

MINUTES

Special Meeting: City Council Annual Retreat
George W. Clay, Jr. Utility Operations Center

February 20, 2010
Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Present: Mayor W. Ted Alexander, presiding; Council Members Christopher H. (Chris) Mabry, Oliver Stanhope (Stan) Anthony, III, Jeanette D. Patterson, Andrew L. Hopper, Sr.; City Manager Rick Howell, City Clerk Bernadette A. Parduski, MMC, Director of Finance Theodore B. (Ted) Phillips, Director of Human Resources Deborah C. (Deb) Jolly, Director of Utilities Brad R. Cornwell, PLS, EI, Fire Chief William P. Hunt, Director of Public Works Daniel C. (Danny) Darst, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Director of Housing Bryan T. Howell, Director of Development Services Brian L. Pruett, and Director of Planning Services Walter (Walt) Scharer, AICP

Absent: City Attorney Robert W. Yelton

Clerk's Note:

A Council vacancy (Ward 4) exists due to the resignation of Mr. Putnam on February 10, 2010.

Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting at 8:39 a.m. and Mrs. Patterson gave the invocation.

Departmental presentations continued and Council made the following requests:

Planning Services

- Perform inventory of City owned properties; consider land banking properties for future development
- Develop a plan to reclaim neighborhoods and utilize public/private ventures and incentives to rebuild affordable houses (infill) i.e. devote a workshop session to this issue and vision promoting home ownership

Mayor Alexander declared a recess at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mayor Alexander declared a recess at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

During Mr. Howell's economic development update, Council requested a copy of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's updated plan for the 74 Bypass Project.

REVIEW OF 2007, 2008, AND 2009 STRATEGIES; DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL'S GOALS; AND 2010-2011 BRAINSTORMING SESSION:

As set forth in the agenda, the closing session was intended for the purpose of setting goals for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Howell gave an overview of the City's progress concerning previously established goals and inquired if Council had any new items they wished to add after hearing all the presentations and updates.

The Mayor and each Council member were given the opportunity to express their thoughts, offer suggestions, and identify objectives. The following list was gleaned from that discussion:

- Schedule workshops to review and update goals of planning documents
- Discuss participation and partnership with Cleveland County in Parks and Recreation
- Develop long-term plan for Parks and Recreation funding
- Consider options for Uptown wireless
- Review enhanced public relations on website
- Implement a Redevelopment Commission with focus on residential neighborhood
- Consider a Community Round-up Program
- Survey citizens about initiating a Recycling Program – curbside?
- Are we doing everything we can do about jobs, jobs, jobs?
- Monitor and continue discussions regarding water needs
- Conduct a citizens services survey
- Attend neighborhood walk throughs
- Re-visit City Center Master Plan – Promote City and Council's participation in Uptown
- Review the placement of new tower sites in the City
- Consider the proposal from the Longmire Group for government relations services
- Amend City Council's meeting schedule regarding location
- Develop a cost savings incentives program

These items will be discussed in depth at the regularly scheduled meeting of March 1, 2010 in order to develop priorities and strategies for the upcoming fiscal year. Ultimately, a set of goals will be formalized in the form of a resolution for Council's approval.

At the conclusion, Mayor Alexander, Council members, and Mr. Howell expressed their appreciation all around for the program and efforts in making this a very successful retreat.

ADJOURNMENT:

1) Motion to adjourn

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Shores, second by Mr. Hopper, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette A. Parduski, MMC
City Clerk

W. Ted Alexander
Mayor

Minutes of February 20, A. D. 2010