

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**April 18, 2000**

**4:30 P.M.**

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Councilman Crockett, Chairman, with Councilmen Franklin, Hurley, Hakeem, Rutherford, Taylor, and Pierce present. City Attorney Randall Nelson; Management Analyst Randy Burns; and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Adm. Mitchell, Adm. Boney, and Ron Littlefield.

### **MAGLEV RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

Chairman Crockett stated that Administration had some questions about a couple of provisions in the Resolution and Attorney Nelson had an alternate Resolution. He explained that they were not asking us to put in a numeric value; at this stage it is nothing more than saying we like the idea. He explained that the first phase won't be built up here, and we don't need to put anything in quantifiable. He noted that there was an agreement to commit the City's scarce resources, as available, to provide assistance to the project sponsors in identifying and achieving commitment from available sources and noted that (d) had been added, which states "*terminal station(s) within respective jurisdictions*". (This alternate Resolution is made a part of the minute material). Chairman Crockett stated that this was the only change.

Chairman Crockett went on to say that there would be a Steering Committee meeting this week in Atlanta, which will address some cost projections. It will be held Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Littlefield added that anyone is welcome to be there. Chairman Crockett noted that there would be more technical information. Mr. Littlefield indicated that he could get specific directions for those interested in going—that it is on Courtland Street across from Georgia State.

Chairman Crockett mentioned that he was in St. George, Utah at a meeting of 50 Commissioners of Transportation; that there was an interesting perspective discussed regarding transportation starting to change, mentioning DA&D (Decide, Announce, and Defend); that we are looking more at "rail" and in particular supporting Multi-State efforts.

Adm. Boney indicated that he was not familiar with us building stations. Mr. Littlefield responded that in that regards we are fortunate in Chattanooga in that one terminal is the Airport, and it is eligible for federal funding; that this will be a minimal expense for Chattanooga and Hamilton County. He reiterated that we are not in the first phase yet and need to show we are interested. He stated that the Project Manager and himself had attended meetings and people were interested in being a part of this; that they had had good reception; that people wished they could start in Chattanooga and work south.

Chairman Crockett stated that this would be privately operated and on the front end there are more competitive proposals, stating that you could imagine what Las Vegas was putting up. He mentioned that carpet companies in our region move people quickly from major markets like Atlanta.

Mr. Littlefield stated that they were feeling better and better about our prospects the more we compare ourselves with the other six competitors; that there are engineering problems with other prospects and economic values; that we are looking better all the time.

Chairman Crockett added that the Atlanta to Chattanooga Project was being talked about more, and there was a lot of discussion about it, mentioning the Resolution to help Multi-State efforts.

Councilman Taylor asked when the selection process would be. Chairman Crockett responded that there would be a “down” selection; that the final selection should be in 2001; that we would go down to three, and these three would be asked to prepare a more detailed and specific plan; that this was the time when they would say ‘Show me the Money!’ He reiterated that it should be early in 2001.

**On motion of Councilman Hakeem, seconded by Councilwoman Hurley, this will be recommended to the full Council.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.