

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL
February 19, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 6 pm in the Community Room of the 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. Also present: City Manager Raymond I. Allen, Assistant City Manager Michael J. Ferris, City Clerk E. Paulette Bowers, and Michele Ferguson with the Novak Consulting Group.

The Mayor and the City Council held a Strategic Planning Meeting in the Community Room of the City Hall.

Ms. Michele Ferguson with the Novak Group introduced herself to City Council as the facilitator for this retreat. She reviewed her agenda with Council and what to expect from the retreat. Council had been given an assignment previous to the meeting by email to write down and be able to share tonight what they personally believe to be true about the future of the City of Albemarle, starting with the events of their life that have shaped how they look at and experience “community”.

Ms. Ferguson asked Mayor/Council to each state what their expectations were for tonight. Next, the Mayor and Council were each given 5-7 minutes to read their assignment of telling what they believe to be true about the future of the City. These exercises were to develop an understanding of the different perspectives of the members of Council and to begin a shared vision for the Council.

Ms. Ferguson had Council to identify aspects of the community that Council would either like to “keep”, “drop”, or “create”. This is to develop a clear understanding of where Council is now and a start to building a foundation for the key focus areas that Council will create tonight.

Council created items that narrowed the focus areas down to the following four as being most important: Economic Development, Housing Options, Intergovernmental Relations, and Civic Involvement.

Ms. Ferguson now asked Council to identify and define those four key focus areas. She divided the Mayor and seven Councilmembers into groups of two, having 4 groups. Each group was asked to complete the following two questions for their group:

The four groups were Economic Development, Housing Options, Intergovernmental Relations, and Civic Involvement. Each group answered the following two questions concerning their focus area.

- 1) What problem do we want to solve?
- 2) What does success look like?

Ms. Ferguson asked Council to each give comments of how they feel after completing the exercises.

Ms. Ferguson summarized items Council agreed on during the retreat and gave her closing thoughts. She stated that she will be creating a summary of all this information and getting it back to Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, February 20, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall for another Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Planning and Budgeting Work Session.