

2020 WINTER CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

HILTON GARDEN INN ROCK HILL, SC (Palmetto Conference Room)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 - 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Welcome & Remarks (Mayor Edwards/Paul Radford) – Mayor Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Nic Greene, Brandon Hembree, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, City Attorney Frank Hartley, Recreation Director Andy McQuagge, Finance Director Cindy Pugh, IT Director Ned Jasarevic, Planning Director Kaipo Awana, Economic Development Director Mercy Montgomery, Facilities Director Tim Schick and Executive Services Manager Robyn Adams.

Welcome & Remarks, Workforce Housing (David Vebaun, City Manager, City of Rock Hill) – explained their strategic plan. Rock Hill often searches for businesses that have 150 to 50 employees so if they leave not a great number of people will be unemployed. He explained their sports tourism program and the success they have had bringing tournaments to the city. They also have a Housing Development Corporation and have a strategic goal for affordable housing.

Recreation/Tourism (John Taylor, Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, City of Rock Hill) – Explained the structure of their department. Rock Hill has a hospitality tax that is used to fund the programs along with state money. They have 16 advisory committees through which the community tells the Mayor and Council what they need and want. One big accomplishment for the city was Miracle Park which is for special needs children. Their next big thing is a regional park where the Carolina Panthers will have a practice facility.

BREAK (3:00–3:15 PM)

Economic Development Review (Paul Radford/Mercy Montgomery) – 2020 was an interesting year. The city can consider an Arts Cultural Center and a pickle ball facility. Council Member Hembree stated that we need to show the number of recreational opportunities to the community. There are hiking and recreational opportunities not thought about. Mercy Montgomery to get the data on Broadstone and send to the Mayor and Council for an update.

Sports Commission (Andy McQuagge) – possible wall of fame. Create members possibly from the city user groups and community members. There will be a council representative. The commission will recognize local athletes.

Greenway (Troy Besseche/Kaipo Awana) – The greenway has included many initiatives including LCI draft concepts, GDOT and GwDOT coordination, public involvement, multi-jurisdictional involvement and easements. Some of the easements and right of way agreements have taken a long time to obtain. Council Member Anderson stated that the greenway will need to connect the north side of town to downtown. Council Member Hembree stated that the greenway is about enhancing the sidewalks and making all of the community connected.

Internal Emergency Operations Plan (Troy Besseche) – Assistant City Manager Besseche reported that staff worked with Gwinnett Emergency Management to help develop this plan. They received input from key management and the plan was finalized this past month. The plan will roll out January 2021.

Adjourn meeting for the day: 5:00 PM

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020 – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Breakfast in Palmetto Conference Room at hotel and then brief tours of various locations in Rock Hill (Sports and Events Center, Park and Main Project, Riverwalk Area, BMX Facility and Velodrome)

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Nic Greene, Brandon Hembree, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, City Attorney Frank Hartley, Recreation Director Andy McQuagge, Finance Director Cindy Pugh, IT Director Ned Jasarevic, Planning Director Kaipo Awana, Economic Development Director Mercy Montgomery, Facilities Director Tim Schick and Executive Services Manager Robyn Adams.

2021 Budget (Paul Radford/Troy Besseche/Cindy Pugh) – The City Manager presented the 2020 year in review. The 2021 proposed budget was reviewed and the current state of finances for the city. The Assistant City Manager reviewed the proposed 2021 Capital Improvement Budget and how COVID impacted the operation of the city.

Home for Life Program Update (Kaipo Awana) – the research indicated that the median home value in the city is \$300,000. The concept of apartments was discussed. The apartments that are being built in the city are apartment of choice. Housing strategy was discussed including the missing middle and affordable housing.

2021 Programming – The Bowl and The Eagle (Andy McQuagge) – the 2021 outdoor events and programming was discussed including the community events. The concert line-up was reviewed.

Executive Session – Legal, Real Estate, Personnel Matters – Council Member Hembree motioned to enter Executive Session. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Council Member Anderson motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Steve Edwards, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk