

City bonds move forward for public comment

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The City of Winston-Salem will be holding community meetings starting March 21 on a potential \$122 million in bonds that may be on the November ballot.

The City Council will hold nine community meetings to get public input before it takes an initial vote on the bond on May 21, which will authorize publishing a letter of intent and submitting an application to the Local Government Commission. This will set the maximum amount the bond will be.

On Aug. 6, the council is scheduled to hold a public hearing before voting on the bonds, authorizing them to appear on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

Most of the \$41 million in additions mentioned in the last meeting didn't make it into the current list of projects announced in a meeting on Monday. Instead there were smaller projects added with some adjustments to others so that the new total comes to \$122 million, which would result in the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 paying \$40 more in property tax.

There are five proposed bonds that voters may get to vote on: \$11.7 million for housing, \$21.1 million for public safety, \$14.5 million for economic development, \$43.7 million for streets and sidewalk and \$31 million for parks and recreations. Projects include \$27.1 million for street resurfacing and a combined \$7 million for two-way conversion of Liberty and Main as well as First and Second streets. There's also playground and Strollway renovations and second phases for Hanes, Winston Lake and Salem Lake parks.

City Council Member John Larson, who represents the South Ward, questioned if it was enough, saying he felt the amount was inadequate for the park renovation needs in his ward. Not counting citywide projects, the South Ward ended up with about \$8.8 million, or 12 percent, of the proposed bond money. The wards that got the most were the East, with \$11.6 million (16 percent), and Southeast, with \$11.4 million (16 percent). Other council members responded that some wards got more than others because of their needs, historic

Proposed 2018 Bond Allocations by Ward

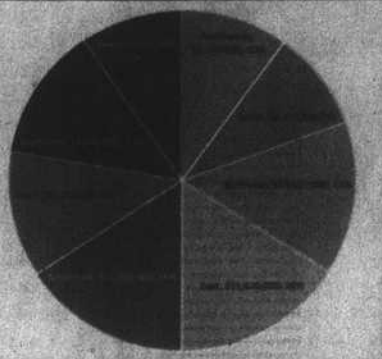


Image provided by the City of Winston-Salem

This chart shows the breakdown of money by ward in the proposed bonds with the exception of citywide projects.

underfunding of certain wards, and the presence of amenities there used by people throughout the city, like Salem Lake. Since the city has \$630 million in capital needs, all the wards will still have many outstanding needs, even with the bond.

The new projects that were added into the bond include:

- \$3.6 million for the replacement of Fire Station #3 on North Liberty St. The station has been operating since 1964 and the structure is past its useful life.

- \$2.5 million for Washington Park renovations including deferred maintenance, reorienting the ball fields, improved parking and lighting and creating more open space.

- \$1 million for a Bethania-Rural Hall Pocket Park, located on the road of the same name on land adjacent to Fire Station #20, which may include a playground/fitness equipment, walking paths and benches.

- \$1 million for a Georgetown Pocket Park near Reynolda Road, which may have a playground, a walking path and benches.

- \$500,000 for the renovations of the William R. Anderson Jr. Center gymnasium.

The bond community meetings will be held:

- 6 p.m., March 21 at Russell Community Center
- 6 p.m., March 22 at Hanes Hosiery Community Center
- 6 p.m., March 27 at Miller Park Community Center
- 6 p.m., March 28 at Georgia Taylor Neighborhood Center
- 6:30 p.m., March 29 at Park View Church Of God
- 6 p.m., April 3 at Polo Park Community Center
- 6 p.m., April 4 at

South Fork Community Center

• 6 p.m., April 5 at Winston Lake Golf Course

• 6 p.m., April 12 at Salem Lake Marina

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Dr. Larry Little recovering following health scare

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem legend Dr. Larry Little was recovering in the hospital, Monday, Feb. 26, after doctors found a minor blockage in his heart earlier that day.

Here's what we know: Little was admitted to a local hospital after suffering from "acute heart failure" at his home on Friday, Feb. 23. After staying in the hospital over the weekend, doctors performed a cardiac catheterization to determine how significant the blockage was.

According to Dr. Little's brother, Charles Rivers, the procedure went as planned and Little is expected to make a full recovery.

"The procedure went well this morning. They determined that it was a minor blockage that can be treated with medication," Rivers said. "We expect him to stay in the hospital

maybe another day or so and then he will be able to go home."

A native of Winston-Salem and a champion for justice and civil rights, Dr. Larry Little is a founding member of the Winston-Salem Black Panther Party. During his leadership, the Black Panther Party implemented several community programs, including a free breakfast program for school children, free Sickle Cell Anemia testing and free ambulance service.

Dr. Little, who graduated with honors from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, earned his Master of Public Affairs Degree from the UNC Greensboro and a Juris Doctor Degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. He served two terms as a Winston-Salem alderman. Little currently serves as a tenured professor at WSSU.