

MINUTES

Lowell City Council
Special Meeting
Friday, March 5, 2021

I. LOWELL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Those attending were Mayor Sandy Railey (remote), Councilmember Phil Bonham, Councilmember Ken Ervin (remote), Councilmember Candy Funderburk, Councilmember Shane Robinson (remote), Councilmember Thomas Gillespie (remote), City Manager Scott Attaway, Finance Officer Jared Pyles, Planning Director Alex Blackburn (remote), Police Chief Scott Bates, Parks and Recreation Director Cristy Cummings (remote), and City Clerk Beverly Harris. Facilitators were: Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) & Kelly Weston, Government Affairs & Member Engagement Coordinator (remote), CCOG. Guest presenter Cheryl Brown with The MAPS Group (remote).

Mayor Sandy Railey and City Manager Scott Attaway opened with welcoming remarks and introductions. The retreat objectives were to: (1) Continue to build Council relationships to aid decision-making; (2) affirm the City's vision statement and Council core values; (3) review multi-year goals and current financial picture; (4) provide guidance on priorities for FY22 budget development.

Geraldine Gardner and Kelly Weston (facilitators) reviewed the agenda, and ground rules.

The facilitators lead the Council in a session to finalize the City's vision and mission statements proposed during the February 18th special meeting.

Vision Statement:

- (Option 1) Lowell will be an inviting community where generations come together to live, work, and play. (Option 2) Lowell will be a thriving, multi-generational community with opportunities for active living and a vibrant downtown.
- (Proposed vision) Lowell will be a thriving, multi-generational community for active living.

Everyone liked the proposed vision statement.

Mission Statement:

(Option 1) The City of Lowell provides essential public services, excellent customer service, and collaborates with the community today for a brighter tomorrow.

(Option 2) The City of Lowell delivers excellent public services through transparent leadership and community engagement.

(Proposed vision) The City of Lowell delivers excellent public services through transparent leadership and community engagement.

Everyone liked the proposed mission statement.

Next the facilitators lead the Council in an interactive discussion of the City's goals and discussed potential modifications.

Proposed Goals:

Continuously improve and expand water and sewer infrastructure
Continuously improve and expand city streets and sidewalks
Develop and update public facilities
Enhance Multi-Generational Parks and Recreational Activities
Develop Land Use Master Plans for Undeveloped Areas

Everyone liked these proposed goals.

Manager's Report:

Scott Attaway gave a Manager's Report presentation to Council on what's ahead for the city in the next fiscal year (FY22).

Existing Project Updates:

- CDBG-NR & CDBG-I grants
- 2 Subdivisions and Related Sewer Upgrades
- Finish Skull Camp Ridge trail w/county
- Stormwater Fee Study/Implementation and Permit Compliance
- Pavement Condition Survey
- Finance Department & Human Resources overhaul
- Sewer Mapping

Growth and High-Level Budget Increases:

- Police Department is requesting 2 officers next year; Bodycams
- Water and Sewer personnel is requesting 2 positions
- Stormwater Compliance
- Fire Department is requesting a \$55K increase in their budget
 - Options at Gaston County
 - Reduction of Inspections Amount Paid to County

Mr. Attaway discussed each line-item request on the FY22 budget by department. Other items discussed were current and future revenue streams to be looked at to fund budget and meet goals.

FY22 Investment Opportunities and Prioritization Discussions:

Continuously expand and improve water and sewer infrastructure.
Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements.
Continuously Improve and Expand City Streets and Sidewalks
Develop and Update Public Facilities

Enhance Multi-Generational Park and Recreation Activities
Develop a Strategic City-Wide Land Use Plan that is Sustainable

Police Corporal Jeff Harrison gave a presentation regarding the Police Department and personnel requests. He covered current headcount numbers for surrounding agencies as compared to Lowell. He also discussed call volume broken down by all agencies.

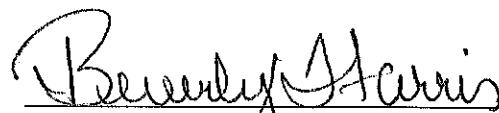
Scott Attaway provided an overview of the salary study recommendations. The MAPS Group consultant, Cheryl Brown, was on hand to answer questions.

Mayor Railey and Scott Attaway wrapped up the meeting with closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at noon. There were no actions taken in the Special Meeting.



Mayor, Sandy Railey



City Clerk, Beverly Harris