

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ITEM NO. D(4)**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**MEETING DATE: January 16, 2007**

**SUBJECT: A Discussion of Legislative Issues**

<b>DEPARTMENT: MANAGER'S OFFICE</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: NO</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A – Resolution</b> <b>B – TJCOG 2006 Regional Legislative Agenda</b> <b>C – NCLM Core Principles (Oct. 2006)</b> <b>D – NCLM 2007-2008 Advocacy Agenda (Oct. 2006)</b> <b>E- List of legislative items submitted by Alderman Broun</b> <b>F. Charter Amendment ref. Special Assessments</b> <b>G. ESC Recommendation ref. increasing occupancy tax</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Drew Cummings (918-7314)</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is to facilitate a discussion of legislative issues to prepare for the upcoming long session of the NC General Assembly, which begins at noon on January 24, 2007. The Board may decide on which issues to include in the Town's legislative agenda packet for this session. The Board may also decide to invite the local delegation to come discuss some or all of the issues on the list with the Board prior to the beginning of the long session.

**INFORMATION**

In previous years, the Board of Aldermen has developed a package of legislative issues for the North Carolina General Assembly sessions.

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners, the Chapel Hill Town Council, and the Metropolitan Commission are also developing their respective agendas over the next few weeks / months.

A number of documents from the Triangle J Council of Governments and the NC League of Municipalities are included for your perusal.

Also included is a proposed charter amendment that provides greater flexibility in the repayment of special assessments and the collection of delinquent special assessment payments. Under current general law, the only payment options are payment of the entire assessment amount in a lump sum or annual installment payments. The proposed charter amendment authorizes the Board to provide for annual, semi-annual, quarterly, or monthly installments. The amendment also provides that the Board may authorize the manager to waive automatic acceleration of the remaining assessments when a property owner becomes delinquent in the payment of the installments. Finally, the amendment authorizes the town to collect delinquent assessments using any of the alternatives available for the collection of property taxes, including attachment and

garnishment, rather than being limited (under current general law) to the more extreme remedy of foreclosure.

The Economic Sustainability Commission has also requested that the Board consider the issue of asking the General Assembly to increase Carrboro's (hotel) occupancy tax from the currently allowed 3%.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen discuss and settle on a list of legislative priorities to include in our legislative agenda packet and decide whether the Board would like to discuss these issues and priorities with our local delegation.