



MEDIA RELEASE

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City of Burlington plans for the future of downtown Moorefield's building

Burlington, NC – The City of Burlington City Council discussed in [January 3, 2022 Work Session](#) their desire to move forward with the demolition of the building locally known as the Moorefield's Florist Building (owned by the City), located at 138 E Front St, Burlington, NC. On February 1, 2022 City Council voted unanimously to begin the process of demolition, design and construction of a new building.

The City acquired the Moorefield building adjacent to the Paramount Theater in 2017. In 2018, Clearscapes Architecture was hired to begin a feasibility study of the Moorefield Building. Clearscapes presented their findings along with a design concept to the City Council during their August 20, 2019, Work Session. Council feedback was given, and staff was asked to further study the expense of renovating the existing building and the expense of demolition and new construction.

In December 2021, a summary was created to help guide City Council on how to proceed with the site. This was presented at the January 3rd, 2022 Work Session. After Council Discussion, the decision was made, due to cost and condition of the building, to demolish the current structure and work with the community to design and rebuild a structure that will better serve the needs of the Burlington.

City staff will work with Clearscapes Architecture to design a robust community input process. This will include stakeholder meetings with the Burlington Downtown Corporation Board of Directors, downtown merchants and property owners, user groups from the Paramount Theater as well as the general public.

“That area on Front Street is evolving to be pretty special and I think we have to do our part and that would be developing something pretty significant,” said Mayor Jim Butler during the January 3rd, 2022, City Council Work Session.

The current Front Street building does not hold contributing historical value to the National Downtown Historic District, according to the State Historic Preservation Office. It is listed as a non-contributing structure within this district and is not part of the local historic district precluding regulation applied to demolition.

The building was built in 1945 and housed the Moorefield's Florist until that business moved to a location on South Mebane St. While they still make daily deliveries to Burlington, Moorefield's Florist recently closed their Burlington location and operates out of Greensboro.

Before the current building was constructed, a gas station occupied the lot. In the initial study completed by Clearscapes, it was determined that the site has an underground storage tank. It will be removed during the demolition process along with any contaminated soil.

City staff are working with crews to schedule the demolition of the property. The preliminary timelines are indicating it will be Spring 2022. This process will take some time as crews determine the work necessary to safely remove the underground tanks and any contaminated soil. Downtown patrons can expect some impacts of

the egress of the sidewalks and parking surrounding the property along Front and Spring Streets. Modifications will be made for the safety of the patrons.

Since the design and construction of the new building will take time to the plan and implement, the City is prepared to modify the site with a temporary greenspace, allowing safe community access while the planning process is taking place.

“The Burlington Downtown Corporation is excited about the future development of the Moorefield’s Florist property. The new development will enhance the corner of East Front Street and South Spring Street, and the latest edition will add to the vibrancy of Front Street’s popularity for eating, shopping, and entertainment. The Corporation looks forward to working with the City, Paramount Theatre, downtown, and local constituents to develop a location that serves all residents of Burlington,” stated Coleman Rich, Board President of the Downtown Burlington Corporation “Again, we want to thank Burlington’s City Council for this opportunity”.

This new construction project will be designed to allow the City to expand services offered at the Paramount and in the downtown district. Please stay tuned as the City works with Clearscapes to design the stakeholder meetings and input process. The community’s input is valuable and will be evaluated and combined with BDC’s [Downtown Vision and Action](#) plan to design and create the uses for this exciting new building in downtown.

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“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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