

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Tuesday, January 15, 2014, at 10 A.M., in the West End Conference Room to hold a visioning workshop. The following people were present

Mayor Chet Mann	Council Member Rebecca Wyhof
Council Member Jimmy Haire	Council Member Norman Charles Post, III
Mayor Pro Tem James Williams	Council Member Charles Taylor
Council Member Walter H. McNeil, Jr.	Council Member Sam Gaskins
City Clerk Bonnie D. White	City Attorney Susan Patterson
City Manager Hal Hegwer	

Mayor Mann called the meeting to order. He said there are no rules here, this is a time when council members can make their priorities known. A list (Exhibit A) was prepared as council presented their ideas that they would like to see done. The ideas were broken down into a list of short-term and long-term priorities.

Council Member Taylor suggested a STRAP plan showing what is working and what is not working. They use this in manufacturing.

In regards to Mr. McNeil's idea to tackle blight in residential areas through code enforcement, Mayor Mann stated that he felt the code of ordinances needs to be updated to include urban/non-residential property. Mr. Taylor said that in Charleston, Winston Salem, and Savannah, the city actually buys the houses, refurbishes them, and puts them back on the market. Mr. Post agreed and added that we could upfit the houses and sell them. Mr. Taylor stated that Savannah has the best plan. Savannah won an award for this endeavor at the National League of Cities.

Mr. McNeil said that we have a partnership with Brick Capital who has done a great job. He said that he remembers what Washington Avenue used to look like 30 years ago and Brick Capital has done an excellent job of redevelopment in that area.

Mr. Gaskins stated that we need to address the W. Koury Building on Chatham Street due to the condition of the building.

Mr. Williams expressed concern about the perception of approachability with the Police Department. Mr. Taylor said that the Police Department has been very responsive to his requests and that he has been an advocate with the neighborhoods in setting up community watch programs and also relating to a contact in each community when a crime occurs in his ward. Mr. Taylor said that each council member needs to be a liaison between the community and the police department.

Mr. Post commented that with the recent shootings, it is one group against another. He stated that Mr. Williams and he have been attending meetings at the Elks Club and Cox Maddox Road with organizations within the community to stop the violence.

Mayor Mann advised that Mr. Hegwer and he have been investigating a program with federal assistance to help us with some of the violent crimes with firearms.

Mayor Mann said that he received a call from a gentleman this week that would like to open up a brewery in Downtown. He stated that he was not sure he knew who to call so he called Bob Joyce with the Chamber. Mr. Joyce took the gentleman through Downtown to look at buildings, etc. Mr. Mann said that is where the Sanford-Lee County Partnership for Prosperity (SLPP) would come into play. He presented a map of Sanford (Exhibit B) and said that in the future, Council would be receiving a request for an increase in funding the SLPP. He said that a lot of growth will be coming our way and the SLPP will help bring it to Sanford.

Ms. Wyhof presented Council with a copy of information regarding Foreign Trade Zones (Exhibit C) from Triangle J. She has been appointed to the FTZ #93 Rates, Tariffs, and Legal Review Board.

Mr. Mann presented Council with a diagram of a proposed multi-sports complex (OT Sloan Park Baseball Complex Concept Plan) (Exhibit D) and a copy of CCCC's bond request (Exhibit E) held in 2010. This could be a new center city hub. With the passage of the parks and recreation bonds, we could utilize funds for a multi-sports complex that would bring people to Sanford. He said it could be a huge public-private partnership and maybe Lee County would help fund the project. The Lions Club Fairgrounds is the only place to play soccer.

Mr. McNeil said we have to be careful as to how we spend this bond money because of what we told the public in the bond referendum; it is the trust mentality. He stated that before we get tied up with this project, we need to take care of the pocket parks and implement some fall-safe measures.

Mayor Mann stated that he would like to see the City purchase the Railroad Depot Building and maybe we could do a trade with the Sanford Area Board of Realtors. Lisa York is the President and he felt they are willing to begin talks about the subject.

Mr. Post felt we need to expand the Farmer's Market and create more of a night life (cultural events) to include food and drinks – to get more people Downtown.

Mr. Taylor said that in the future, we need to look at consolidation of services of county and city departments with a long-range mindset. He stated that we may need to staff one person at each county fire department in lieu of building new fire stations.

Council Members discussed the short-term and long-term items. Mr. Mann asked that Council consider these items and we will meet again to prioritize them.

It was the consensus of Council to hold another visioning workshop/retreat on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 4 P.M., in the West End Conference Room. The City Council will meet that night at 7 P.M., in the Council Chambers.

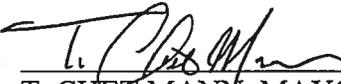
Mr. Taylor stated that he would be willing to conduct a plus and minus delta over the items on the short-term and long-term list of items suggested by Council. He said Council needs to think about what is working and what is not working.

City Council Meeting
January 7, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Norman Charles Post III made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member James Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



T. CHET MANN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



BONNIE D. WHITE, CITY CLERK