

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION FUNDS GENERATED BY OUT-OF-COUNTY SERVICES TOWARD KALEIDEUM MUSEUM PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANK L. BLUM CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION, AND FORSYTH COUNTY

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

An agenda item requesting authorization to use \$23,500 in City/County Utility Commission Funds generated through the provision of Out-Of-County services toward Forsyth County's construction project at 120 W. 3rd Street. These funds would be used to pay for the utility planning and connection fees for that facility which will house the new Kaleideum.

ATTACHMENTS: yes no

SIGNATURE: *f. Dudley Watts, Jr. /AMS* DATE: September 08, 2020
COUNTYMANAGER

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF
CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION FUNDS GENERATED BY OUT-OF-COUNTY
SERVICES TOWARD KALEIDEUM MUSEUM PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENTS
THROUGH A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANK L. BLUM
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION,
AND FORSYTH COUNTY**

WHEREAS Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem combined their formerly separate tax-underwritten utility operations and jointly established the City/County Utility Commission in 1976 in order to provide a more efficient and cost effective utility enterprise service to their customers;

WHEREAS Out-Of-County utility customers pay a surcharge to receive services from the City/County Utility Department and the resulting revenue supports a City/County Utility Commission Fund that can be used, in part, to support the development of municipal infrastructure improvements with the approval of the County and City;

WHEREAS the Winston-Salem Central Business District has ample accommodations, restaurants, bars, art galleries, retail shopping opportunities, and a seasonal athletic venue, but Kaleideum provides a unique service, a year-round family entertainment option to downtown patrons;

WHEREAS Kaleideum is consolidating its operation and relocating to a Forsyth County owned property at 120 W. 3rd Street in the Winston-Salem Central Business District from Kaleideum's 400 W. Hanes Mill Road and 390 S. Liberty Street locations;

WHEREAS Forsyth County and Kaleideum are investing approximately \$40 million towards this redevelopment effort in Downtown Winston-Salem;

WHEREAS the City of Winston-Salem entered an interlocal agreement with Forsyth County to redevelop Liberty Plaza in an amount not-to-exceed \$2 million and nominally leased Liberty Plaza to Forsyth County to operate and maintain for museum, educational, or governmental uses;

WHEREAS the Kaleideum Project will revitalize the formerly vacant Forsyth County property, spur additional investment in the vicinity, complement the Merschel Plaza and Liberty Plaza properties, and provide an additional destination in the downtown area;

WHEREAS Kaleideum promotes Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and a White House report entitled “Charting A Course For Success: America’s Strategy For STEM Education” notes, “According to the National Science Board’s Science and Engineering Indicators 2018, Americans’ basic STEM skills have modestly improved over the past two decades but continue to lag behind many other countries.... Recent data from a test commonly taken by college-bound high school students found that only 20% are ready for courses typically required for a STEM major”;

WHEREAS in 2019, Kaleideum served 182,508 visitors from 85 North Carolina counties, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and had visitors from Canada, Ireland, Germany, and the United Kingdom;

WHEREAS during this same period, 79,855 of Kaleideum’s visitors were Winston-Salem residents and 78.6% of those visits were from zip codes where average income is classified as low;

WHEREAS during this same period, 22,034 of the visitors were students on school field trips and 65% of these students came from Title I classified schools; and

WHEREAS Forsyth County is the owner of the future Kaleideum site and museum and has contracted with Frank L. Blum Construction Company as the Construction Manager, and the water system development fee of \$11,921, sewer system development fee of \$33,686, 3” meter cost of \$1,947, and a \$24,500 credit for the existing 2” connection and sewer line resulting in a total cost of approximately \$23,500;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies and authorizes the expenditure of up to \$23,500 by Forsyth County from the City/County Utility Commission Fund for the design and construction of water and sewer hookups for the new Kaleideum Project located at 120 W. 3rd Street in Winston-Salem.

Adopted this 20th day of September 2020.