



# City of CHARLOTTE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

DATE: January 8, 2016

**Camp Frances.** Your agenda for this meeting includes the first reading of a resolution increasing the size of the Camp Frances Board of Directors. This is one in a series of actions the board is undertaking in its efforts to achieve its goals. New board members are being recruited. A new Facebook Page, Camp Frances Recreational, has been established. I will be working with board members during January to create a new web site for the organization. Plans are being made for a fund-raising initiative to commence in February. Discussions will be taking place with the Eaton County Parks Department regarding cooperation on programming. Camp Frances may be taking on a role with the annual science camp that takes place during the summer months. All of these activities show an expanded interest in making Camp Frances a more vital part of the community.

**332 N. Cochran.** We had expected Anthony Faulkner to make a presentation during this Council meeting regarding a proposed redevelopment project on north Cochran. Due to an injury he suffered, this presentation is being postponed. We expect that his proposal will include a request to purchase from the City a vacant parcel of land located at 332 N. Cochran. This property was acquired for the purpose of demolishing a house that had been the site of a number of police and neighborhood issues. We have held on to this property in anticipation that it might support a redevelopment project in the area. We have been contacted recently by another party interested in acquiring this same parcel in support of efforts to grow a business in a nearby location. Our expected approach to this property will be to develop a minimum asking price and solicit competing proposals for Council to evaluate.

**Other Surplus Properties.** The City is the owner of three additional properties for which it has no need: two lots at the corner of Seminary and Van Lieu, a lot at the corner of Shaw and Sheldon and the former Bank of America drive-through location on S. Bostwick. The City's efforts to sell the first of these several years ago received no interest. We believe the housing market has improved sufficiently that another attempt should be made to sell the residential lots. We expect the drive-through location to be a more difficult property to sell. I will be

exploring the idea of selecting a local realtor to list these properties as I believe that will increase the opportunities for selling them.

**Ordinance Sunset Dates.** Some of the ordinances that Council has adopted in the past contain sunset dates. This is a provision that results in the ordinance expiring unless an affirmative action is taken by the Council to keep it in effect. Two ordinances will be coming before Council in the near future for Council to consider whether to extend the sunset date or allow the ordinances to expire. The first, which we expect to introduce at the January 25 meeting, concerns the Sustainability Committee. The second concerns keeping chickens on residential lots. With regard to the latter, we expect that there will be interest from current permit holders to continue this ordinance, possibly with amendments liberalizing the standards that were initially established. Accordingly, while the ordinance is not set to expire until May, we will be introducing action on this fairly soon so as to allow Council adequate time to consider any amendments it might wish to make.

**Project Rising Tide.** As you are aware, Charlotte is one of ten communities selected for participation in this initiative. Interviews with a variety of community members have been completed over the last several months. A presentation will be made during Council's January 25 meeting summarizing the results of these interviews and outlining a proposed strategy for the community. The presenter, Marilyn Crowley, will also be a member of a panel of speakers that includes LEAP CEO Bob Trezise and myself that will be presenting the program at the January 27 CanDo! meeting.