

# City Council backs Corning, considers shutting down strip club

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem City Council approved incentives for Corning's local expansion and discussed a possible way to close a downtown strip club in its Monday, Oct. 3, meeting.

Corning Optical Communications LLC will receive up to \$435,300 in economic development assistance in exchange for creating 100 new full-time jobs locally with a average annual wage of \$58,000 plus benefits within four years, and invest \$30 million in additional machinery and equipment.

Mayor Allen Joines said the project will more than pay for itself, as its

expected to bring in \$670,000 in tax revenue in the next five years.

Forsyth County has also agreed to an incentive of up to \$384,872 for Corning. The state's Economic Investment Committee approved a grant for up to \$1.93 million over 12 years for Corning's planned expansion in the state, which will also include 105 new jobs at its Hickory plant, where it will invest \$53.5 million. The incentives encouraged Corning to expand in North Carolina instead of expanding a facility in Mexico.

"For businesses to grow and for the city to be competitive, we must have incentives," said Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke. The plant's workforce



McManus



Burke

is largely local, with 64 percent living in Forsyth and 47 percent living in Winston-Salem. Charles McManus, Corning human resource manager, said that 47 percent of the workforce is minority and 38 percent is African-American.

"We want to make sure we're representing our local community," said McManus.

City Council Member Denise "D.D." Adams, who used to work at Corning, said the company didn't mind hiring people like her who don't have a

science degree and training them. She praised the company for giving people opportunities. The measure passed the council unanimously.

The City Council also discussed a measure that would eliminate the long-time downtown strip club on Cherry Street. In 2003, changes were made to Central Business zoning requirements to prohibit adult establishments, but the already existing club was grandfathered in and became legal nonconforming. The club, which has previously been called Harper's, Winkers and Lollipops, is now known as Xpressions. The city filed a nuisance abatement lawsuit trying to shut the club down because of what the city says is illegal activity

happening in and around the club.

A settlement in the case is currently being negotiated, but the measure heard on Monday would let the council shut the club down because the city says it's no longer compatible with Central Business zoning because of "noise, illegal activity and other breaches of the peace," and the change in character of downtown, with retail businesses and residential units now nearby. The club would be allowed to operate during an amortization period until Dec. 31, 2019 to give its owner time to recoup his investment. The City Council decided to hold the measure until its next meeting on Oct. 17.

# County may end its curbside recycling

BY TODD LUCK  
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County commissioners may soon vote on an ordinance that will end the county-run curbside recycling program.

Since 2012, the county has provided a voluntary recycling service for residents in the unincorporated parts of Forsyth for a fee. The current recycling collector, Waste Industries, is not renewing its contract, which runs out at the end of the year, and is the second contractor to not renew.

Low participation and a

downturn in commodities has made it hard for these companies to make money.

The ordinance, presented to commissioners during a briefing on Thursday, Sept. 29, would end county-awarded recycling franchises and deregulate the service. This would allow recycling collection companies to negotiate fees with subdivisions that they'd provide service to.

"What I think that will result in is some of the densely populated areas, like subdivisions where most of our subscribers

already are in the current collection system, to be able to talk to service providers to continue enjoying that service," said Minor Barnette, director of Forsyth's Environmental Assistance and Protection Office.

Barnette said the county would help connect recycling collectors with homeowner associations to negotiate service. The county would require the



Barnette



Marshall

service providers to have a permit to make sure the recyclables were being collected and delivered properly. Barnette said that the county could issue permits before year-end to make sure service resumes as quickly as possible for residents.

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Those that don't fall in areas that have negotiated service would have to bring their recyclables to one of the county's three drop off recycling centers themselves.


County Commissioner Walter Marshall said that he didn't support deregulation, because he felt less access to curbside recycling could lead to more residents dumping their garbage.

"The environmental impact down the road could be a real problem for

the county," he said.

Both Marshall and Commissioner Everette Witherspoon support mandatory recycling, similar to what the city has, and don't support deregulation. County Commissioner Chair Dave Plyler also expressed interest in mandatory recycling, but said he would support deregulation.

County Commissioners are expected to vote on the measure in their next regular meeting at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10.



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