

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
January 6, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Troy E. Alexander, Bill Aldridge, Benton Dry, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

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The Mayor and the City Council held a Priority Planning Session in the Executive Conference Room of City Hall.

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Mayor Michael brought the meeting to order.

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Mayor Michael asked Council based on the City Master Plans they had reviewed, to list in top priority order their five choices to move forward with this year.

Economic Development Director Mark Donham reviewed each Councilmember's list of priorities and placed them on the board for everyone to review.

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The City Manager handed out information concerning utilities at 121 North Third Street (old Fire Station). He stated that the memo shows figures relating to when the Finance Department and Information Systems Department occupied the building. There is a heat pump controlling the entire first floor of the building and the upstairs is a separate unit. The office that Esther House will occupy is controlled by one thermostat. The average cost while City departments occupied the building for electric, water, and sewer was \$1195.

The City Manager stated that the average bills during the last 12 months were \$269.33. He said we could ask that they pay any amount above the average of \$269.33 if the City Council wanted all additional costs to be paid by the organization. City Council could also apply flat monthly amount such as \$150 per month, or stay at the \$100 amount that is currently stated in the contract.

Mayor Michael stated that we should consider that the electric and water rates have gone up 20% since the building was used by City departments in 2010.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council excused Councilmember Hall from voting on this issue due to her involvement with the Esther House.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved to change the contract to \$150/month for utilities of electric, gas and water and exclude the cost of natural gas and revisit this contract issue in 3 months.

Councilmember Hall came back into the meeting.

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The City Manager gave a follow up on the economic development issue from Monday night's Council meeting. Public Utilities Director Michael Leonas will be receiving more definite figures from ElectriCities tomorrow. We are hoping to have everything ready for further discussion with Council on Thursday, January 8 at 6 pm and will adjourn to this date this evening.

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Mayor and Council continued their discussion on the above issue of the City Master Plans they had reviewed, and discussing their top five priority choices.

Council reviewed items concerning the Economic Development Plan, Business Development Task Force, City Council Retreat Report 2014, Master Plan 2009, Land Use Plan 2028, Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Master Plan 2010, Pedestrian Plan and Bicycle Plan, and Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan.

It was determined that the top 5 priorities of the Mayor and Council concerning those plans per Economic Development Director Mark Donham's breakdown below:

- 1) Downtown Development Total (38)
  - a. Downtown Development (12)
  - b. Downtown Housing Total (22)
    - i. Downtown Housing(12)
    - ii. Housing Options(2)
    - iii. Central School (4)
    - iv. Albemarle Hotel (2)
    - v. Residential Dev. (2)

- c. Investor Package Downtown (4)
- 2) Corporate Park (27)
- 3) Wiscasset Baseball Park (19)
- 4) Branding – (Advertising Marketing) (15)
- 5) Economic Dev. “get business” (9)
- 6) Other
  - a. Broadband (4)
  - b. Intergovernmental Relations (4)
  - c. Mentor Network EDP (3)
  - d. Leadership Development (3)
  - e. Convention Space (3)
  - f. Existing Business Support (3)
  - g. City Wide Event (2)
  - h. Civic Engagement (2)
  - i. Way-Finding Signs (2)
  - j. Infrastructure Improvements (2)
  - k. Expand Planning and Development (2)
  - l. Create Investor Involvement (1)
  - m. Soccer Complex Lighting (1)
  - n. Sidewalks Leonard St. (1)
  - o. Fire Department Diversity (1)

Economic Development Director Mark Donham gave a report of what is presently being worked on concerning the Business Park. The next critical issue is the negotiations of land to purchase, cost of roads, and water/sewer lines.

Upon questioning, Councilmember Hughes reiterated the need to develop a timeline concerning the top ten priorities for 2015.

Council continued discussions concerning the top five priorities chosen and solutions to questions brought forth.

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Councilmember Hall brought forth economic development information concerning the small town of Greenville, Kentucky and events that they brought into the downtown.

Mayor Michael stated that the ADDC Retreat will be on Monday, January 12 from 8 am - 2 pm at Stony Mountain Vineyards.

Councilmember Townsend stated that we need to identify downtown events that will bring people into the downtown.

Mayor Michael asked Council to set a date for looking at the Capital Improvement Plan for 2016-2020. The City Manager stated that this will involve each department head and their CIP priorities and concerns. It was consensus of Council to meet on Monday, January 12 at 6 pm in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall.

Mayor Michael stated that at the January 12 meeting, Council needs to determine the Council's budget retreat date for February.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Thursday, January 8 at 6 pm in the Executive Conference Room in City Hall for an executive session.