



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Retreat

Semiahmoo Resort
9565 Semiahmoo Parkway, Blaine, WA 98230
May 19-21, 2022

Councilmembers Present: Marilyn Oertle, Don Vanney, Jan Schuette, Michele Blythe, and Heather Logan.

Council Members Absent: Debora Nelson

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Sarah Lopez, Jim Kelly, Kristin Garcia, Amy Rusko, Bryan Terry, Marc Hayes, Marty Wray, Chief Jonathan Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Kraski, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Julie Petersen.

Also Known to be Present: Sid Logan and Kathy Vanney.

Retreat facilitator, Steve Peiffle called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Mr. Peiffle began by requesting the expectations for the retreat from the attendees. The expectations included a deeper dive into implementing a structure of priorities for Capital Project planning, Comprehensive Plan and Transportation, Public Safety, and other topics raised through the weekend.

2020-2021 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

City Administrator Paul Ellis, reviewed the projects that were completed and the status of the current projects. He reviewed the Public Safety Staffing, Fiscal Sustainability Plan with the Capital Facilities Plan including the current and future revenues that includes Park and Playground Equipment, Affordable Housing, Transportation Plan, Water, Sewer, and Storm Capital Improvement Plan, Airport maintenance, Annexations, and Corridor Improvements.

Finance Director Kristin Garcia reviewed the Operations budget, Grant funding status, funding needs for the proposed Capital Projects, Cares Act, and ARPA funding. Kristin will provide the list of details for the Capital projects expenditures.

Staff answered questions from the Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert. Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert acknowledged and thanked the staff for the large amount of work that was able to be completed during the pandemic.

Community and Economic Director Marc Hayes reviewed the 2024 Comprehensive Plan that includes Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Capital Facilities, Transportation, Utilities, Open Space, and Parks and Recreation. He described the basis of the City's obligations and guidelines from Growth Management Act rules under the RCW 36.70 A.040.

He described the current comprehensive plan and the structure of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. He introduced the proposed outline of the Comprehensive Plan with the organized foundational principals and the intent and importance of implementation with specified project costs.

He reviewed the City of Arlington's Growth Management Act (GMA) responsibilities of implementing the goals that apply the RCW requirements and the consequences from WA State if not implemented accordingly.

Marc provided details on the growth projections and proposed Urban Growth Area (UGA) Expansions.

Discussion ensued and staff answered questions from the Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert.

Thursday, May 19, 2022 the retreat was recessed at 4:00 pm and will reconvene Friday, May 20, 2022 at 8:20 am.

Friday, May 20, 2022 the Council Retreat resumed at 8:20 am. Retreat facilitator, Steve Peiffle, called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Councilmembers Present: Marilyn Oertle, Don Vanney, Jan Schuette, Michele Blythe, and Heather Logan.

Council Members Absent: Debora Nelson

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Sarah Lopez, Jim Kelly, Kristin Garcia, Amy Rusko, Bryan Terry, Marc Hayes, Marty Wray, Chief Jonathan Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Kraski, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Julie Petersen.

Also Known to be Present: Sid Logan and Kathy Vanney.

Mr. Peiffle asked of the Councilmembers and staff what their reflections were on the information received on Thursday. Discussion ensued.

Public Works Director Jim Kelly, described the Comprehensive Plan Elements, Goals, Policies, and Strategies for the Transportation 2045 Plan. The Transportation Plan covers the rail, trail, sidewalks, bike, bus, freight, and personal vehicles. He described the requirements that the plan must follow with State and Regional goals on environmental sustainability, future housing, economic development, and siting of public services.

He described the Water System Plan covering details of State Law requirements and future demands on the system and improvements needed to be financially self-sufficient. He shared the requirements for the Clean Drinking Water Act from the Department of Health and explained the Hammer Water Right Transfer. He shared the plans for improvements at Haller Well South and Expansion of WTP.

He commented on the 10 year plan 2023-2032 and the 20 year plan 2033-2043 and the goal of a Draft plan to be ready by February 2023. This plan will be addressing the increase in population needs, permitting needs, protecting the environment with the state regulations, capital improvements, replacing old infrastructure and ensuring maintenance plan is in place.

He shared the accomplishments from the 2015 Comprehensive Wastewater Plan and the continuation of the projects outlined within the plan. He briefly touched on the grant funding and financial stability we have for our projects and the changes that will need to be considered as the financial positioning shifts. Mr. Kelly answered questions from the councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert.

Airport Deputy Director Marty Wray presented the current airport structure and updates. He described the critical aspects of the Masterplan and its importance for economic and growth for the future. He shared the Masterplan will begin later this year and will be completed in approximately two years. He shared some details that will be shown in the plan when it is finished such as; terminal building with updated service facilities, vertical take-off and landing area, electrical upgrades and vehicle charging stations, security for tenants and the airport, additional road access, educational centers, and other necessary improvements.

Mr. Wray shared the financial health of the airport budget with the history of grants and economic impact it has on the City of Arlington. He played a video for the Council and Staff from Aviation.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Wray answered questions from the Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert.

Community and Economic Development Director Marc Hayes announced that he will have the Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert be participating in an Interconnectivity Matrix of Foundational Principals. He explained the goals in detail for this exercise and the elements that needed to be considered when determining the measurable outcomes for the following: Equity, Economic Stability and Vibrancy, Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience, Neighborhoods and Connectivity, and Healthy Active Lifestyles. He asked that the Councilmembers chose one of the topics to focus on and be able to work with others that have pieces of information that fit to help reach the desired outcome for the chosen goal.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Hayes answered questions from the Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert.

Friday, May 20, 2022 the retreat was recessed at approximately 2:30 pm and will reconvene Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 8:20 am.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 the Council Retreat resumed at 8:20 am. Retreat facilitator, Steve Peiffle, called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Councilmembers Present: Marilyn Oertle, Don Vanney, Jan Schuette, Michele Blythe, and Heather Logan.

Council Members Absent: Debora Nelson

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Sarah Lopez, Jim Kelly, Kristin Garcia, Bryan Terry, Marc Hayes, Marty Wray, Chief Jonathan Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Kraski, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Julie Petersen.

Also Known to be Present: Sid Logan and Kathy Vanney.

Mr. Peiffle asked of the Councilmembers and staff what their reflections were on the information received from Thursday and Friday. Discussion ensued.

Police Chief Jonathan Ventura engaged the staff, Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert in an activity that presented options on which department in the City would be an effective partner with public safety.

He presented highlights from the DRAFT 2022 Annual Report. He shared details regarding the financial stability of the police department funding and spending, hiring and employee training, crime data reporting, professional standards, community engagement, the Use of Force, implementation of body worn cameras, technology upgrades, public safety strategic planning, investing in social worker and mental health professionals, citizen engagement, stakeholders and human service partners, drug use and outreach, homelessness and housing, youth dynamics and resources, State Legislature for Police Reform, police officer accountability, Lexipol policy, other local law enforcement partners, using social media to help track and communicate a positive representation, and how all the departments in the City play a role in Public Safety.

North County Regional Fire Authority Deputy Chief of Operations Dave Kraski provided a summary of efforts to support the City and described the continued partnership in services provided to the City. He briefly talked about administrative changes in staffing, new equipment and other technology updates. He shared the support to Eviation and the call statistics.

Information Technology Director Bryan Terry shared his efforts in updating technology for the different departments in the City to help achieve public safety.

Finance Director Kristin Garcia reviewed the timeline for the next budget cycle starting in July and completing the approval in December of 2022.

Mr. Peiffle asked the Staff, Councilmembers and Mayor Tolbert what their final reflections were on the information received from the retreat. Discussion ensued with a focus of public safety being interwove across all City projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, the Council Retreat was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.


Barbara Tolbert, Mayor