

MINUTES

**Special Meeting: Annual City Council Retreat
George W. Clay, Jr. Utility Operations Center**

**January 24, 2009
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**

Present: Mayor W. Ted Alexander, presiding; Council Members Christopher H. (Chris) Mabry, Larry G. Ware, Jeanette D. Patterson, Michael R. (Mike) Royster, Andrew L. Hopper, Sr.; City Manager Rick Howell, City Clerk Bernadette A. Parduski, CMC, Director of Finance Theodore B. (Ted) Phillips, Director of Human Resources Deborah C. (Deb) Jolly, Director of Utilities Brad R. Cornwell, PLS, EI, Police Chief Jeffrey H. (Jeff) Ledford, Fire Chief William P. Hunt, Director of Public Works Daniel C. (Danny) Darst, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Director of Housing Bryan T. Howell, Director of Development Services Brian L. Pruett, Director of Planning Services Walter (Walt) Scharer, AICP, and media representatives

Absent: Council Member Joel R. Shores, Jr.
City Attorney Robert W. Yelton

Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and gave the invocation.

Mayor Alexander declared a recess at 10:13 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

REVIEW OF 2007-2008 GOALS, DISCUSSION OF GOALS, AND 2008-2009 GOAL SETTING AND PRIORITIZATION:

As set forth in the agenda, the closing session was intended for the purpose of setting goals for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Howell gave an overview of the City's progress concerning previously established goals and inquired if Council had any new items they wished to add after hearing all the presentations and updates.

The Mayor and each Council member were given the opportunity to express their thoughts, offer suggestions, identify objectives, and set priorities. The following list was gleaned from that discussion:

- Continue to focus on the goals previously identified as well as the state of economy
- Stay the course – conservatively due to budget concerns
- Develop a marketing plan and concentrate on public relations both internal and external (utilizing C19TV)
- Continue to build and expand partnerships

- Work on the little things and the big things will fall into place
- Concentrate on employee morale
- Continue the work of the planning documents
- Emphasize the City's boards and commissions and consider starting a citizens academy
- Study instituting a curfew
- Consider implementing a utility/community round-up program to benefit local organizations

Mayor Alexander took a moment to remind Council that their review of the City Attorney and Legal Services Agreement has yet to be completed.

Mr. Howell stated that he will compile the above list and draft a resolution to formalize Council's 2009-2010 goals and priorities for their approval at a future meeting.

Mr. Hopper attended the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Regional Legislative Update meeting on January 15, 2009 in Morganton, North Carolina and distributed the League's handout to Mayor and Council. Mayor Alexander suggested inviting our North Carolina lawmakers to a future Council meeting to discuss the City's business. Mr. Howell added that NCLM Town Hall Day, to be held in May, is a legislative rally and one-day conference held during the General Assembly session and presents a primary opportunity for municipal officials to advocate together for municipal issues during the 2009 session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

At the conclusion, Mayor Alexander, Council members, and Mr. Howell expressed their appreciation all around for the program and efforts in making this a successful retreat.

ADJOURNMENT:

1) Motion to adjourn

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Ware, second by Mr. Royster, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette A. Parduski, CMC
City Clerk

**W. Ted Alexander
Mayor**

Minutes of January 24, A. D. 2009