

Downtown Municipal Services District Boundary

Background

On June 26, 1978, the Fayetteville City Council created a Municipal Service District (MSD) for the downtown area pursuant to Article 23, chapter 160A-536 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The purpose of the Downtown Municipal Service District is to finance and support downtown services and activities that are in addition to or to a greater extent than those activities financed, provided, or maintained for the entire city.

This reauthorization of the district is the first of a two-part process associated with the provision of special services or activities within the MSD. The second part, separate from this action, occurs annually during the City's budget process. Each year the City establishes the tax rate for the district and identifies the proposed expenditures. For several years the tax rate has remained 10 cents per \$100. The revenues have helped support the downtown parking program and such special projects as bicycle racks, wayfinding, upgraded brick paving and related streetscape projects.

The North Carolina General Statute does not set a time limit on how long a municipal service district may exist. The Fayetteville City Council chose to limit the authorization for the Downtown MSD to five years. Since 1983 the City Council has reauthorized the district every five years. The current authorization of the District expires June 30, 2013.

The MSD is bounded generally by Cool Spring Street, Bragg Boulevard (both sides), Russell Street (both sides) and Rowan Street (both sides until the bridge and ramps). With very minor changes, the boundaries have been the same since the initial creation of the District.

Process

The process to reauthorize the district involves a public notice and notification to every property owner within the proposed district, a public hearing by City Council, and a resolution approving the reauthorization. Staff is not proposing any change to the existing boundaries. If the boundaries are modified after the process begins, a new public hearing would be required and additional notices mailed.

If, as a result of recommendations in the update to the Renaissance Plan currently underway, or if in the next few years significant new projects warrant adjustment to the boundaries, the notifications and hearing process to make the changes could begin at any time.

If the City Council chooses not to reauthorize the district, the tax rate cannot be levied. The revenues currently supporting special downtown services and projects would not be available. Unless funded from the General Fund or other source, the programs supported by the special tax would be eliminated.

Public Comment

Before taking action on the reauthorization of the Downtown Municipal Service District, the Fayetteville City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall at 433 Hay Street.

Individuals desiring to speak at the public hearing must register in advance through the on-line sign-up (www.cityoffayetteville.org) or with the City Clerk in writing or in person (Room 217, City Hall, 433 Hay Street, 28301) during normal business hours. Citizens may also sign in between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM, before the public hearing in the Council Chamber.

If you have any questions, please call:

Karen S. Hilton, AICP, Manager, Planning and Zoning Division, Development Services at 433-1996.