

GASTONIA CITY COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2023 – 12:000 NOON

CITY OF GASTONIA MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS CENTER
(MOC) TRAINING ROOM, 1300 BROAD ST., GASTONIA, NC

Mayor Richard Franks called the Project Update Meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023, in the City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center (MOC) Training Room, 1300 Broad Street, Gastonia, North Carolina. Ms. Suzanne Gibbs, City Clerk, recorded the minutes.

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Franks
 Council Members: Robert Kellogg
 Dave Kirlin
 Jim Gallagher (attending via Webex and arrived late to attend in person at approximately 4:30 p.m.)
 Charles Odom
 Jennifer Stepp
 Donyel Barber

City Manager Michael C. Peoples
 Assistant City Attorney Charles Graham
 Assistant City Manager Adrian Miller
 Assistant City Manager Melody Braddy Reagan
 Assistant City Manager Quentin T. McPhatter

ABSENT: None

Staff attending included: Ms. Crystal Certain, Director of Financial Services; Ms. Jessie Williams, Assistant Director of Financial Services; Ms. Mary Elliott, Director of Marketing and Communications; Mr. Trent Conard, Police Chief; Mr. Phil Welch, Fire Chief; Mr. Robert Cloninger, Assistant Director of Public Works; Mr. Brian Potocki, Director of Public Utilities; Mr. Rusty Bost, Director of Development Services; Ms. Kristy Crisp, Director of Economic Development; Ms. Judy Smith, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Chris Koltyk, Chief Information Officer; Mr. Tripp White, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jason Thompson, Planning Director; Ms. Cherie Jzar, Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Ann Tippitt, Director of Schiele Museum; Ms. Danette Dye, Housing and Neighborhoods Director; Ms. Randi Gates, Director of Transportation; Ms. Allison Brockman, Division Manager of Solid Waste

WELCOME, OPENING COMMENTS, AND
MEETING GUIDELINES

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Mayor Franks welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves. Two new employees from the Police Department introduced themselves: Ms. Tonya Taylor, Research Analyst, and Mr. Bill McGinty, Police PIO/PIS.

City Manager Michael Peoples explained the goal of this project meeting is to make for time for teambuilding and conversation regarding mission, vision, core values, goals, and objectives at the strategic planning meetings in January.

PROJECTS IN GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- **Transportation Department**
Garrison Boulevard Corridor Study and
Potential RAISE Grant Application
Microtransit Update

Ms. Randi Gates, Director of Transportation, introduced Mr. Scott Curry, Transportation Planner with Kittelson & Associates. Mr. Curry provided updates on the Garrison Boulevard Corridor Study and alternatives for potential improvements and roadway design. He provided information on the potential RAISE Grant.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward and bring additional information back for consideration.

Ms. Randi Gates provided an update on microtransit service. She spoke about the current transit service, current challenges with fixed route service, and the benefits of microtransit. She spoke about the microtransit service options provided by the vendor Via.

It was the consensus of Council to recommend moving forward with the microtransit project with information to be available for consideration at the January 2, 2024, Council meeting.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 1)

- **Development Services**
Transportation General Obligation Bond Project Updates

Mr. Rusty Bost, Director of Development Services, provided information on some of the Capital Transportation projects including resurfacing projects, manhole adjustments, parks and school safety improvements, intersection congestion mitigations, Franklin Boulevard and Trenton Street intersection, Remount Road Pedestrian Project, Avon Creek Greenway Extension, Catawba Creek Greenway Extension, FTA-funded new sidewalks, and signal system update.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 2)

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- **Planning**
Residential Development
Industrial Development
UDO and Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Jason Thompson, Planning Director, provided information on the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regulations, UDO upgrades, and the Comprehensive Plan Updates.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 3)

- **Schiele Museum**
Entrance Drive Project
Paleo Exhibit / Fundraising Update

Dr. Ann Tippitt, Director of the Schiele Museum, provided an update on the Schiele Museum including completed infrastructure upgrades, programs at the Museum, updates to the lobby of the Museum and the Paleo Exhibit, and future projects at the Museum.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 4)

- **Parks and Recreation**
Linwood Springs Project
Walker E. Reid, III Park Project

Mr. Tripp White, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented information on the Linwood Springs Project and the Walker E. Reid, III Park (formerly Marietta Park).

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 5)

- **Public Works**
Solid Waste Campus Project
Solid Waste

Mr. Robert Cloninger, Assistant Director of Public Works, presented information on the Public Works Campus Improvements Projects for Phases 2, 3 and 4. Phase 1 is currently under construction.

Ms. Allison Brockman, Division Manager of Solid Waste, presented information on the Solid Waste 5-Year Comprehensive Plan, Solid Waste services, Solid Waste equipment, Solid Waste current service levels, and plans for the growth and efficiency of the Solid Waste Division.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 6)

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- **Technology Services**
Customer Care Center Update

Mr. Chris Koltyk, Chief Information Officer, presented information on the Customer Care Call Center.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 7)

- **Housing & Community Engagement**
Affordable Housing Plan
CBDO & CHDO Updates
HOME – ARP Funding Update

Mr. Quentin McPhatter, Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of the Affordable Housing Plan which was approved by City Council on November 21, 2023, including information on Housing Advisory Boards.

Ms. Danette Dye, Director of Housing and Neighborhoods, provided information on the CBDO and CHDO and HOME ARP funding.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 8)

- **Fire Department**
Planning for Future Stations
Fire Apparatus
Breathing Apparatus Replacement

Mr. Phil Welch, Fire Chief, presented information related to future fire station locations, fire apparatus replacement schedule, and SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) replacement.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 9)

- **Police Department**
Real Time Crime Center
Shooting Range Improvements
Civilian Traffic Crash Investigators

Mr. Trent Conard, Police Chief, presented information related to plans to cover the Police Department Firing Range, Incinerator for Property and Evidence (P & E), Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), and Civilian Traffic Crash Investigators.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 10)

CITY COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATE MEETING, DECEMBER 14, 2023**PROJECTS IN WATER, SEWER, AND ELECTRIC**

- **Water**
- **Sewer**
- **Electric**

Mr. Brian Potocki, Director of Public Utilities, provided an overview related to the water/sewer service area map and the Two Rivers Utilities Sewer Basins and Facilities. He provided information relevant to water and sewer rates, electric rates, and rates for electric vehicle chargers. Information was provided related to the Sewer Volume Allocation Policy and the Water & Sewer Petition Process Policy.

Mr. Potocki provided information on the Southeast Utility Project, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project, the Apple Creek Corporate Park Sewer Upgrade, Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Flow Capacity, US EPA Lead and Copper Rule, Mountain Island Pump Station Upgrade, NCDOT Projects for Utility Relocations, and ARPA Projects.

Mr. Potocki provided information on Electric Projects including Substation 18, Franklin Boulevard decorative streetlights, and LED streetlight conversions.

Mr. Robert Cloninger, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, provided information on the Duharts Critical Infrastructure Protection and Stream Restoration.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 11)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **In Kind Services**

It was the consensus of the Council to add the In-Services Policy discussion to the December 19, 2023, Regular Council Agenda.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 12)

SUMMARY

- **Recap of Today's Progress**

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Councilman Kellogg provided a handout to all Councilmembers on the Salvation Army Cold Weather Shelter and a flyer for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. A copy of both handouts are included in the exhibits.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 5 to Minute Book 113 at Page 13)

Mayor Franks adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Mayor Richard Franks

Charles Graham, Assistant City Attorney

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk

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