



TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

William M. Sutton, Mayor
Eugene J. Schulze, Mayor Pro Tempore
William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier,
and Denise C. Wilkie, Council Members
Bruce A. Radford, Town Manager
Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk
Henry C. Fordham, Jr., Town Attorney

The Apex Town Council Retreat scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. was held at the Halle Cultural Arts Center, 237 N. Salem Street

In attendance were Mayor William M. Sutton, Mayor Pro Tem Eugene J. Schulze, and Council Members William S. Jensen, Scott R. Lassiter, Nicole L. Dozier, and Denise C. Wilkie. Also in attendance were Town Manager Bruce A. Radford, Town Clerk Donna B. Hosch, and Town Attorney Henry C. Fordham, Jr.

Staff members in attendance were: HR Director Eleanor Green, Engineering Director Kent Jackson, Facilities and Maintenance Director Marty Mitchell, IT Director Peter LaPiana, Police Chief John Letteney, Parks and Recreation Director John Brown, Fire Chief Mark Haraway, Finance Director Lee Smiley, Assistant Public Works Director David Hughes, Communications Director Stacie Galloway, Planning Director Dianne Khin, EMS Director Randall Heath, Police Captain Jacques Gilbert, and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Maynard.

Mayor Sutton called the retreat to order and welcomed David Hughes back to the Town as Assistant Public Works Director. The purpose of the Retreat was stated. The Town Manager further detailed with the big picture view.

The HR Director led the teambuilding exercise.

The Town Manger presented and led the discussion on the Strategic Plan which consists of five major priorities. Added discussion ensued surrounding the Town's philosophy on competitive pay, funding for fire station two and particularly EMS, the benchmarking study, the future of fire station one which can be closed and reorganized, park lands and the availability for purchase of Pleasant Plains,

enhancement/addition of recreation programs for older as well as younger children, infrastructure and growth, and road maintenance.

Mayor Sutton called for a short break.

The Town Manager continued presentation of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Tom Haney, citizen and business owner, provided input on impact fees, discussion expanding on these fees.

The HR Director presented statistics on position projections, discussion centering on how well Apex operates with a low employee/1,000 population number.

The Finance Director presented the various services projects and the Public Works Director presented additional information and statistics on meters, street sweeping, the wastewater plant, and the public works expansion phase 1. Conversation ensued on funded and unfunded Transportation Projects and Parks Projects.

The Public Works Director led the discussion on Stormwater Utility, which is a fee. Explained was what services could be paid for with such a fee and how a program could be implemented. This would be a way to take pressure off of the General Fund. After some further discussion, the general consensus of Council was to not consider this fee at this time. However, it was good food for thought.

The Finance Director spoke on a potential new bond referendum for parks and recreation and transportation projects. There was an update on the current bond situation. The debt was briefly discussed.

The Parks and Recreation Director spoke about the request/need for a skate plaza, noting that Christine Hilt, contracted to work on this project, would speak further on the issue. Ms. Hilt outlined the five phases of the project and what each would entail including cost estimates. There are a lot of skateboarding enthusiasts in the area and the Chamber has committed to support this effort. Police Captain Gilbert explained what this would mean to the community and how it would benefit the youth. Council expressed the wish to fund phases 1 through 4 all at one time for \$635,000. Fundraising donations could be utilized to pay for a portion of Phase 5, Ms. Hilt giving a \$175,000 donation estimate. Discussed was donors bringing in material fill and naming rights. Council asked about the possibility of

a splash pad in this location. Ms. Hilt answered that extra parking would need to be available, and she expressed the importance of older youth having their own space without mingling with younger children.

The Facilities and Fleet Services Director introduced John Hitch and Rhonda Angerio from Smith Sinnett Architectural Firm who presented design options for a new Community Center. There were no decisions made or guidance given to staff by Council.

The Mayor gave a brief summary of today's topics and thanked staff for all their hard work on today's presentations. The Town Manager expressed his appreciation as well.

All except those involved in the Closed Session were excused.

Donna B. Hosch, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

William M. Sutton, Mayor

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