

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Present:

Mayor Mattie Parker
Mayor Pro tem Gyna M. Bivens, District 5
Council Member Carlos Flores, District 2
Council Member Michael D. Crain, District 3
Council Member Charlie Lauersdorf, District 4
Council Member Jared Williams, District 6
Council Member Macy Hill, District 7
Council Member Chris Nettles, District 8 (Arrived at 1:41 p.m.)
Council Member Elizabeth Beck, District 9
Council Member Alan Blaylock, District 10
Council Member Jeanette Martinez, District 11

Staff Present:

David Cooke, City Manager
Leann Guzman, City Attorney
Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, Mayor Parker called the Special Called City Council Retreat of the Fort Worth City Council to order 12:24 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in the City Council Conference Room 2020 of the Fort Worth City Hall, 200 Texas Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

2. Welcome - Mayor Mattie Parker

Mayor Parker provided opening remarks.

3. Priority Accomplishments - Mayor Mattie Parker

Mayor Parker provided a summary of the presentation on priority accomplishments. Council identified the following as key points or additions.

Council Member Hill stated that the City can do better helping our residents out of poverty.

Council Member Beck stated a priority is to reduce or clear the development barriers to affordable housing projects.

Mayor Pro tem Bivens stated a priority is to partner more with social service providers to help identify triggers and be more proactive.

Council Member Flores highlighted the public safety assessment in West 7th and the Stockyards area.

Mayor Parker recommended including projects to address homelessness and future issues relating to homelessness.

Mayor Parker recommended expanding the fourth bullet point on the community safety items, slide 5.

Council Member Lauersdorf suggesting working to strengthen the relationship with the Court System to help address public safety and community concerns.

Council Member Hill recommended the need for increased resources relating to animal control specifically with loose dogs.

Council Member Blaylock recommended including school zones and school crossing safety issues and concerns.

Council Member Blaylock highlighted the work Council did this past year with Fire and Police but also the need to continue improvements in areas such as traffic enforcement.

Council Member Beck suggested including the work the Law Department and other Departments did relating to nuisance abatement.

Mayor Parker and Council Member Nettles recommended increasing funds for PayGo.

Mayor Parker stressed the need to continue finding ways to explain for residents the tax bill.

Council Member Beck stressed the need to continue looking at base-level salaries for employees.

Council Member Flores recommended including the Green Space/Good Nature Program.

Council Member Beck stated that Council and Staff have done a good job on prioritizing infrastructure but the City must continue working on being forward thinking.

Council Member Williams stated that the City needs to ensure the available infrastructure resources are there to meet future demands.

Council Member Williams recommended including neighborhood street improvement increases in addition to major arterials.

Council Member Lauersdorf recommended improving the messaging around infrastructure improvements to help residents understand the cost and the benefits.

Council Member Flores suggested changing the word “evaluation” on the second bullet point on slide 8 to be less passive.

Council Member Hill suggested including increase sidewalks to help with Safe Routes to School.

Mayor Parker suggested these slides need to be more comprehensive to be useful and suggested obtaining input from departments, Council Offices on accomplishments to include and future areas to be considered.

Council Member Williams recommended adding incentives for small businesses.

Council Member Williams recommended finding ways to expand our MBE Performance goals.

Mayor Parker recommended including programs such as Mainstreet America.

4. Fiscal Health - City Manager David Cooke

Presentation was made by David Cooke, City Manager.

Council identified the following questions:

- Council Member Beck requested information on how the data would look if we classified multifamily as commercial.
- Council Member Blaylock asked for information on other than the actual evaluations are there other ways to compare residential and commercial development such as volume.
- Mayor Pro tem Bivens requested a list of other cities with a population of 750,000 or above that consider multi-family as residential.
- Council Member Williams requested more information on the market study for pay including how does that translate into a salary that allows employees to afford to live in the City.
- Council Member Lauersdorf requested a break out of the 18.8% of Fixed Cost Ration.

5. Council Vision and Values - Hilary Shine, SRG

Presentation was given by Hilary Shine, SGR.

Council identified the following vision thoughts (slide 7) as key:

- Quality of Life (Council Member Lauersdorf)
- Strong Neighborhood (Mayor Pro tem Bivens)
- Fiscally Responsible (Council Member Hill)
- Deliberative Decisions (Council Member Beck)
- Safe City (Council Member Blaylock)
- Community Engagement (Council Member Martinez)

Council identified the following value thoughts (slide 8) as key:

- Integrity (Council Member Lauersdorf)
- Transparency (Council Member Hill)
- Fiscal Responsibility (Council Member Hill)
- Stewardship (Council Member Beck)
- Community Engagement (Council Member Martinez)

- Equitable Access (Council Member Nettles)
- Excellence (Council Member Hill)
- People-Focused (Mayor Parker)
- Depoliticalizing the term Equity (Mayor Parker)
- Data Focused (Mayor Parker)

6. Review of Strategic Priorities and Goals - Hilary Shine, SRG

Presentation was given by Hilary Shine, SGR.

Council identified the following current issues (slide 14) as key:

- Affordable Housing City-Wide/Attainable Housing (Council Member Nettles)
- Public Safety (Council Member Lauersdorf)
- Emergency Medical Response Services/Aging Facilities (Council Member Williams)
- Mental Health (Council Member Martinez)

Council identified the following as key:

- School Crossing Safety (Council Member Blaylock)
- Different parking requirements based on type of school (Council Member Williams)
- Separate Affordable Housing and Homelessness (Mayor Parker)
- Identifying metrics by which these goals are measured (Mayor Parker)
- Leveraging relationships with other Entities such as the County (Council Member Hill)
- A clear definition of “Financial Responsibility” (Council Member Beck)

7. Priority Based Budgeting - Deputy City Manager Mark McDaniel, Christianne Simmons, FWLab CTO, and Chris Fabian, ResourceX CEO

Presentation was made by Chris Fabian, CEO, ResourceX and Christianne Simmons, FWLab.

Council Member Williams requested information on the timeline for implementing Priority Based Budget City-Wide.

Council had the following recommendations relating to the Budget Process:

- Schedule additional shorter budget work sessions.
- Include Council or Council Staff in Department budget discussions.
- Identify other community engagement methods such as online surveys to solicit feedback from residents.
- Schedule community engagement meetings earlier in the discussions.
- Employ additional technology methods to increase community engagement.

8. Defining Expectations - Hilary Shine, SRG

Presentation was given by Hilary Shine, SGR.

Ms. Shine informed Council that the discussion from today would be formalized and brought back to Council for approval.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Parker adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.