



CITY OF LOWELL
COUNCIL RETREAT WORK SESSION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023, 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Location: River Room 102 Main St, McAdenville, NC 28101

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Sandy Railey at 8:37 a.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Sandy Railey
Mayor Pro-Temp Travis Smith
Councilmember Phil Bonham
Councilmember Candy Funderburk
Councilmember Thomas Gillespie
Councilmember Joanna Fulbright
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
Chief Carl Moore
Officer Jeff Harrison
John Bennett, Moderator
Mitch Brigulio, Davenport Public Finance
Donnie Hicks, Executive Director, Gaston County Economic Development Commission
Matt Rhoten, Deputy County Manager

II. Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting – Mayor Railey

Mayor Pro Temp Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Funderburk. The vote was unanimously in favor.

III. Review Agenda & Working Agreements – Moderator, John Bennett. Mr. Bennett gave opening remarks and ground rules for the day.

IV. Review Work Completed at January Retreat – Scott Attaway, City Manager. Items discussed included:

- A. Financial overview of: Infrastructure, revenue neutral with the information we have now, and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- B. Review of FY 23-24 Strategic Vision
- C. Considerations for preparing Lowell for the future.
- D. Downtown Master Plan
- E. Commitments made to the I-85 Betterments

V. Tax-rate Neutral Discussion – Scott Attaway, City Manager and Mitch Brigulio.

Mr. Brigulio refreshed what was discussed in January in developing a CIP to get capital projects done realistically here. He also discussed the tax supported debt review and debt capacity. Mr. Attaway talked about the capital projects we are currently




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considering including the chemical plant, City Hall and Police Department, Public Works, and Park improvements. Public Works will probably be the first item to begin with.

- VI. Gaston County Economic Development – Donnie Hicks**--He gave an update and discussed the function of the Economic Development department which is to help with: business recruitment, marketing, existing industry, product development, and research. He stated future items include additional business, parks, workforce development, long range plans, transportation, and utilities.
- VII. City-County Partnerships – Matt Rhoten and Justin Amos, Chief of Staff/Finance & Partner Agency Manager with Gaston County.** They gave an overview of county government and potential partnerships with Lowell. They also discussed the county budget and strategic plan.
- VIII. Tour of River Run and building across the street from the location with Bob Clay.**
- IX. FY 2024-28 Financial Projections – Scott Attaway and City of Lowell Department Heads**
- X. Things to Consider for Budget Preparation – Scott Attaway.** Mr. Attaway gave the council guiding principles in considering the budget.
- XI. Closing Comments**
- XII. Adjourn-** Councilmember Bonham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Smith. The vote was unanimously carried by the group.

ATTEST:


Sandy Railey, Mayor


Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk