TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Meeting Date: December 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of MPO Planning Funds to assist in community design process for the "Town Square property" and the US70/NC9 intersection.

AGENDA INFORMATION

Agenda Location:	**Communications from Boards & Agencies**
Item Number:	**6-A**
Department:	Town Square Steering Committee, Administration, Planning and Development Services Department
Contact:	Tom Gill, Town Square Steering Committee Elizabeth Teague, Planning & Development Services Department Marcy Onieal, Town Manager
Presenters:	Tom Gill, Chair, Town Square Steering Committee Chris Cooper, Gibbs Knotts, Billy Hutchins, consultants Public Policy Institute, Western Carolina University

BRIEF SUMMARY: This agenda item will be preceded by a presentation and report from the Town Square Steering Committee and the consultants responsible for polling Black Mountain registered voters in late October, 2010 to assess public opinion with regard to use of the Town Square property.

With the results of the survey of registered voters complete and tabulated, the Town Square Committee recommends that the Board proceed with a design process to develop a plan for the Town Square property, based on the results of public input. The Town has been approved by the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization for $24,000 of MPO Planning Funds to pursue concept design(s) of this area in conjunction with addressing traffic congestion, parking and emergency vehicle access to NC9 and US70. The match for these funds is 20% or $6,000, resulting in a $30,000 budget for a community design process.

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1) *To accept/adopt the reports as presented by consultants of Public Policy Institute, acknowledging the survey results as an accurate representation of the opinions of Black Mountain registered voters;*
2) *To adopt the resolution of support to secure MPO Planning Funds to complete a community design process for the NC9/US7.*

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3) *To empower the existing Town Square Steering Committee and Town staff to continue working together to begin the process of gathering and analyzing various conceptual designs for use of Town Square property either as: a) passive park/public space; b) mixed use public space with public parking, and report back to the Board of Aldermen for further action no later than May 9, 2011.*

4) *To charge the Town Square Steering Committee with researching and soliciting the private sector for funding, matching grants, foundation participation, etc. for the purpose of generating financial support to complete the design and construction of the Board-adopted conceptual plan.*

FUNDING SOURCE: $6,000 in General Funds (already approved in adopted FY10-11 operating budget).

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution of Support (#R-10-16)

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: MPO Planning Funds are allocated for the purpose of identifying future projects for the Transportation Improvement Program. This project will seek to accomplish several goals: 1) providing the specifications needed for pre-emption of emergency vehicles at the intersection of NC9 and US70; 2) determine the best alignment of the NC9 and US70 intersection, parking configuration and access as they relate to the Town Square property; and 3) provide a master plan for the Town Square property itself which meets the community's goals for the area while improving traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety in accordance with the US70 Corridor Study recommendations.

The recommendations above do not commit the Town to a particular design concept or use for the Town Square property, nor does it commit the board to further expenditure at this time for construction or maintenance of the property. This is simply a recommendation to take the next steps necessary in order for the Town Square Committee to begin the process of seeking private funding toward development of the parcel as a public space. Allowing the committee to proceed with these next steps can only assist the board in making an informed decision about ultimate disposition of the property as the Town proceeds with budget deliberations next spring.

The manager recommends adoption as presented.