



CITY OF LOWELL
COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
GASTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION – 601 W. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Sandy Railey
Mayor Pro-Temp Travis Smith
Councilmember Phil Bonham
Councilmember Candy Funderburk
Councilmember Thomas Gillespie (remote)
Councilmember Joanna Fulbright
City Manager Scott Attaway
City Clerk Cheryl Ramsey
Finance Director Lisa Nolen
Public Works Director Thomas Shrewsbury (remote)
Parks and Recreation Director Cristy Cummings (remote)
Interim Chief Carl Moore
Officer Jeff Harrison
Alisha Summey with Gaston County Economic Development Commission
Donny Hicks with Gaston County Economic Development Commission
Centralina Regional Council of Governments (CCOG) Executive Director, Geraldine Gardner
CCOG Government Affairs & Member Engagement Coordinator, Kelly Weston

II. WELCOME REMARKS

Geraldine Gardner opened the meeting with reading the agenda items and going over ground rules for the day. Mayor Railey made opening remarks and well wishes for the upcoming meeting. Scott Attaway welcomed Joanna Fulbright to her first retreat as a Councilmember.

III. COUNTY ECONOMIC OUTLOOK – Presented by Donny Hicks

Development strategies, current activities and future activities for Gaston County and how Lowell fits into the plans were discussed. The presentation included potential job impacts and city growth.

IV. GROWTH PROJECTIONS AND IMPACT ON LOWELL

Scott Attaway presented census data, Gateway 85 Grant breakdown, and Wastewater Impacts from new developments in the City of Lowell.

V. SHAPING GROWTH: MAIN STREET OPPORTUNITY



CITY OF LOWELL
COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
GASTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION – 601 W. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC

Council heard a presentation from Demetri Baches, with Metrocology, on the Downtown Master Plan process. He was invited because Lowell did not have a master plan in the past. Mr. Baches looked at the ways to develop commercial properties in the past and is now looking at the downtown Lowell area for revitalization efforts and new opportunities. The idea is to form a steering committee with current downtown property owners to facilitate growth in the City.

VI. FINANCIAL UPDATES

Presented by Chazzo Habliston. He discussed the Capital Planning Model, fund balance and New Money Analysis.

VII. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Council heard a legislative update from the NC League of Municipalities and a discussion of advocacy opportunities by Erin Wynia, Director of Government Affairs. She provided ideas for the City of Lowell to develop their own legislative agendas in the future.

VIII. PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Presentation of the draft Parks and Recreation master plan by Kyle Bonds, Jason Bocarro, and Matt Caruso. Mr. Attaway stated he would be giving councilmembers the report after today to be voted on during the next regular session in March.

Councilmember Gillespie asked to be excused from the meeting at 2:38pm.

IX. ARPA FINAL SPENDING PLAN

Council discussed ideas for use of the AARP spending plan. Ideas included Boys & Girls Club roof repairs, Master Plan for Parks and Recreation, pickle ball court instead of a basketball court, Harold Rankin Master Plan, water line from the North Point development, consideration of the downtown grant incentives, and welcome signs to Lowell to name a few. All funds have to be decided for use by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026.

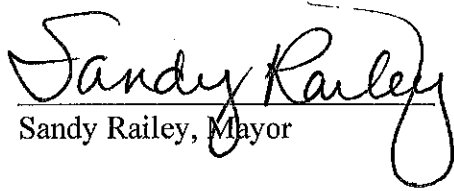
X. CLOSING REMARKS

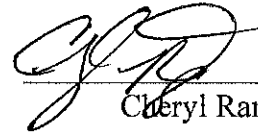
Councilmembers discussed what they are excited about next fiscal year. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



CITY OF LOWELL
COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
GASTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION – 601 W. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC

ATTEST:


Sandy Railey, Mayor


Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk