

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from August 10, was held on the 10th day of September, 2010, at 9:00 A.M., at James River Conference Center, 400 Court Street, Joan F. Foster, President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct City Council's Annual Retreat. The following Members were present:

Present: Cary, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Foster

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Absent:

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// City Manager Kimball Payne reviewed the agenda and expectations for the retreat.

// Deputy City Manager and Acting Director of Community Development Bonnie Svrcek provided a presentation to bring Council up-to-date on the progress with the Sustainable City Initiative. Ms. Svrcek reviewed the Vision and Guiding Principles that were adopted August 2008, as well as highlighted the areas that have changed since August 2008. Ms. Svrcek went on to say that the next steps for the Sustainable City Working Group are:

- Create employee stakeholder groups (November 30, 2010)
- Complete goals review (January 31, 2011)
- Identify tasks currently underway (February 28, 2011)
- Develop monitoring and reporting plan (June 2011)
- Identify accomplishments/3-year milestones (July 2011)
- Report progress to City Council (October 2011)

Council Member Helgeson expressed concern regarding the removal of Fiscal Responsibility as an element of Sustainable Cities. Ms. Svrcek advised Fiscal Responsibility is now considered one of the Guiding Principles which affects all elements of sustainable cities.

Mayor Foster suggested that Schools be again invited to participate in the Working Group. Council Member Nelson asked that the Working Group evaluate how the family unit, family development and family responsibility play a role in this initiative. Vice Mayor Johnson suggested looking at the "Harlem Model." It was also suggested that someone from Human Services be a part of the Working Group.

Council Member Perrow suggested adding something about regionalism, expressing his concern that the independent city structure was not sustainable. It will be considered for inclusion in the Guiding Principles.

// Vice Mayor Johnson left the meeting at 10:19 during the discussion to fulfill another commitment.

// Deputy City Manager and Acting Director of Community Development Bonnie Svrcek provided an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program. Ms. Svrcek presented three options for restructuring the CDBG program:

Option 1 – Retain 85% of CDBG funds for city administration, CIP projects, and Housing Authority; 15% for public service initiatives that support the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan Goals.

Option 2 – Continue current practice of allocating 85% to eligible applicants, including City administration; 15% dedicated to public service agencies that support the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan Goals.

Option 3 – Retain 100% of CDBG funds for CIP projects that support the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan Goals as well as Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (LRHA) spot blight and rental rehabilitation programs.

After Council discussion the consensus was to start with a revised Option 1, with only 10% of the funds utilized for public service initiatives in the first year and transitioning to Option 3, no funds for public service initiatives for FY 2013. Staff advised that a Council Report will be presented for action at the September 28 Council meeting.

// City Council took a short break at 10:45 a.m., reconvening at 11:00 a.m.

// Vice Mayor Johnson rejoined the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

// Financial Services Director Donna Witt provided a financial overview with very preliminary budget projections for FY 2012. The overview included Revenue and Expenditure Highlights, Known and Potential Budget Impacts, and Capital Needs. Overall, the preliminary projection is for a net budget gap of \$3-5 million.

// City Council recessed at 12:05 p.m. for lunch.

// City Council reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

// City Manager Kimball Payne requested that Council identify their Initiatives, Goals and Priorities.

Council provided Initiatives, Goals and Priorities with the following time frame:

Short Term

- School Consolidation
 - Benefits (prescription and health)
 - Success was defined as the consolidation of one or more Departments (Finance, Human Resources, IT, Buildings & Grounds, etc.) and savings of \$1 million.
- Police Compensation
- Employee Compensation

Medium Term

- Sustainable Building Model
- Regionalization

Long Term

- Tyreeanna Development
 - Sewer Line
 - Revisit the Neighborhood Plan
- Airport Authority

Vice Mayor Johnson asked for a status report on recycling in the City.

// Council also reviewed and discussed the Budget Principles listed in the City Manager's Budget Message.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided a brief overview regarding the FY 2012 Budget schedule. Mr. Payne stated that the Civic Engagement was beneficial last year and wanted to know from Council whether to use a different approach to reach the community or stay with the same model.

During Council discussion it was suggested that four meetings should be held, one in each of the four wards with full Council representation, two in October and two in November. The Budget Retreat for Council was set for January 18, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

// Human Resources Director Margaret Schmitt provided an overview regarding attraction, retention and employee compensation. Ms. Schmitt reviewed turnover trends in the Departments of Social Services, Juvenile Services, Public Works, Utilities, Police and Fire.

After discussion the majority of Council stated that Police compensation must be addressed. The City Manager advised it would require approximately \$500,000 to begin to address the issue and that ongoing resources would be required to sustain the effort. Council requested that the City Manager research and report back areas where this funding might be available. Vice Mayor Johnson asked that the Fire Department and LynComm be looked at as well.

// Mayor Foster left the meeting at 3:37 p.m., returned at 3:44 p.m.

// Vice Mayor Johnson left the meeting at 3:44 p.m., returned at 3:58 p.m.

// Council Member Cary left the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

// The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Interim Clerk of Council