



(Above) The city has contributed more money to finish the rehabilitation of this former 7-Up Bottling Company building on Patterson Avenue.



(Right) This shot shows how badly damaged the interior of the Patterson Avenue building was before it was renovated with the help of city funds.

City of W-S photos

## City OKs New Hope aid, hears sanctuary city request

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

An appeal for Winston-Salem to become a sanctuary city and approving help for New Hope Manor and a multi-use center on Patterson Avenue came before the City Council on Mon., Dec. 19.

Several college students spoke during the public comment session in support of Winston-Salem becoming a sanctuary city. They said the designation has no legal meaning and is a "principled position" to serve everyone without discrimination.

Sanctuary cities pledge to leave immigration enforcement to the federal government and not devote local resources to it. This encourages residents to do things like report crime, seek out healthcare and enroll in schools without fear of being deported.

Valeria Cobos, who was brought to the United States by her parents at an early age, told the council she spent most of the last 23 years living "in the

shadows" as an undocumented immigrant. She dropped out of college when she didn't qualify for federal loans because she was undocumented. It was only recently she was able to continue her education after she was granted permanent residency as a victim of domestic violence.

Cobos said her family remains undocumented with no path to citizenship and worries they may be deported, especially after President-elect Donald Trump promised to deport all undocumented immigrants. While it remains to be seen if deporting 11 million people is even possible, she said if it happened to her loved ones, it would be devastating.

"Nobody wants to lose a member of their family just because somebody decides you're not a valid human being and that you shouldn't deserve any kind of right to stay in this country," she said.

Danny Timpona told the council that federal funds can't be withheld



Valeria Cobos

from sanctuary cities, which includes dozens of cities like New York and Phoenix, Arizona, and most recently, Washington, D.C. He said they're working on a petition that'll be presented to the council in January.

Also during the meeting, the City Council approved a \$1.6 million loan for the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem to purchase and renovate New Hope Manor. Buildings there not fit for habitation will be demolished and the remaining units will undergo rehabili-

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tation. The item was held in a previous meeting because of concern over whether the loan was big enough to make a difference at the complex. After city staff confirmed the planned rehabilitation would bring all the units into code compliance, the council approved it unanimously.

The council also unanimously approved \$53,600 in Revitalizing Urban Commercial Areas (RUCA) funds to Azzat Amer to finish transforming a former 7-Up bottling company building at 1800 N. Patterson Ave. into a

multi-use building. It's planned to house a community center and businesses like a garage, salon and convenience store. The measure was controversial among council members since the city has already given \$716,000 to the project, which city staff estimates is 90 percent complete.

However, some, like Jeff MacIntosh, said given the scope of the project, it's not surprising for it to overshoot original cost estimates. The building was badly damaged, including having a collapsed ceiling,

before construction began. Council Members Derwin Montgomery and Vivian Burke said they were impressed by the rehabilitation of the building.

This isn't the first time that a RUCA project has had to come back for additional funds and council members said they'd like to see changes to the program to prevent that in the future, like possibly limiting how many times one project can get RUCA funds and getting a better upfront estimate on how much a project could possibly cost.

### Minorities

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tractors were included. The library construction is part of a bond referendum approved by voters in 2014.

This year's bond referendums were \$350 million for public schools, \$65 million for Forsyth Technical Community College and \$15 million for county parks.

Also during the Monday, Dec. 19, meeting:

\*The county agreed to a one-year lease for the top

floor of the Forsyth County Public Safety Center, where the Sheriff's Office is located, to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. The vacant floor has 45,407 square feet of office space that is being rented for \$136,221. The hospital will use the space to test renovations on its adult emergency department by creating cardboard mock ups of the department.

\*The county also agreed to a three-year lease of 1,320 square feet and six parking spaces in the Forsyth County Public Safety Center for \$20,790 to the N.C. Department of Public Safety for probation and parole offices for the 21st judicial district.

\*The county agreed to a two-year lease of 2,813 square feet at the Forsyth County Agricultural Building for \$23,232 to the U.S. Division of Farm Service Agency.

\*The county executed the documents to receive \$1 million from the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the new location of the merged Children's Museum of Winston-Salem and SciWorks. Half the funds will go to construction and the other half will go to exhibits at the new museum, which will be built on the location of the old Sheriff's Office. The county has already approved more \$17 million for the project.

### Portrait of Mayor Allen Joines unveiled

SPECIAL TO  
THE CHRONICLE

A portrait of Mayor Allen Joines was unveiled Dec. 15 as the latest addition to the Hall of Mayors on the first floor of City Hall.

The unveiling ceremony was held in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 N. Main St. Joines, who was first elected mayor in 2001 and was re-elected for a fifth term in November, is Winston-Salem's longest serving mayor.



City of Winston-Salem photo

**Here is the portrait of Mayor Allen Joines that is shown in City Hall.**

### Changes for Christmas and New Year's holidays

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Many government offices, including the Post Office and Winston-Salem city offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday and Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's Day holiday.

CityLink 311, the city's citizen service call center for Winston-Salem, will be closed but non-911 emergency calls will be forwarded to on-call staff with the appropriate department.

Requests for routine information or services may be submitted by email, the city website and the CityLink 311 mobile application for processing the next day.

During both Christmas and New Year's weeks, garbage and recycling collections will follow the normal schedule. Yard-waste collections will be postponed a day: Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday, etc.

For more information call CityLink 311.

