



2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

***Goals are not prioritized.**

- 1. Seek local legislation to amend Sec. 4.21 of the City Charter to provide the Greensboro City Attorney be appointed by and report to the City Council.**
 - The City Attorney shall serve at the Council's pleasure.
 - Greensboro and High Point are the only municipalities in the state in which the City Manager has authority to hire and fire the City Attorney.
 - This bill has been introduced and failed to move from committee for the last three legislative sessions.
 - There is no state or local budgetary impact.

- 2. Seek legislation to limit the City Manager's authority to enter into service contracts.**
 - Currently the Manager has unlimited authority to enter into service contracts, while the Manager's authority to enter into construction contracts is limited to \$300,000.00.
 - The City will seek change to the City Charter Sec. 4.111, and provide that the Manager's authority to enter into contracts for the performance of services shall be determined by ordinance duly adopted by City Council.
 - This bill has been introduced and failed to move from committee for the last three legislative sessions.
 - There is no state or local budgetary impact.

- 3. Seek legislation to amend the City Charter to repeal the City's authority to place utility liens against residential rental property when a tenant fails to pay and when the water bill is in the name of the tenant.**
 - Greensboro City Charter provides in Section 6.83, that any municipal utility service fee which remains unpaid for 10 days or more, shall become a lien upon the real property.
 - This imposes the unpaid utility fees of the tenant as a lien upon the property owner's land. City Council deemed this an undue hardship upon landlords in the City of Greensboro. This results in higher rental costs for the citizens of Greensboro.
 - Utility bills in the name of the tenant for residential rental property incurred and becoming past due after July 1, 2010, shall be collected pursuant to G.S. 160A-314, and not Greensboro Charter Section 6.83.



- This Legislation was introduced in the 2010 Short Session and failed to move from committee. This bill will be retroactive to July 1, 2010 so that Council Ordinance and the enabling State Statute are identical.
- It is anticipated this will substantially decrease collection rates for the City of Greensboro's Department of Water Resources.

4. Seek legislation to amend N.C.G.S. 160A-301, Parking.

- This will require the Department of Motor Vehicles to refuse to register the vehicles of any person who owe past due parking tickets to the City of Greensboro.
- The City will compile a list of all persons who own motor vehicles which have outstanding, overdue parking tickets in the City of Greensboro. City officials will provide this list to the County Tax Collector. The Tax Collector will add this list to the list of persons who have unpaid municipal or county taxes. This will provide the Tax Collector the same remedies as those provided in G.S. 20-50.4 for the collection of fines and penalties. This list will be forwarded to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The DMV shall refuse to register any vehicle owned by these individuals. The DMV shall collect these funds in addition to the registration fees. The payment of these outstanding civil penalties will be paid to the City of Greensboro.
- This was proposed in the 2008 and 2010 session and was not adopted by the General Assembly.
- This is anticipated to greatly reduce the uncollected parking fines owed to the City of Greensboro.

5. Seek legislation to repeal the Jordan Lake Rules.

- The State adopted new restrictions for the Jordan Lake Watershed in 2009. These new restrictions became effective on December 1, 2010.
- The City and Guilford County are not considered significant contributors to the Jordan Lake water quality issues and bear an inequitable portion of the restriction and expense imposed under the regulatory overlay. If a cost benefit analysis of these rules were adopted these restrictions would be reduced or entirely curtailed.
- The State is now proposing to expand these restrictions to other watershed areas in the state. The City will lobby with other municipalities and counties to repeal or reform the Jordan Lake Rules and other proposed watershed regulations.
- This will reduce the cost of compliance by the City of Greensboro and will reduce the cost of future development that will be passed to the consumer.

