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Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, August 18; 11:30 Work Session; Regular Session at 1:00 P.M. (Virtual)
Council will meet remotely in regular work session at 11:30 A.M. in the Council Chamber. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the BoardDocs electronic agenda system:

https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf

The regular Council meeting begins at 1:00 P.M.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to pull from the consent agenda for discussion, please e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11:00 A.M. the day of the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Police Advisory Board - Board Training Update  
Staff Resource: Audrea Caesar, Office of Equity and Inclusion, 996-5698, audrea.caesar@raleighnc.gov
Staff with the Office of Equity and Inclusion has concluded orientation for members of the Police Advisory Board. Staff conducted a virtual training session for the board the evening of Thursday, August 13th.
Additional training sessions will be conducted on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for the next three (3) consecutive weeks and are scheduled to conclude August 29.

Board member training will cover various topics that will be presented by City staff as well as community and corporate partners. Training topics include:

- Police Department overview and structure
- Raleigh Police Departmental Policies
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Intelligence-led Policing
- Operations and Processes

Following completion of board member training, staff will provide a summary report to the City Council.

(No attachment)

**Raleigh Water Utility Payments Update**
Staff Resource:  Aaron Brower, Raleigh Water, 996-3469, aaron.brower@raleighnc.gov

In *Weekly Report Issue 2020-27* (July 24), staff provided an update on the expiration of the Governor’s Executive Orders 124 & 142; the state of utility revenues; assistance programs and payment plans available to customers to pay past due utility bills; and outlined a plan for resuming late fees, collections, and utility disconnects. At that time, Raleigh Water was proposing to begin a phased approach of utility disconnects with the process beginning September 19.

Subsequent to the original update, there is now uncertainty associated with timing of the phased approach due to an interpretation from the Attorney General’s office on the executive orders and coinciding billing software system limitations that could result from that interpretation.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation and work with the City Attorney’s Office to customize an approach that is in compliance with the executive orders and manageable from a billing software limitation standpoint. In the interim Raleigh Water will continue to promote available customer assistance programs, including the WakeHelps plan. The WakeHelps program has already received over 1,300 applications for assistance.

(No attachment)
Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the Safe, Vibrant & Healthy Community Committee

Review of Code Enforcement Polices and Impacts (Council Member Stewart)
Staff Resource: Bryce Abernethy, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-2450, bryce.abernethy@raleighnc.gov

During the June 23 committee meeting, questions were posed regarding a review of Code Enforcement Policies and who they were impacting and if there were any necessary changes needed to meet goals the policies are meant to address.

The Code Enforcement Division of the Housing & Neighborhoods department focuses on protecting housing stock while improving and maintaining quality of life and safety for residents. The division is charged with applying the Minimum Housing Code, North Carolina State Building Codes, Health Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code, and the Zoning Vehicle Code to properties throughout the City. Inspection staff is assigned districts throughout the jurisdiction and responds to requests, note observations and take referrals from other City departments. When citing a property owner for a housing, nuisance or zoning vehicle violation, staff relies on notifying the owner based on legal information provided in Wake County Real Estate records. Staff also relies on additional property owner information provided by staff paralegals and other online resources. All notices are initially posted on the front door of the property as well as via US Postal Service First Class and Certified mail as required by the Health, Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code as well as the Unified Development Ordinance.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30 (FY20), Code Enforcement staff received 480 requests for housing inspections related to the Minimum Housing Code or North Carolina State Building Codes. After inspection, 223 of these requests were followed with an official housing case, citing unfit or unsafe violations. The requests that did not matriculate to a case typically are resolved prior to official notice by working with the property owner or there were no violations noted upon inspection. When available, staff often works with property owners’ hand in hand to resolve any issues. The 223 Housing cases were applied to 18 owner-occupied, 30 vacant, and 175 rental properties. Of these, three (3) resulted in adoption of a demolition ordinance by Raleigh City Council. Violations that are typically noted in our housing cases range from holes in walls; broken windows; broken outlet covers; bed bugs or other insect infestations; and leaking pipes. Other violations relate to common life-safety issues such as inoperable or missing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors or technical issues associated with aged, unsafe, or incorrectly installed electrical or mechanical systems. All of Code Enforcement inspectors are required to pass the North Carolina State Building Code Exam as a minimum requirement to make these inspections, which is administered through the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Code Enforcement staff is also charged with enforcing the Health Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code. In FY20 the division received 2,218 Public Nuisance requests, of which 677 matriculated to official notices of violation. Inspectors also issued 1,310 Public Nuisances by observation. Of the 1,987 public nuisances that were cited, 61 resulted in abatement services by the City of Raleigh or a third-party contractor while the remaining violations were resolved by the owner. Abatement services are confirmed as a lien by City Council for services rendered to resolve the Public Nuisance, as well as a $175 administrative fee. Public
Nuisance violations often consist of high grass, appliances and furniture outside, trash, construction debris, illegal dumping, stagnant water (mosquitos) and limbs or fallen trees. These citations can be assessed to residential owner-occupied as well as rental, commercial and vacant properties. When a notice of violation is issued the owner is asked to resolve the public nuisance within 10 days per the Health, Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code. During the COVID-19 pandemic staff has chosen to provide (when applicable) a 10-day courtesy inspection before official notice of violation to allow property owners an additional increment of time to remedy the Public Nuisance before an official notice is issued. Per the Health, Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code there is a $350 ($100 administrative fee & $250 civil citation) citation assessed upon the second notice of violation within 12 months on the same property. There is no citation assessed upon a first notice of violation in any 12-month period, unless abatement services are used. Appeal processes are included within the process, and appeals are frequently utilized by property owners to mitigate fines.

Code Enforcement is also responsible for enforcement of several ordinances as these pertain to automobiles and vehicles. The Zoning Vehicle Code prohibits the storage of 2 or more unlicensed or uninspected vehicles stored on a residential property. The Public Nuisance Vehicle Code prohibits any wrecked, dismantled or crushed vehicles on a property. During FY20, inspectors issued 56 Zoning or Public Nuisance Vehicle cases based on 172 requests.

(No attachment)