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Special Meeting for Public Hearings - Tuesday, January 24 - 5:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** at **4:00 P.M.** for the public hearings rescheduled from earlier in the month.

The agenda for the special meeting was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

INFORMATION:

Community Engagement Process for the FY24 Budget

Staff Resource: *Sadia Sattar, Budget & Management Services, 996-4273, sadia.sattar@raleighnc.gov*
Nick Sadler, Budget & Management Services, 996-4268, nicholas.sadler@raleighnc.gov

To gain an understanding of resident preferences and priorities around the FY24 Budget, on January 1 the Budget & Management Services department released an online [Community Budget Priority Survey](#), providing residents with a way to share recommendations on the City's revenue sources and spending decisions for the upcoming fiscal year. This year the survey was translated into Spanish and posters were shared on all 100 GoRaleigh public transit buses. Posters were also distributed to Wake County library locations in the city as well as to all Raleigh Parks community centers. In addition, staff is planning two in-person and two virtual sessions to provide residents an opportunity to engage in the budget process. Dates,

times, and locations for the sessions are listed below. Participants for these sessions will be selected from survey respondents indicating a preference to engage further in the budget process. Survey results and feedback from these sessions will be shared with Council in an upcoming scheduled Budget Work Session.

In-Person Sessions:

Tuesday, 1/24	6:30-8 pm	Tarboro Road Community Center, 121 N Tarboro Street
Monday, 1/30	5:30-7 pm	Green Road Community Center, 4201 Green Road

Virtual Sessions:

Tuesday 1/31	12-1:30 pm	(link will be sent out prior to meeting)
Saturday, 2/4	10-11:30 am	(link will be sent out prior to meeting)

(No attachment)

Sustainable Business Toolkit Launches, High Impact Climate Action

Staff Resource: Megan Anderson, Office of Sustainability, 996-4658, megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov

As a means of both assisting local businesses and meeting the adopted [Community Climate Action Plan](#) goals, the staff with the Office of Sustainability has created a new “Sustainable Business Toolkit” for Raleigh businesses. This toolkit aligns with high impact climate actions and is designed to provide resources to empower the high impact business and development community to act.

The [Sustainable Business Toolkit](#) is a guidebook of resources aimed at helping businesses and other entities save money and improve environmental performance. Specifically, it includes existing city, county, and state programs that provide funding, technical support, or both with the aim of helping users reach or set sustainability goals, save money, become more efficient, and be recognized as a sustainable business by staff, customers, and the public. The toolkit also contains various resources relevant to a wider array of the community including non-profits, individual residents, homeowners, schools, and other institutions. More programs will be added to the toolkit soon, including a program Council will receive information on in the coming weeks: the launch of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Playbook created in partnership with Advanced Energy to provide guidance on EV infrastructure implementation across North Carolina.

Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which provides further information on the program.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Fair Housing Act Enforcement (Council Member Black)

Staff Resource: Robin Tatum, City Attorney, 996-6560, robin.tatum@raleighnc.gov

Brandon Poole, City Attorney's Office, 996-6560, brandon.poole@raleighnc.gov

Aretina Hamilton, Equity and Inclusion, 996-5740, aretina.hamilton@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested information regarding the ability of the City to enforce provisions of the federal or the North Carolina Fair Housing Act. The City of Raleigh Fair Housing Board ("FHB") does not currently have statutory authority to hear and adjudicate complaints of housing discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act ("FHA"). In order for the FHB to conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, or hear complaints, the City would have to be certified by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") as a "substantially equivalent" agency. Substantial equivalency certification is granted if HUD determines that a local agency is able to enforce a law that is substantially equivalent to the FHA with regard to substantive rights, procedures, remedies, and the availability of judicial review. The City has not been determined to be substantially equivalent, and for that to occur, the North Carolina General Assembly would need to grant the Board additional authority, including the power to subpoena witnesses and documents through a local act.

Within the City of Raleigh, housing discrimination claims are currently directed to the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, so a local option currently exists for enforcement despite the City having never received a substantial equivalency determination from HUD.

Only five jurisdictions in North Carolina - the cities Durham, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem; Orange County; and Charlotte (including Mecklenburg County) - have statutory authority granted by the General Assembly via local acts and have fair housing ordinances that have been certified by HUD as substantially equivalent to the FHA. The City of Raleigh has made unsuccessful attempts to obtain this certification in the past, but the last time was approximately 20 years ago. If Council would like to investigate pursuing HUD certification again, the City Attorney's Office and the Department of Equity and Inclusion can provide detailed information on the required steps to move forward in that effort.

Information that staff can obtain that can inform Council direction in this area may include:

1. Determining the number of cases currently heard by the NC Human Relations Commission that originate from within the City of Raleigh.
2. Researching the effectiveness of enforcement in other jurisdictions that have been determined to be substantially equivalent, including the number of cases heard on an annual basis and the number of staff dedicated to enforcement and investigative efforts.
3. Determining the staff and other financial resources necessary for the City of Raleigh to investigate and hear fair housing claims, should the necessary authority to allow enforcement by the City be obtained from the General Assembly.

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the January 17 City Council Meeting

Western Boulevard Water Main Break and Discolored Water Issue (Council Member Harrison)

Staff Resource: Whit Wheeler, Raleigh Water, 996-3245, william.wheeler@raleighnc.gov

After a recent water main break on Western Boulevard and a discolored water issue in west Raleigh, some customers and City Council members expressed concerns about the safety of the drinking water in the affected areas and the related communication efforts. In response, staff provides the following summary of the events:

On January 4 at approximately 3:30 PM, Raleigh Water was notified of a water main break near the I440 interchange at Western Boulevard. Raleigh Water staff arrived onsite approximately 30 minutes later and worked with RPD officers to close Western Boulevard in both directions and start to isolate the line break. The line was identified as a 12-inch water main, likely installed in the 1960's timeframe. Isolation of the break resulted in an estimated 197 customers having their water service interrupted. In accordance with NC Public Water Supply guidelines a System Pressure Advisory (SPA) was issued at 8:07 PM that evening to the affected customers. An SPA is issued as a precautionary measure whenever there is a significant loss of pressure in the system until water samples can be analyzed to confirm contamination has not occurred. The SPA was issued via Everbridge, which sent a message through multiple channels (phone call, email, text, etc.) to affected customers according to customer account information. An alert webpage was also created to provide specific information about the SPA issued for the affected area. However, some affected customers were not included in the SPA messaging. Raleigh Water communications staff worked with local media outlets to alert residents about the closure of Western Boulevard and the SPA which was issued.

In addition, a traffic alert news release was issued; social media accounts updated; and wayfinding apps Google Maps and Waze were also updated to reflect the closure. The SPA was rescinded Friday morning, January 6, after laboratory tests confirmed that no contamination had occurred and the water was safe to drink. Repair to the water system and roadway were completed on Wednesday, January 11. It is unclear exactly what caused the water main break, but it is believed to be related to recent NC DOT roadway construction in the area.

During the evening of Monday, January 16, the Raleigh Water Customer Care Call Center started receiving calls from customers indicating they were experiencing discolored water issues. Most of the calls indicated the affected areas were off of Kaplan Drive, near the intersection of Merwin Road. Raleigh Water staff responded to the area on the morning of January 17 and began flushing fire hydrants in an effort to clear up the discolored water. Staff also began investigating the cause of the discolored water and discovered that it was related to relocation of water mains necessary for the roadway construct at the intersection of Blue Ridge Road and Hillsborough Street. It is believed that the water main relocation resulted in higher velocities in an older cast iron pipe, thus causing iron sediment to be stirred up. Since there was no loss of water pressure or risk of contamination, an SPA was not issued by Raleigh Water staff. However, a school (AB Combs Elementary) located in the affected area was mistakenly advised to boil the water. Based on this incorrect information, the school issued a notice to parents that a system pressure advisory was in effect, which caused a significant amount of confusion within the nearby neighborhoods. The correct information was posted to social media platforms and Raleigh Water staff contacted school officials at approximately 1:00 PM to inform them no advisory was in effect. Raleigh Water staff continued to flush fire

hydrants in the affected areas throughout the day until the discolored water had been removed from the system. At all times the water remained safe.

In review of these events, Raleigh Water staff are working with Communications department staff to review current procedures and implement improvements such that information can be delivered more precisely and timely to our customers. The results of this effort will be communicated in a future *Update* issue.

In calendar year 2022 Raleigh Water staff responded to 238 water main breaks, 49 of which required a System Pressure Advisory. Aging infrastructure is the attributable cause for 215 of the total 238 water main breaks.

(No attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Michael Moore, Assistant City Manager
From	Megan Anderson, Sr. Sustainability Manager
Department	Office of Sustainability
Date	January 19, 2022
Subject	Raleigh’s Sustainable Business Toolkit Launches, High Impact Climate Action

As a means of both assisting local businesses and meeting Raleigh’s [Community Climate Action Plan](#) (CCAP) goals, the Office of Sustainability has created a new “Sustainable Business Toolkit” for Raleigh businesses. This toolkit aligns with high impact CCAP actions and is designed to provide resources to empower the high impact business and development community to take climate action.

The [Sustainable Business Toolkit is a city-produced guidebook of resources](#) aimed at helping businesses and other entities save money and improve environmental performance. Specifically, it includes existing city, county, and state programs that provide funding, technical support, or both with the aim of helping users:

- Reach or set sustainability goals
- Save money
- Become more efficient
- Be recognized as a sustainable business by staff, customers and the public

The Toolkit includes a range of resources, ranging from solar installations, green stormwater infrastructure projects, and employee commute options for businesses small or large. More programs will be added soon, including the launch of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Playbook that the City created in partnership with Advanced Energy to provide guidance on EV infrastructure implementation across the State. The Toolkit was designed with program options that provide staff assistance to business owners or other interested parties and many provide free on-site consultation.

Staff has initiated a “sustainability tour” of outreach aimed at city businesses, complete with materials to help partners spread the word with their networks. Marketing resources are being developed with feedback from stakeholders and will appear on the website in the coming weeks. A press release will go out after all marketing materials are completed. Outreach involves working with local business associations and alliances, direct outreach through social media and email, presentations, inclusion in Raleigh’s upcoming updated Business Resource Guide, and other means of connecting to businesses. The Toolkit page also includes an email signup for anyone interested in signing up for future updates about events or new Toolkit programs.

The Toolkit also has various resources that are relevant to a wider array community stakeholders, including non-profits, individual residents, homeowners, schools and other institutions. The website provides information on which audiences can take advantage of each program; and interested parties can contact the individual program staff for assistance by utilizing the Toolkit program links to further explore and contact program staff for assistance.

Below is an example of how the website is organized, featuring the Transportation related Toolkit options, which includes the: Program, “Who is this for?” (Audiences who can utilize the tool), a short description, and why audiences should be interested, including the climate and sustainability related benefits.

Commuting and Transportation Options



PROGRAM	WHO IS THIS FOR?	DESCRIPTION	ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?
Commuter Smart Raleigh	Businesses (employee benefit)	City transportation management program that offers an array of transportation options that save employees and businesses time and money.	Personalized plan for commute options.
Real Time Transit Information Screens	Apartments, office buildings, other busy locations	Provide screens in your apartment/commercial building with real-time information about City transit arrivals, bikeshare stations, and other mobility options. Provide this in your welcome materials for new tenants or employees on local transportation options.	Reducing parking demand from employees or residents, encouraging sustainable modes of transportation. Transportation is one of Raleigh's biggest contributors to GHG emissions. Be a climate leader and promote alternatives to single occupancy car trips!

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 20 – Thursday, January 26

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

No permitted special events are scheduled at this time.

Other Upcoming Events

[Aretha: A Tribute – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Jurassic Quest](#)

Friday, January 20 – Sunday, January 22
Raleigh Convention Center

[Artist Reception: November, December, & January Gallery Exhibition](#)

Saturday, January 21
Pullen Arts Center

[CINCH World's Toughest Rodeo](#)

Saturday, January 21
PNC Arena

[Artspace Winter Family Day](#)

Saturday, January 21
Artspace

[Shen Yun Performing Arts](#)

Saturday, January 21 & Sunday, January 22
Memorial Auditorium

[Lunar New Year Celebration](#)

Sunday, January 22
Lake Lynn Community Center

[Notre Dame vs. NC State](#)

Tuesday, January 24
PNC Arena

[S'Moore Square Social Hour](#)

Wednesday, January 25
Moore Square Park

[Timely Connections Lecture Series](#)

Thursday, January 26
City of Raleigh Museum

Public Resources

[Pilot Text Alert Program](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.