

MINUTES

Lowell City Council
Special Meeting

Friday, February 28, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

I. LOWELL CITY COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT (SESSION 1)

Those attending were Mayor Sandy Railey, Councilmember Phil Bonham, Councilmember Ken Ervin, Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember Shane Robinson, Councilmember Thomas Gillespie, City Manager Kevin Krouse, and City Clerk Beverly Harris. Special guests were: Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) & Kelly Weston, GAME Coordinator/Clerk to the Board, CCOG.

Mayor Sandy Railey and City Manager Kevin Krouse opened with welcoming remarks and introductions. The retreat objectives were to: (1) Review and refine the City's current mission, vision and values as part of a strategic review, (2) set goals for the next 5 years that will inform the FY21 budget process, and (3) create an environment where Council Members can find common ground and further develop working relationships.

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, CCOG & Kelly Weston, GAME Coordinator/Clerk to the Board, CCOG reviewed the agenda, ground rules, and started with a warm up activity.

Ms. Gardner provided a short briefing on key demographic, economic and development trends for the city, county and region. They covered the importance of goals and objectives.

The facilitators lead the Council in a session to focus on a shared vision for the future of Lowell. The Council considered the current vision and mission statements, discussed modifications, and reached a consensus on a vision that will guide staff efforts.

Next the facilitators lead the Council in an interactive discussion and group exercise to focus on their core values. They discussed needs and opportunities for refinement.

Kevin Krouse discussed the Council's current goals and implementation progress. They discussed what goals are still relevant, and brainstormed potential strategies for achieving those goals. The group had an exercise on goals and strategies. During the exercise the Council each prioritized a list of tasks associated with each goal.

There was a lunch break.

David Cheatwood, Managing Director with First-Tryon Advisors presented their Capital Planning Model (CPM). He stated the CPM is a tool developed by First Tryon that gives entities the ability to forecast the impact of funding proposed capital projects over both a near-term and long-term horizon.

Kevin Krouse asked the Council to think about which peer groups to add to Lowell's Capital Planning Model (CPM). He also asked Council to determine what Fund Balance amount Council would like staff to maintain going forward. These items will be discussed at the next work session.

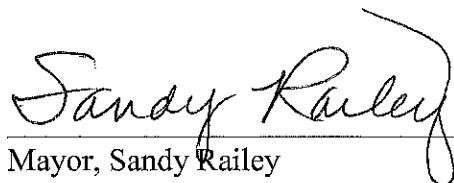
CCOG went over the new Planning and Development Regulation mandates in the NC General Statutes Chapter 160D. They stated all municipalities must update their UDO by January 1, 2021. Kevin Krouse stated the City of Lowell does not have a comprehensive plan at this time. There were general discussions among Council on how staff will get this done in order to meet the deadline. Council directed staff to put together an RFP for this project.

Kevin Krouse discussed Storm Water Compliance. He stated the City of Lowell was recently audited for storm water compliance. He stated Council must adopt a resolution declaring support for a compliant storm water program for the City of Lowell. Mr. Krouse also covered several other initiatives that must be completed annually in support of the state mandated program. Council asked staff to get updated quotes on how much it will cost to fund this program going forward.

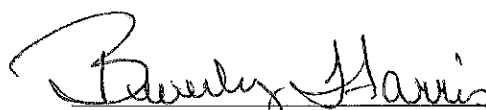
Kevin Krouse gave an update on the Community Center updates and went over what a civil engineer determined in their recent inspection.

The CCOG facilitators asked for closing reflections from Council and took a look at next steps for the second Council work session to be planned in the coming month.

There were no actions taken by Council during the work session. The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris