



**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

ABSENT: Cotner

Councilmember Baker arrived at 9:20am.

EXPLANATION OF PROCESS FOR RETREAT

Council Retreat Memo

Clerk Prasher explained that this Council work session would be a fast-paced, productive and enjoyable event. Council intended to work to set its goals and objectives for the next four years. The hope was that the items discussed, the information presented, and the thought process shared would benefit Council and the Administration, which, in turn, will benefit the residents of Reynoldsburg. Per the agenda, Council will complete a variety of discussions and activities to determine their goals and objectives. In addition to the discussion, the "take away" will be a list of Council activities/policies/goals that will be shared with the Mayor, staff and the community. The final goals will be listed and described as a final product of this work session.

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON COUNCIL

Councilmembers were asked "What do you want to accomplish as a Councilmember in the next four years? And how do these accomplishments benefit the City and its residents?" Each Councilmember shared their personal stories as to why they wanted to be a Reynoldsburg City Council member.

The responses to these questions form the basis of a low-key, nominal group consensus building exercise. This exercise is not a master-planning activity. This process tends to eliminate the squeaky wheel and generates a consensus among participants. The results are not statistically significant, only a list of future activities and a general direction to pursue. The result of this exercise does not address the question of how the selected goals can be accomplished. Those questions can be outlined by working with the Mayor and staff.

GOALS

2022 Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives established in 2022 were reviewed. Mayor Begeny explained the status of each of these goals and reviewed any ongoing progress. Many of the goals were completed or in the process of being completed.

2024 Goals & Objectives

Each Councilmember provided their individual suggestions for the next set of goals or objectives.

The list of items suggested were:

- walkability/connectivity
- additional housing - single-family, condo, apartments
- survey on employee morale
- written policies and procedures regarding purchase orders, update from paper to digital, updated software technology
- increased senior outreach
- more family-oriented entertainment development
- citywide composting
- reduce/eliminate plastics
- maintain/retain resident population
- sidewalk extensions
- add ESL programs
- increase all communications
- disseminate how government works
- outside information kiosk
- credit card payment for event sponsors
- diversity in development
- continue DEI grant program and work with banks
- think toward future expansion of the YMCA
- implement a citywide composting program
- increase senior outreach
- establish written Policies & Procedures including purchase orders, move to digital versus paper, upgrade software technology

Goal Voting Sheet and Tabulation

Council was given a tabulation sheet to rank their top ten goals. Clerk Prasher tabulated the results and shared with Council.

Major Goals

- more family-oriented entertainment development
- diversity in development opportunities
- walkability/connectivity

Minor Goals

- additional housing (single-family, condo, apartments)
- Civic Park improvements
- more parking in Olde Town
- improve community outreach (Facebook & YouTube)
- promote community pride and connectedness
- events to promote local businesses like Small Business Saturday
- increase all communications
- continue DEI grant program and facilitate connection to local banks
- expand YMCA in the future
- citywide composting
- senior outreach
- Policies & Procedures manuals including purchase orders, digital versus paper, and upgraded software technology

DISCUSSION OF CITY EVENTS

The Mayor discussed with Council about the many events held in the City each year and that any events sponsored as City events are the responsibility of the City. Those events must all be coordinated with the City's Events Manager Jennifer Clemens. All coordination, organizational aspects, financial issues, and final decision-making process were the responsibility of the City through Jennifer Clemens. The City had a limited number of staff in the Communications/Events department that handles all of the many City events. All City policies and procedures must also be followed.

The City has several events that have been established based on the interest and support of Councilmembers. These events are growing and have required additional staff support. The MLK Breakfast requires three to five volunteers, Juneteenth requires five to ten volunteers, Pride requires three to five volunteers, and Diwali requires fifteen to twenty volunteers. The Events Department only consists of Manager Clemens, the



Communications Specialist position, and Parks & Recreation seasonal workers.

There have been some questions regarding collecting sponsorship funds and the City's role in handling those funds. Many communities funnel funds through local foundations. The Reynoldsburg Community Association would be the likely group to actually handle the organization of these events; however, that organization express no interest in taking on any of these events. The city of Columbus used the Columbus Foundation.

Moving forward in the next couple of years, I want to establish a Director of Communications and Events position along with an Events Manager and Communication Specialist positions.

The Mayor asked Councilmembers to consider whether these events should remain City managed events or work toward moving them to a non-profit group. Should these events be moved to a not for profit organization, the City would still support these events.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present.

FINAL COMMENTS

Clerk Prasher thanked Council for their participation today. The goals and objectives will be finalized along with the minutes and included in the February 12, 2024, Council meeting packet.

During the next two years, Council will periodically review their goals to determine the status and progress.

Adjournment

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of
Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council