrambling to put checks and balances in place. The better approach is to do it proactively when you don't a problem and that is why I think now is really timely for us to take what is a system that is demonstrated to work very well, and be very sound over a long period of time, and make sure that from the elected standpoint and the appoint standpoint, that we insure the appropriate stewardship and systems going forward. I appreciate the willingness of the Council to move in this slightly different direction.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, that we approve the next steps for going forward for the implementation of the annual finance report knowing that two of those are process steps, but the final one would be a consideration to the charge of the Governance and Accountability Committee to work with our external and internal audit staff in a review and oversight way.

Mr. Barnes said to simplify that motion are you suggesting that we refer this booklet to that Committee?

Ms. Lyles said no, I'm not really saying refer this booklet to the Committee. I'm actually saying that the staff should continue to implement those findings. I was saying that the charge to the Governance and Accountability Committee include the audit function.

Councilmember Mayfield seconded the motion.

The vote was taken on the motion and was recorded as unanimous.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to mention one of the advantages, getting back to the Manager's comment of the Committee, is the determination of the gravity of these issues and the overall conclusion; what we have here is an unmodified auditor's opinion; the City is in excellent shape, we've got a couple issues we need to look at. I would hate for anybody to leave this meeting with the wrong impression about the overall work that has been performed by staff and the situation we are in. That is something the Audit Committee can take care of and can come in and recommend to full Council; we have a couple things here, we dealt with them and we are in great shape.

Ms. Fallon said I would second that because what I can glean from this is that in relation to other places these are very, very small little glitches that have been taken care of as soon as they were aware of them, an implementation of cure, and so we are much less than any other large city would be, we seem to be on a better footing.

Mr. Burke said I would agree with your comment. The City is very proactive in trying to deal with matters like this and in the scheme of things I would like to reiterate that the City is in sound financial condition and you have good controls and policies and procedures in place.

Mayor Cannon said it is my understanding that these three items will go to the Governance and Accountability Committee.

TRANSPORTATION C-DOT'S FY 13-14 SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PLAN

Mayor Cannon said before we get to this topic, you know they are suggesting depending upon which weather person you listen to, it is going to 7, 8, or 9 degrees tonight. There is some concern about the homeless and what was happening with those residents here; that a warming station is open until noon tomorrow at the Hal Marshall Center Annex at 618 North College Street. This will not be considered a shelter since there will not be cots there and they won't be able to stay overnight and there is no sleeping area anywhere around so the American Red Cross along with staff and volunteers, as well as nurses will provide snacks, coffee and hot chocolate for those that may have an interest there. Mecklenburg County Security will provide security both inside and outside the building. The Police Department will provide zone checks by the Central Division. Room at the Inn which we are all familiar with, is going to increase their capacity to 188 beds available for tonight and they will be coordinated through Urban Ministries and all persons seeking shelter will report to Urban Ministries which is located at 945 North College Street. The men's and women's shelter are full right now but they are increasing their capacity as much as they can. On a normal night of course the men's shelter averages around 325 men per night and it expects to accommodate between 50 and 75 additional men tonight as well as tomorrow. Red Cross and CMS are evaluating the need to open an overnight shelter at one of three schools near the uptown area that also will have a CATS route to enable to get to and from. This determination will be made in conjunction with the Charlotte Fire Department and EM on a need to do so basis due to the extreme incident.

City Manager, Ron Carlee said Saleem Khattak, who is the head of the Streets, will come do a presentation. He has been with the County about a year, comes from the Colorado. There is a new rule, if I say Arlington or County.

Councilmember Barnes said you have to give me \$50.00.

Mr. Carlee said it will be used for an appropriate purpose so if you catch me saying Arlington or County, when I should say City, please call me so I can make that donation. I'm doing 30 years of unlearning and I figure for a financial incentive, I make that go a little further. That is the second dollar she has made today. He has been with the City about a year or so and comes to us from Colorado Department of Transportation where he has experience with a lot worse weather than we have here. Before he starts I would like to do one commercial, since this is very timely and we could have some bad weather coming upon us, I just want to encourage everyone and people that you know to sign up for our new Charlotte/Mecklenburg Alert System where people can go on line and manage alerts going to them directly so they can be notified in a timely manner in a way that is helpful to them. It is called CharMeckAlerts.org and it is a great new service. Service was briefed on it just a few weeks ago. As you get into real situations it is a time when people need it and it is a good time to spread the word, so if you could help as you go about speaking to various groups and encourage them to sign up that would be appreciated.

Saleem Khattak, Street Superintendent said thank you for allowing us some time on your agenda this evening. Someone mentioned to me that we had something to do with this weather since this topic was on the agenda. I can assure you we didn't, but I am with street maintenance and before I get into the snow and ice presentation I wanted to take a few minutes of your time to give you an overview of street maintenance. The City has been divided into three sub-areas we call districts. Each district is serviced by satellite facilities that are marked by stars on the map. These districts provide services such as street repairs and construction, sidewalk maintenance, also storm water maintenance and utility cut repairs. Those are solely the responsibility of each district, but our street resurfacing program and emergency response program is more central and is being handled on a city-wide basis. On average we pave about 140 to 200 lane miles per year and most of that funding comes to us through our Power Bill appropriation. At the bottom of the screen we have some stats for you that will give you some information on the infrastructure or the assets that are being maintained. We are a fairly sizable City as we all know. Our southwest district is about 950 miles, give or take, which is only about 70 or 80 centerline miles less than the City of Raleigh, so it is a pretty sizable undertaking.

Now to the Snow & Ice Program itself, the program objective of course is to restore mobility as quickly as practical. During an event we stay focused on all major corridors coming in and out of
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the Center City and high employment areas. We also prioritize roads that are serving schools, hospitals and first responder facilities. Our response coverage is about 2,200 lane miles at this time which is under A and B condition, and I'm going to talk about those shortly. 1,800 of those miles are on the City system and 337 miles are on a State maintained system. The State reimburses the City for that. We have an intergovernmental agreement with North Carolina DOT where we get reimbursed for that. In addition to that we have 157 bridges and culverts, both on the State and City system that we maintain.

Mayor Cannon said on the reimbursement from the State, do they turn that around pretty quickly back to the City?

Mr. Khattak said they have been pretty good; generally it is very timely, at least my experience from the last year is that they do reimburse us in a timely manner.

Mr. Khattak said the route information and our snow plan is available on our website, CharMeck.org and is available to the public. Planning and preparation is extremely important. We place a very high emphasis on that and I'm about to show you a video which will take a few seconds to load up.

Beginning in July S & D prepares for our snow and ice program. Our plan begins every year with updating employee contact information. At the same time a series of meetings are scheduled for communicating with other departments, including NC-DOT and private contractors. Through these meetings new snow routes are determined, dates are set for employee training and equipment preparation begins. Our S & D snow and ice plan is operational by the end of October. From late October until our snow and ice season ends in late April, S & D continues to monitor and make changes as needed. At Street Maintenance we begin preparing our salt and plow trucks in August. During that time the salt spreaders with the electronic control system are calibrated for accurate salt application. We have all trucks, plows, and spreaders working properly and ready to go by October. Operators complete a safety pre-trip inspection under the hood and on the truck. The pre-trip check includes checking the snow plow attachment, chains, hydraulic lines, and making sure all is safe and in good working order. The pre-trip safety inspection is to insure everything works properly such as headlights, flashers, defrosters, wipers, the salt spreader and snow plow attachments.

The Video Starts:

Hello, my name is Martha; I am a snow plow operator for Street Maintenance. Street Maintenance has a very intense training program that they offer. It teaches the operators how to maneuver around traffic with their plow and spreaders. I basically look out for manhole covers and mailboxes and other obstacles. It helps the operator become more familiarized with their snow routes. Our training preparation program makes me a more confident operator.

Mr. Khattak said we just wanted to share that with you; it showcases our employees.

Councilmember Mayfield said do we actually send our staff to locations like Colorado or other locations where they actually deal with snow, since what we are anticipating coming up? According to what the Mayor mentioned and according to Chanel 9, the last time we've had temperature this low with 12 degrees was back in the 1800's, they are anticipating 9 and 10 degrees overnight, so have they had actual practical experience or just experience maneuvering our roads where the most we see is a little bit of ice?

Mr. Khattak said we do not actually send our employees to other places, but we do have as you saw, a very intense training program. The training they actually perform is fully loaded. We were very fortunate this year, this was the first year and I don't know if you saw that first picture where we had the snow conference for the first time in its history right here in Charlotte. We sent all of our employees to the conference; they learn from experienced operators, but we are really fortunate, about 80 to 90% of our workforce has been behind the wheel during a snow condition.

Councilmember Phipps said there have been reports over the week-end from some other municipalities that the weather can be so cold as to render spreading of salt ineffective. Do you foresee us having a problem with that, given our weather situation?

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Mr. Khattak said I will go over it in a little more detail, but very quickly yes, the salt is only effective to a certain temperature. Once it is below 18 degrees is when it becomes ineffective, and that is when we use some other chemicals.

Councilmember Barnes said to make the point though; we are not anticipating any precipitation for the next 48 hours, so it is not going to be a problem?

Mr. Khattak said no sir, and thank goodness for that because tomorrow morning our temperatures are going to be in the single digits and salt would not be effective and even the other chemicals, the calcium chloride, and some of the other stuff that we use lower than 5 degrees, it is very difficult to manage that.

Mayor Cannon said while there may be no precipitation I think obviously cold temperatures mean you have to do a little something different when it comes to running your water or not, in your house. Most people say that you need to at least let it drip. I don't know if it has any effect or not to keep anything open, but I hear it does. The experts can tell us that one way or the other. The other thing you want to be conscious of is making sure you don't leave your pets outside so when you go out the next morning you don't have a bad situation. I understand what pets mean; we have our own.

Councilmember Lyles said I had to step out and I don't know if you talked about the Fire Department response. I have found that we've had situations where people have used their ovens for heat and that is something we really as well as looking after the homeless, where people don't necessarily have insulation and in some of our neighborhoods we may need to look very carefully, and be very much on alert for those kinds of situations where people may use space heaters inappropriately. I hope all of it goes well for everyone, but it is best to be really diligent.

Mr. Khattak said quickly, we get our weather information from many different sources. We have a contract with Telvent DTN that provide us basically the real time road and weather information and it is an annual contract. It is a small amount, but it is a very useful piece of information that we have. We also have three weather sensing stations within the City, one within each district, strategically placed and they also provide us with road and weather information within the City. The streets listed are Brookshire and South Boulevard and Albemarle Road. Of course we monitor national weather service very closely if there are any changes. Weather can be very tricky at times and there is a good old saying if you don't like it, wait 15 minutes and it could change. I'm hoping we don't get any moisture with this upcoming weather.

Treatment methods – I wanted to touch base on that. We use methods that have been very successful and proven that have less of a negative impact on the environment and also cost effective. Salt brine – we rely heavily on salt brine; this is really 23% salt and the rest of it is water. It is very inexpensive to make. It is about 15 to 16 cents per gallon that we can produce that. We use that as a pre-treatment or an anti-icing option. Once the snow starts falling, the bond formation between the snow and the road, it kind of prevents that and lowers the freeze point which allows us time to respond. Once we get into the actual event; that is when we will apply 100% salt. As I mentioned earlier the salt is not going to be effective below certain temperatures; that is when we resort to calcium chloride. Calcium Chloride does have the ability at certain concentration levels that it can be effective for up to 5 degrees, and 2 to 4 degrees is kind of like the threshold on that. Once all of that fails and we go into zero or negative temperatures there is really not a whole lot of technology out there with new materials. Most agencies will resort to slag, sand, and gravel just to provide friction, and we also can use pre-wetting of that gravel or aggregate where we will spray it with calcium chloride and it will stay on the ground, and be more effective once the temperature starts to rise.

Our response plan itself, depending on the severity of the storm; we may activate any of these three conditions. Condition A is generally a light event and this is where we might just get simple frost on bridges or some isolated impact in parts of the City. A moderate event is where we might have a city-wide impact up to 8 inches of snow; ½ inch of ice and that would be considered a Condition B response. Finally, severe condition event which is C, where we have excessive amounts of snow and it is over an extended period of time. That is what we call

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Conditions A, B and C. Prior to any of these conditions, pre-treatment is a very good option to use. As a matter of fact, today we sent some crews out, and we have put some brine on bridges and culverts, so that just in case there is some moisture from the rain this morning or last night, that it dries out and it will help to keep it from freezing. Under Condition A we have 9 designated routes. Again this is where bridges and culverts are focused. Condition B is a city-wide impact; that is 16 designated routes where we are basically covering about 2,200 lane miles under that condition.

Councilmember Lyles said this is something that has been worrying me for a while. I drive Tyvola Road and in front of the Middle School there has been water where you've have a Police Officer stationed there. Tonight that will be a sheet of ice because the storm drainage is not working there, and I'm a little worried about that and I just wanted to ask if we are worried or concerned that is one of those areas. I wonder if there are others; when you look at these routes, is it also where we have these problems with storm drainage?

Mr. Khattak said absolutely; any trouble spots that are known to us we certainly hit those before the event. That is part of the Condition A response which includes the trouble spots on both City streets and the State system. In addition to that, if it is a long standing drainage issue or problem, we handle that through our Storm Water Maintenance operations, so there are a couple of occasions that were previously identified as trouble spots, and we did go there and re-grade some of that area and repave those streets to kind of make sure the water flows, and there is no standing water. Those birdbaths can be trouble at times.

Mayor Cannon said Ms. Lyles, what is that? Tyvola and what?

Ms. Lyles said what is the school that used to be the International School? Smith and literally one lane was completely blocked, and the Officer was having to divert traffic into what was incoming next to the school side. It was actually yesterday I think.

Mayor Cannon said I am only asking because we can probably have staff go out, take a look at that and make sure there are no issues there; see if we can scrape whatever may be out there.

Councilmember Smith said it is probably 3 blocks east of South Boulevard.

Ms. Lyles said have you seen it?

Mr. Smith said I have not ridden past it, but it is my district.

Councilmember Barnes said I reported it a month ago and I was told that it was going to be fixed.

Mr. Khattak said I've made a mental note of that and when we go back we will certainly look into that.

Mayor Cannon said just make sure it is not a broken water main because that was some feedback that we'd gotten, that it was a broken water main.

Mr. Khattak said during this type of weather, generally we do have trouble with water main breaks and those types of things because of the temperature. Condition C is basically identical to Condition B; we deploy all the resources that we have available to us, but in addition to those resources we also rely on private contractors. We have two contracts in place right now with Blythe Construction and Blythe Development, and they can be called in if necessary. Under C Condition we will go into residential streets and make those passable within 72 hours after the event. Just to manage expectations, facilities that we do not cover under our current plan are private and commercial driveways. We also do not cover sidewalks with the exception of Tryon Street Mall. Any streets that are on the North Carolina Department of Transportation System that we are not getting reimbursed for, interstate, freeways, ramps, etc. those are also not included and parking lots. As to the resources the information is there. We have about 32 trucks. The good news is, with the exception of the blades and the spreaders, and the cell tanks, most of this equipment is the same equipment that in the day time we might be using for asphalt repairs or
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storm water maintenance. It can be converted within ½ an hour to switch to snow plow equipment, so that is very efficient and effective. In addition to that we have these electronic spreader control systems that are in each truck. They tell us if our spread rate or application rate is proper. That helps us to control that again because of the environmental issues, we just want to make sure that the right quantities are placed on the ground. A little more information about our storage facilities at the three districts that I mentioned earlier.

Finally the communications; as soon as we declare a Condition A, B or C, we notify public communications office; they in turn get the information out to the media and all of these different channels available to us. One thing that I understand is going to be added would be Facebook and Twitter post which will be again good information to have. Finally, we stay in close contact with the emergency responders like Police, Fire, and also North Carolina DOT, and any state or county governments for any central services that are necessary. I just want to make sure you know that this picture is not of Charlotte. It is a C-DOT picture; one of the deputy superintendents took it off the ramp on I-25 which is the main and as you see there are some side blades in addition to the main blades on these trucks.

Mayor Cannon said Mr. Manager, anything further on this topic? I know that residents are urged to visit emergency CharMeck.org for the latest updates if they want to continue to make sure that they are tied into what is going on relative to a link to City and County Departments. Anything beyond that Sir?

Mr. Carlee said no sir. I think we've covered it.

Mayor Cannon said all information is of course recorded in English and Spanish.

Mr. Carlee said if people have questions, please call 311.

Mayor Cannon said we have some time before the Citizens' Forum and we could probably go to the Closed Session now.

Motion was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Lyles, to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3), to consult with attorneys employed or retained by the City in order to preserve the Attorney/client privilege, and to consider and give instructions to the Attorneys concerning the handling or settlement of the case Audrey Louder as Administratrix of the Estate of Anthony Wayne Furr versus Anthony Payne, Mecklenburg County Case, File #CVS 112. The vote was recorded as unanimous.

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CITIZENS' FORUM

Charlotte Taxi Cab Operating Certificate

Myahmed Alaoui, 4818 Whispering Oak Court said I am here to speak on behalf of Charlotte Taxi Cab. We started the company a few months ago and surprisingly received a letter from Mr. Kirk saying that the company has been revoked. I was really surprised at that because according to the City ordinance I was doing everything correct until I received the letter. We received the certificate and proceeded after that. Every vehicle should be inspected and also taken to PVH after doing the paperwork. We were in the process of doing that and I have no idea what Mr. Kirk and Mr. Buckley want me to do because literally the City ordinance does not specify what time limits and how can you do it, but in the application it does. It literally specifies how to apply for a cab company in Charlotte. It specified that you should start bringing the car's application after you receive the first certificates and that is exactly what we did. Every vehicle takes time to take it from A to B to be completed to take to PVH, it takes certain time, and it takes more than 30 days for each vehicle. That is my understanding what I was doing until Mr. Kirk addressed me with this. In this manner I would like to approach you to see what it is that I do wrong and how was I supposed to go by since there is no guidelines in the City ordinance. I was supposed to go through this through the court, but I decided before I go to court, I would come to see the

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Council and get an answer to what is it that I do that has put me into this situation because we invested a lot of money in creating this company. We have vehicles, we have equipment that we have nothing else to do with now, but look at it and literally it is a waste of time. It is a waste of my time, a waste of my driver's time and a waste of our staff's time, a waste of everybody's time and money. All I ask for is an explanation as to why there was this misleading to me, that I could create that company and you come back later on and say no, you are no longer a cab company in this city because you did not provide us with the number of cars. Mr. Kirk has seen the cars in my lot, has seen all the VIN numbers of the cars; we've provided him with all the insurance and everything. All that was left to do was finishing up the paperwork for all the applications for the cars to go completely to PVH. We were doing it step by step because everything takes time. There is nothing that I can do about it. There is no set time limit by the ordinance or the application. In fact on the application second page, it says after receiving the certificate you should proceed on bringing the drivers and the vehicles as follows; it means drivers first and then vehicles and that is exactly what we are doing. We are just following the application on that matter. In this period of time we were doing business I was surprised with the decision of Mr. Kirk. I would like to have the City to provide me a team that sit down with me one on one and look it up and see what the solution for this problem that I have is.

Mayor Cannon said for clarity, you have not retained an attorney?

Mr. Alaoui said not yet, sir, no. I decided not to do that until I speak to the members.

Mayor Cannon said if that be the case, Mr. Manager we have staff that is willing to sit down with him to clarify what needs to be done and how he needs to go about doing it in order to get his certifications. Is that something that can happen?

City Manager, Ron Carlee said I will consult with the Assistant City Attorney who is handling the case. There is an administrative process and an appeals process to a Committee which has been completed and the administrative process upheld, but I will meet with the Assistant City Attorney, go over where we are to date, and examine whether or not there are options outside the court to pursue at this point.

Taxi Cab Industry Declining

Obaid Khan, 456 Atando Avenue said I see some new faces and I want to congratulate you for being here. Mr. Cannon I think I did have a meeting with you last year and besides that we didn't get any response from any Councilmember or any members about the Airport situation. I am the owner of Diamond Cab in Charlotte and we've been here for about 20 years plus and about 3 years ago all the companies were pretty much booted out except for three and that pretty much left at the time, there were 12, so that left about 9 or so. With Mr. Alouri being shut down and I think there are two more companies that are about to be shut down so that is going to leave about 6 companies left, and three have the Airport and I think two have some kind of government contracts. My issue and I was here earlier at the Safety Committee Board meeting where they did talk about the digital dispatch and how that affects everyone under ordinance and how it affects other companies. For us that leave; we don't have the streets anymore; we don't have any government contract and the only income for us would be the Airport. It is something that we addressed to the old Council, never really got an e-mail back except just a few. It is kind of disturbing that no-one cared about us so I am happy to see some new faces, which mean maybe a change is coming. Earlier in the meeting they did talk about change was coming to the city ordinance but I don't think that is going to help the companies that are struggling to stay open like us. We've been here for 20 years plus; we've done everything that the City has asked us to do. Something funny I heard in the meeting earlier was someone threw out the word fair, well where was the word fair three years ago when everyone else was kicked out. Diamond Cab was actually ranked topped three in the statistics for the Airport. They do keep statistics as far as pick-ups and complaints, so the top three companies at the Airport, we are not selected back in 2010. So if it wasn't about the statistics, then what was the reason those three companies were selected. The biggest issue was trying to get in contact with all of the City Council members so I would request a meeting with just the City Council members and the rest of the owners. It is a big issue; it is not going to go away easy. As we know; the State of North Carolina, once they

pass this new bill, there is nothing really that the City can do to take digital dispatching away. It is pretty much something that we are just going to have to adjust too and work with.

CATS CTC Facility and the Homeless

Abigail Adams, 1040 Ailen Court, Pineville, NC said you are the first Mayor that I get a copy of a picture of you at the Mayor's Breakfast with your beautiful wife and it was on my Face book page. I said I love my new Mayor, and I've got to go back to Charlotte and worry him. I'm here to talk about a day shelter for Charlotte, North Carolina. We have a lot of night shelters and a lot of the people are using the Charlotte Area Transit; that is where everyone is dropping people off. A night shelter is very good for night, but day has the same problems. None of us would like to wake up at our house and just be welcome there at night, and have to get out in the morning in the cold and all kinds of weather. This is why I'm here and I want to read what I put on Facebook so everyone can see. I was very blessed because FOX (news) came over and did an interview of me. I talked all summer about 100 cities having a tour that would bless our homeless and the poor like myself. It is a tour that started as a dream for me in 2013 and yesterday at church, I was at New Life, and they talked about how God allows us to build something. But John tells us he wants us to finish the job. He says in the story of Hagar and Ezra, God wants us to build, but he wants us to finish. I'm not here tonight about asking anyone to give anybody any money. One thing you will notice about poor people like myself, we always have music around us, and that is what made me choose the industry that makes all the money. I felt that they should do a tour, and I picked 100 cities because every city has a problem of the poor and the homeless, so 100 is just like a drop in the bucket. For a concert promoter 100 cities is \$100 million but everybody is walking around with no shoes on their feet, but they have boom box in their hand. Music soothes the beast, music makes the rich man richer, while music makes the poor man sad and poorer. This talk is about how the City of Charlotte can put on a concert at Time Warner, or any arena, and we can raise enough money at that one concert, 10,000 seats or 18,000 seats at \$25 we will get enough money to buy ourselves a little day shelter, or we can buy ourselves a shelter. A man has a 40,000 square foot building and he wants \$12,000 a month for it. Another man has a 7,500 square foot building and he wants that, but as poor people we want to learn that the travel of a poor man is a very strange travel. It is a travel from A to B and many of us have traveled this road, like Tyler Perry and Steve Harvey. The people who travel this road from A to B often reach their goals, and as a poor woman myself I love talking, and I am a poet so I want to see those concert promoters come to Charlotte and help us to get a day shelter. We are not going to come to City Council and ask for a day shelter because we know everywhere City Council looks they see a boom box for music so I'm just going to ask you all to do this. We are going to make our money; we're going to ask the concert to come to Charlotte.

Police Bullying

Richard Benedict, 1744 Wilmore Drive said I would like to say something to follow-up on what the young lady was just talking about. We've come to this City Council many times seeking help just before you were elected and maybe we will have different results this time. Every time we've been to a Council meeting everybody has had a discussion, question and answer period afterward, but we kind of get pushed to the side. We are the Miracle House of Hope, and we take in those people off the streets, and unlike the shelter of the City we don't push you out at 4:00 or 6:00 in the morning, inclement weather or not. We house them. You see all these people here, they don't have families that want them; they are drug addicts; they are people straight from the prison at Goldsboro that calls us. It is a program that we don't get any money, but what we raise ourselves. We come to the City seeking help and we have a handful of officers that like to harass us, but we are trying to do something good. We don't charge these people to stay there; we don't charge them to feed them; we don't charge them to cloth them. Look, this is the future voters, this is the future workers, and these are the people changing lives. We try to make an impact in this City every single day and we are sincerely seeking your help. We don't put them out. The shelter; which everybody is collating with and works with at 6:00 in the morning, everybody except the crews that work there put them out. The Salvation Army puts them out unless they are working in the store. Rebound won't even let them out the doors and put them out the doors for cussing. We start everyday with Bible study, we are teaching them to be gentlemen; we're teaching them to be ladies. We need your help because we want to get them off the streets, we want to educate them, we want to make them better people because that is

what the City is all about. This is the Queen City, the pride of South Carolina and North Carolina area, and we can't get your help, and that is all I'm here for because these people cried out to us for help. I came here and cried out for help. I don't care what people's past is about. George Bush was convicted of drug and alcohol and became President of the United States. Dick Chaney almost didn't become Vice President because of his DWI. Chuck Colson is a convicted felon and led one of the biggest prison ministries and was touted by presidents. We can't get your help, why?

Bruce Little, 1744 Wilmore Drive said we are here today to talk about the same problem. You all know I came back to this City in August 2008 and I had a vision; I had a vision for this City that I wanted to help men and women just like me. I had been to prison, federal prison, state prison, been locked up for about 38 times the last time I counted. It was over for me; I didn't have a way, but I saw the man called Jesus and I renewed my faith and my strength through Him and I know when you are reaching out to Jesus you try to do a good work in the Lord, that opposition is going to come against you. Today I want to discuss something that's all over the nation. They are discussing it in the NFL; they are discussing it in Hockey, and I'm here to talk about Police bullying. It exists right here in Charlotte Mecklenburg. Mr. Mayor, you've got to do something about it. I know that everybody that wears a badge is not a good badge wearer because I've experienced that, but it is time out for them targeting the Miracle House of Hope because of the founder. I founded this ministry and not one time have I come here to ask the City of Charlotte for a dime. Not one time have I done anything but say look if you know some guy that needs some help, if they are out of prison and don't have anywhere to stay, we can take them in. The thing is Mr. Mayor, we feel targeted. I went to the Internal Affairs and there is Captain down there named Captain Wayland. I talked to the Captain, went down there four or five times and I never can get a follow-up Mr. Mayor. Before I came to the meeting I asked him, could you give me the paperwork for every time we came down here so we could have it documented, so I can show them how many times we came down here. There is nothing being done about it so I came down about three weeks ago and I talked with the Sargent, Sargent David Burke, oh, he was nasty Mr. Mayor. He was so unprofessional, but I stood there and I took it, but I held my own with him, so he went in and got the Captain of Internal Affairs and the Captain came down and was so nasty. I'm telling you he was nasty because I was bringing a complaint. He told me I'm not going to interview all these people down here; what do you mean. I said sir; we are here to give a complaint. If the Internal Affairs will not accept my complaint where am I supposed to go and when the Captain of Internal Affairs tells me, I can bully if I want too, but I'm not. What kind of message is that sending to me? If I can't go down there and get no help to the man that is directly targeting me, then what I'm doing in the City of Charlotte, and I think it is a good time because if these two were not at the Miracle House they might be on the streets tonight. They could be breaking into somebody's house or robbing somebody, but the grace of God is covering their lives through the Miracle House of Hope. Mr. Mayor I ask you, I beseech you, check into the matter; get me somebody that I can talk with one on one and get this worked out. Let's find out what is happening to all the complaints; let's find out why they act like they are mad at us because let me tell you, if you think that everybody that wears a badge is a good citizen, look over your roster.

Mayor Cannon said Mr. Manager I know that he is pretty much at the top of the point person in the way of the individual we need to speak to, correct? And your information is correct that we have here. Inasmuch as we can touch base with him, because I think we've got to define the type of harassment that is being suggested and/or the bullying that is being suggested. We do of course in the City, have ordinances, because I don't know what we are talking about yet, but that can be found out once staff meets with you.

Jervey Davis, 1744 Wilmore Drive, said I've been in Miracle House of Hope for about a year and 5 months; ex-drug dealer, convict, felon, but I always knew God, but I didn't know how to ignite my fire until I found Pastor Bruce. I was in the county when I got their flyer in Greenville South Carolina. I can't stand it there; I love it here. I know that I'm out there doing something right. If that man can help me; if I found their flyer all the way in South Carolina, where else would that flyer end up to help somebody else? It ain't about what the Police is doing; it ain't about what the people out there are saying, it is about saving a soul. That is what we go out there and do. All these people in here got a flyer from somewhere and then when the police do come at one of us, they don't say nothing about us; they always bring up Pastor Bruce Little. That be the

first name they say and I don't think that is right. The look at somebody's background that came a long way in Charlotte, North Carolina to help the people in Charlotte, North Carolina and still bring up his past when he is trying to change and make a brighter future, not just for himself but for everybody that is standing up in this room. I never had a mama, I never had a daddy; Pastor Bruce, first lady, they are my parents and I look up to them. I never had guidance in my life. My grandma died and Mayor I never had guidance in my life and I'm thankful for them. I'm telling you Mayor, there is something you have to do. I went to court today for a reason. I had two police officers pass me and as long as I don't get no complaint; show them the paperwork, had on my vest and everything, and another one passed me and he turned around, didn't say nothing. Oh, Pastor Bruce Little knows you all ain't supposed to be out here; I'm tired of this and he gave me a ticket. I accepted it and said God bless you sir and I left. I went to court today and we are targeted like we have X's on our back. I'm just saying Mayor if there is anything that you all can do, maybe I could find confidence in your heart Mayor, because at the end of the day what is right is right and what is wrong is wrong. If we are wrong we will make it right, but we are right.

Mayor Cannon said in the way of our looking into this Mr. Manager, I want to find out if the citations that are being given, what they are being given for. I want to know if it is in the street, or if it is in the median, or if it is away from there; where the harassment is occurring and the so called bullying. I want to understand that because I think it is important for us as a body to know exactly where the infractions are occurring because it goes two ways. Inasmuch as we want to be able to support you, you have to be here to support us and the laws that godly we all should be abiding by. That He has given us the authority to be able to put in place so that we all can make sure that we are functioning all off of the same page, with a greater level of understanding about what we are supposed to be doing for each other and for one another. That is going to be critical.

Gary Ammons, 1826 Merriman Avenue, Apt. 4 said for 17 years of my life I have been so very dysfunctional. I had no purpose in life, no sense of direction. Society had given up on me and I on my own self. Today I do have a purpose and a sense of direction due to Pastor Bruce, Sister Sandra, and Deacon Richard, and the members of the Miracle House. My life has transformed, my mind has been renewed due to intense Bible study, prayer and meditation. There are no dues or fees at the Miracle House, just one small request, form a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior. I today through the Miracle House have begun to learn to be a prosperous and productive human being in today's society. I thank you for your time and cooperation and I anticipate hearing nothing but good things in reference to the Miracle House from this day forward. I have spent 17 ½ years of my life in prison; I found this flyer in a detox center and no questions asked. That gentlemen standing there, he told me he had a spot for me. He sent a ticket and he brought me here and from that day forward I've never looked back. As far as the bullying and the harassment by the Police, it is inappropriate. You are in a profession you should be professional about what you do. We've had officers stop us and tell us that City Councilmember Barnes is the one that has called in on us, when we've had permission to be in a certain place. In being a man, if I am right I will stand up for what is right, but in being a man if I am wrong, I am willing to admit my wrong. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Cannon said Mr. Manager; also find out permission from whom, because that is not clear to me. We need back up documentation and I want to be able to see that if you have it.

Brandon Litz, 1826 Merriman Avenue, Apt. 4 said I'm a recovering heroin addict from Fayetteville, North Carolina. I was born and raised there. I've been battling addiction since 1999 and have tried AA, NA, to mental health. I've been to rehab 9 different times. I've been to outpatient centers, I've been to jail, I've been on probation, and I've been on house arrest. My life still ended up in shambles. I had nothing, nobody, no family, no anything. I ended up in a detox center in Fayetteville, North Carolina homeless, no job, no family, no sense of purpose and I got a flyer from the Miracle House of Hope. It was in a set of paperwork they had for treatment centers and I had been to about every single one on the list but the Miracle House of Hope. I called that number on that flyer and Pastor Bruce Little answered the phone. He asked me two questions, have you been saved by Jesus Christ? And I said yes sir. He said are you willing to go out and minister to people about the Lord? I need somebody that is going to come up here that has an interest in ministry. Yes sir, no questions asked, he sent me a train ticket from Fayetteville, North Carolina because the buses leave too late and he didn't want me in a bus station at 10:30 at night, and riding on a bus until 6:30, so he send me a train ticket from

Fayetteville, North Carolina to Charlotte, North Carolina. Once I got here I renewed my commitment to Jesus Christ. I was led that way and immediately we went out into the field and I started ministering to people and telling them about Jesus Christ, my personal testimony of what I'd been through in my life, and let them know that Jesus had saved my life, and who we were and where we could be found, and that we took in homeless men and women and addicts off the streets, battered women, abused women, abused men, we have a few of those here as well. I've come in contact with Charlotte Police on several different occasions and I'm told to either take that over to the east side, that pastor has got you out here doing this because he don't want to do it. I've been told that I was going to get a citation, I was going to be taken to jail, and they were going to take the ministry's money out of my bucket. I've also been told on one occasion I was stopped by an officer, I was standing on an entrance way on the median, not walking out in traffic, not impeding traffic, he stopped me called me off the median and told me I couldn't be doing it. I was new at the time and said I'm sorry, I wasn't really familiar that I couldn't be standing here. I apologized. Well, I'm just going to give you a verbal warning. Immediately he picked up his personal cell phone and made a phone call to his superior, all those Miracle House people are around here again, I don't know how many of them there are, I've got this one and he is not even from around here. That officer prompted him to run my criminal background which after he ran my record, I didn't have any warrants or anything, but he held me for 20 minutes and kept me in one spot.

John Law, 1744 Wilmore Drive said I came to the Miracle House of Hope probably about a month ago. I'm not even from North Carolina. I came down here from Michigan with every intention. My thing was I always tried to run from my problems and not face them and I came down here with my 18-month old daughter, which at the time she was 8 months old. When I got down here I started using again and it got really bad for about 6 months, and me and my finance were all actually doing wrong to get drugs, and the Miracle House of Hope was out passing out flyers and it actually led us there. I had been through intense rehab, had intense counseling and everything like that, but I always went back to doing what I was doing which was drugging and committing crimes. If you look right now, just imagine how many of us are actually criminals, and are off the streets right now, and are not breaking into your house and taking your TV's. This could turn into thousands of thousands and the Miracle House of Hope did it. Pastor Bruce Little, he didn't ask me no questions or anything. When I called him he said, when you go down to the bus station a bus ticket will be waiting for you to come down here. I came down here I had a clean place to stay, a clean shower. I hadn't washed my clothes in three months because I was out doing drugs. Look at me now. The Miracle House of Hope is truly a miracle; I'm a miracle standing right here in front of you today. The police bullying, I tell you, I was with Pastor Bruce Little down at the Police Station, and I always thought Internal Affairs, they were the Police of the Police. He was not out of line, he was not yelling at the Internal Affairs Captain or anything, and when that Internal Affairs Captain told him; Pastor Bruce said you are trying to bully me and he said no sir, I'm not bullying you, but I can. I looked at that like whoa, and this is Internal Affairs Captain. We are out there helping out our brothers and sisters every day by getting donations to pay for our food, to pay for our clothing, to pay for rent, to pay for everything and we are out there and we are getting harassed.

Mayor Cannon said I want to thank all of our speakers for coming out tonight. We appreciate your feedback. I also look forward to getting some information back from staff. I do know that there are other outlets. We do have a Community Relations Department that you can engage with. I know Councilmember Mayfield served on that in years past, and that is another avenue for you to be able to travel if you wish to make the City aware of issues that are going on that you feel need to be addressed. But obviously coming here before Mayor and Council, certainly you are always welcome to come here and we thank each and every one of you for your time on this particular matter, as well as the other speakers that you were here representing about as well.

Councilmember Barnes said to the gentleman who mentioned me earlier, I'll say this. When I was a District Representative if I saw anything that was illegal in my district, or that I thought was illegal, I called code enforcement or CMPD. I don't know who belongs to which organizations, but if I see people soliciting money at the intersections I will call the Police. The last two times that happened was at Harris and Tryon Street and at Harris and IBM Drive. I don't know if you all were a part of that, but if you were I'm sorry, but I think under our ordinance that is illegal, and yes I will call the Police because there are people in this City, people in that part of

the City who I represent directly who view that as a safety hazard. In order to avoid people getting hit and killed they want it to stop, and so I view it as a public safety issue without regard to who people belong to because I have no idea who people belong to. The fact of the matter is, it is a public safety issue, and we have an ordinance that specifically addresses solicitation of funds and panhandling and things like that.

Councilmember Kinsey said there are two issues here and I personally commend the Pastor for doing the work that he is doing. It is obviously needed and it is successful. There is a question about how legal it is to ask for money, and that is the question I think is the crux of the matter. I think for the benefit of some of the new people that maybe don't have the history that we do, because we've heard from these ladies and gentlemen several times. It might be good to have some information Mayor, just like you have requested, so we will know and have some of the history. I do commend the Pastor for his work with these ladies and gentlemen.

Mayor Cannon said I think you are accurate. It is public safety, it is liability potentially because the taxpayers could be liable if something happens, but we want to make sure that all of the issues are being addressed you all have laid out for us tonight. What you feel the issues are, and we do have another speaker, and we don't want to be rude because I thought we were about complete.

Julie Campoli Lecture on Walkable Cities

Martin Zimmerman, 1616 Bonnie Lane, said I feel somewhat humbled by the speakers I just heard and I'm speaking on an entirely different subject, but I appreciate very much the testimony that you all brought to the attention of City Council tonight. I had just two very quick subjects to cover, the first is that on Thursday night Julie Campoli, who is the author of the book, Made for Walking, will be speaking at UNC-Charlotte Uptown main auditorium and this is a fantastic book that she put out through the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There is a lot we've done that has been great in Charlotte, unfortunately it is not in the book, but I think the book and her presentation which is a highly visual presentation, contains a lot that could be extremely beneficial to anyone in this room and especially those of us who have a real strong interest in how the land development and urban design in our neighborhoods takes place. Basically the book covers about 12 different neighborhoods in different cities in North America, many of which bear a real strong resemblance to our better neighborhoods in Charlotte. I wanted to recommend this to you. It appears that maybe some of the City Councilmembers aren't here tonight. Are some of them absent tonight?

Mayor Cannon said we have one that is absent.

Mr. Zimmerman said you will probably get an e-mail tonight and it will be in your in-box tomorrow if you haven't received notification of this. This is sponsored partly through the Urban Design Program at UNC-Charlotte, David Walters is the head of the Masters Program at UNC-Charlotte, and also it will be the evening that the Sustain Charlotte organization announces a transportation choices group that is now being formed to promote multimodal transportation choices, and use of multimodal transportation throughout the Metropolitan area. I just wanted to make that announcement and I encourage anybody in the room to attend. It is 5:30 this Thursday night at UNC-Charlotte Uptown.

The second topic; and I will try to move quickly here. I was not able to attend the Commission meeting and I'm actually addressing this to either Debra Campbell or City Manager Carlee. Mary Newsome had a small piece on the Commission meeting where apparently you talked about the idea of having members of your staff work with specific property owners along the Blue Line Extension Corridor and I was just wondering if there was any chance you can elaborate a little bit on that and where you intend to go with that. Either of you that can take a minute to elaborate I would appreciate it very much. If we run out of time we can perhaps pick it up on another occasion.

Mr. Carlee said let us follow up after the meeting.

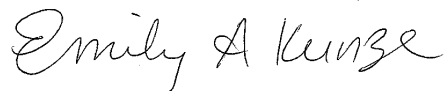
Mayor Cannon said the City Manager would like to follow-up with you after the meeting if you can hang around for a few moments. That will conclude all of the speakers and obviously you still have some burning questions. Some of us will still be around after the meeting if you care to have a word with one of the members of the Council or myself. We are happy to talk to you.

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Mayor and Council Topics

Councilmember Mayfield said I just want to make sure that everyone is aware of the upcoming MLK celebrations starting with the MLK Memorial which will be next Monday, January 13th, which will be at noon at Marshall Park, where there will be a 30 minute program that will be highlighting the legacy of Dr. King as well as the MLK Parade which will be on the 18th in uptown Charlotte. All that information is available on CharMeck.org.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kinsey, seconded by Councilmember Lyles, and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.
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Emily Kunze, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 2 Hours, 49 minutes
Minutes Completed: January 15, 2014