

Friday - August 22, 1997 - 1:00 p.m.

North Fork Reservoir

Mid-Year Retreat

Present: Mayor Russell Martin, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Barbara Field; Councilman M. Charles Cloninger; Councilman Edward C. Hay Jr.; Councilman Thomas G. Sellers; and Councilman Charles R. Worley; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; City Manager James L. Westbrook Jr.; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Absent: Councilman James J. Skalski

City Council reviewed their Fiscal Year 1996/97 Strategic Plan.

City Development Director John Scaralia reviewed a revised Economic Development Policy. City Council pointed out some areas where the policy could be strengthened in terms of explanation and wording, and discussed the policy and its impact on the City in general. City Council instructed the City Manager to bring this matter before the Council at a future worksession for discussion before final approval.

Planning & Development Director Julia Cogburn briefed Council on the Map of Consideration (for annexation) and a proposal for the development of a five-year annexation plan. Her comments were made from the standpoint of the City's need to establish reasons for annexation and for having an annexation plan. Budget Director Bob Wurst discussed the financial impact of annexation both on the City and the residents who would be annexed. The major point of his report was the loss of state revenue if the City does not continue to annex and have its population grow when compared to the County and other large municipalities across the state. As a result of the briefing, it was the consensus of City Council to (1) hire a consultant to perform an annexation feasibility study with the possible date to be presented to City Council in March, 1998; (2) that the extraterritorial issue be considered as part of the annexation plan; and (3) that the adoption of the Map of Consideration be considered at a future worksession.

Planning & Development Director Julia Cogburn updated City Council on the nonconforming sign enforcement. She emphasized the amount of work and the volume of signs that had to be reviewed and worked with on an individual basis.

City Attorney Bob Oast reviewed several organizational issues with Council, in addition to the new law which will go into effect on October 1, 1997, relative to closed session. It was the consensus of City Council (1) to eliminate the roll call vote on all ordinance amendments; (2) to delay any changes to the quorum provisions; (3) to instruct the City Attorney to proceed with a Charter change to be consistent with State law relative to the number of times City Council must meet a month; (4) to review information regarding rezonings, land use, etc. at worksessions prior to the scheduled public hearings; and (5) to instruct the City Attorney begin formulating a Rule change to allow routine procedural matters to be acted upon at any meeting properly called.

After City Attorney Oast presented several options on restructuring public comment due to the televised Council meetings, it was the consensus of City Council to not make any changes regarding public comment at this time.

City Manager Westbrook reviewed with City Council the possibility of evolving our current worksession (committee of the whole) to a more specialized standing committee system. Council agreed that a standing committee system has merit and

suggested the City Manager have this as a -2-

possible topic at the Annual Retreat in January after the new City Council takes office.

Director of Building Safety Terry Summey briefed City Council on the progress and concerns regarding enforcement of the Housing Code. City Council was committed to the enforcement of the Code. It was the consensus of Council to (1) investigate holding water service transfers until a housing inspection is obtained; (2) mandate third party inspectors for all initial inspections; and (3) instruct staff to initiate other changes that would increase the City's ability to inspect its housing stock.

Councilman Worley briefed Council on the Bicentennial Committee's funding. It was the consensus of Council to proceed at the next formal meeting with a budget amendment to match a grant from Carolina Power & Light Company, in the amount of \$12,500, for the street festival commemorating the bicentennial.

It was the consensus of City Council, at the request of Vice-Mayor Field, to move quickly on a policy on traffic calming measures and if adopted, to make the policy a part of the Standard Specifications and Details Manual.

Councilman Cloninger felt that the Greenway Committee needed to meet and discuss the \$75,000 greenway grant the City has received and how the City will be involved with regard to that grant. He said that after the Committee meets, he will report back to Council.

At the request of Vice-Mayor Field, Planning & Development Director Julia Cogburn explained to Council the status of the affordable housing policy.

Mayor Martin adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

CITY CLERK MAYOR
