



**CITY OF LOWELL
COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION**

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 8:30 A.M.

Location: River Room 102 Main St, McAdenville, NC 28101

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey at 8:36 a.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Sandy Railey
Mayor Pro-Temp Travis Smith
Councilmember Phil Bonham
Councilmember Candy Funderburk
Councilmember Thomas Gillespie
City Manager Scott Attaway
City Clerk Cheryl Ramsey
Finance Director Lisa Nolen
Planning Director Joe Gates
GIS Analyst Todd Stroupe
Parks and Recreation Director Cristy Cummings
Public Works Director, Thomas Shrewsbury
Chief Carl Moore
Officer Jeff Harrison
John Bennett, Moderator, Centralina
Mitch Brigulio, Davenport Public Finance
Patrick Mumford, Gaston Business Association
Randi Gates, Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

Councilmember Joanna Fulbright was not in attendance.

II. Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting – Mayor Railey

Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Gillespie. The vote was unanimously in favor.

III. Welcome and Introduction – Scott Attaway, City Manager introduced our moderator, John Bennett from Centralina

IV. Financial Overview and Discussion of Community Investment Funds (CIF and ARPA Funds– Scott Attaway. Items discussed included:

- A. Upcoming Budget calendar – began working with staff beginning in December for the 5-year plan.
- B. Preparation for the February 10th will be the next Budget Retreat
- C. Considerations for Budget meetings during the month of May.
- D. Current year revenues update
- E. Current year sales tax-Gaston County had considerable growth.
- F. Zoning and Planning-future residential and commercial growth.
- G. ARPA discussion-currently working on a publication to be on the city website.
- H. CIF Summary-allocation amount for the tax rate was discussed.



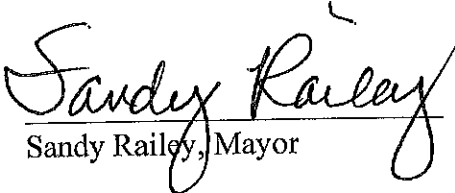
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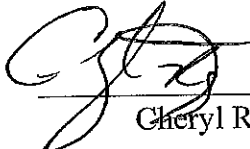
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- V. Financial Presentation (General Fund CIP and Debt Analysis)** – Mitch Bigulio with Davenport Public Finance. Mr. Bigulio discussed the General Fund and Capital Planning overview, credit options for the city and to consider what can be set aside for capital projects.
- VI. Review of FY 22-24 Mission, Vision and Core Values and Review of 2022 Accomplishments**-Scott Attaway also discussed ways to get the community involved.
- VII. Future Needs of Gaston County**-Patrick Mumford, Gaston Business Association. He discussed what drives government, job opportunities, quality of life and how change is coming to Gaston County.
- VIII. Downtown Master Plan** – Demetri Baches, Metrocology, Inc. He discussed potential growth opportunities.
- IX. Revenue Projections and Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Discussion** – Scott Attaway. He gave a break down of potential options and stated this will be reviewed further during the February retreat.
- X. I-85 widening Betterments** – Randi Gates, Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization. She provided updates and discussed other projects on the horizon.
- XI. Recap and Closing Remarks** – Scott Attaway, Mayor Railey, and Councilmembers gave closing comments.
- XII. Adjourn** – Councilmember Funderburk made a motion to close, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Smith. The vote was unanimously carried by the group at 4:30 pm.

ATTEST:


Sandy Railey, Mayor


Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk