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Special Meeting of the City Council (Retreat)
March 11, 2019– 9:00 A.M. – Willowbrook Manor

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M. Councilmembers Present: Brenda
Kinzer, Germaine Kornegay, Chuck Owen, Judith Dunn Lee, Karl de Jong, Jared Couch and
Pola Kelley.

Also in attendance was City Supervisor/Attorney Berg and meeting facilitator, Mike Bailey.

Mayor Johnson welcomed the council, introduced Mike Bailey and outlined the purpose for
day's meeting.

Mike Bailey introduced himself and kicked off the meeting with a warm up exercise. Phil
Murray (citizen) joined the meeting at 9:15 A.M. Bailey briefed the council on the results of the
survey he sent to participants. Discussion followed and almost immediately shifted to a robust
conversation about business development, particularly in the downtown core. He continued
sharing results of the survey and more discussion followed.

Bailey talked about the characteristics of a high performing city and then posed the question to
the group: what characteristics result in a high performing council? Discussion followed.

Break: 10:20-10:35

The meeting resumed with Bailey asking members to identify three goals/issues for the city that
could be implemented relatively soon. Mayor Johnson passed out a handout with her thoughts
on policies, vision and goals. Bailey also passed out the city council's critical goals and
objectives most recently updated in the fall of 2018. He asked about the committee structure.
Council discussion included a desire to be part of the discussion regarding assigning
councilmembers to committees. Mayor Johnson expressed a desire to see the committees
become more active and then bring items back to the council for discussion. Councilman de
Jong stated a desire to see all committee meetings include public comment, in an effort to create
maximum transparency.

Bailey read the cards with members' goals. A discussion regarding the city's identity followed
along with a discussion regarding means of cleaning up the downtown's appearance. Concerns
about the lack of recreation were discussed. The consensus of the council is that adding a
recreation element to the city's parks department is important.   Members also expressed an
interest in developing a plan. The council also talked about the importance of public art in the
community. Councilman Couch expressed a desire to discuss the possibility of a levy lid lift to
better fund the police department, specifically, the fund new positions.

Lunch: 12:00PM-1:00PM.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 1:04PM. Additional staff members joined the group. Planning Director Coleman, Finance Director Merriman, Police Chief Tucker, IT Director Chambers, Fire Chief Klinger and Public Works Director Freiberger (1:07 P.M.). Facilitator Bailey and the group introduced themselves by high school graduation. He then oriented the meeting to the agenda of the day and then shared more results from the survey. Discussion followed.

Bailey asked each member of the group to identify three items that warrant the attention of the leadership group. Councilman Owen left the meeting at approximately 2:00 P.M. Bailey led a discussion of the items identified by the group (staffing, strategic planning, revenue issues and recreation, for example).

Break: 2:30-2:45 P.M.

They returned to continue working through survey responses to the question about what is needed to improve the city. Specific topics included transportation, parks, recreation, economic development, livability, environment, code enforcement, solid waste/public works facility, housing and succession planning. Discussion following regarding strategic planning, biennial budgeting and financial planning.

Mayor Johnson thanked Bailey for his work as facilitator for today's meeting. Terry Gifford was thanked for hosting the meeting at the Willowbrook Manor. The Mayor also thanked the council and staff for participating in today's meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.