

**City Council of the City of Greenville
Work Session**

**Monday, October 24, 2022
4:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Location:
Greenville City Hall, Third Floor Conference Room, 206 S. Main Street**

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White, Councilmember John M. DeWorken, Councilmember Lillian B. Flemming, Councilmember Kenneth C. Gibson, Councilmember Wil Brasington, Councilmember Russell H. Stall, and Councilmember Dorothy H. Dowe

CITY STAFF: City Manager John F. McDonough; City Attorney Leigh B. Paoletti;
City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

Mayor White called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Economic Development Strategic Plan (Resonance)

Economic and Community Development Director Merle Johnson thanked Council for its support of GVL2040 and introduced Steven Pedigo, Resonance Consultancy Vice President of Economic Development, to provide today's presentation.

Mr. Pedigo presented an overview of the Economic Development Strategic Plan as provided in Council's agenda packet and outlined each of the seven goals and strategies as incorporated in the proposed plan. Mr. Pedigo quoted the vision statement: "Greenville is one of the best launching pads in the world for dreamers, doers, and makers. We create opportunity here." Mr. Pedigo also quoted the seven goals including: (1) Upstate Innovation; (2) Investment for the Future; (3) A Launching Pad for Talent; (4) A Place for Everybody; (5) Maintaining Livability; (6) Intentional Placemaking; and (7) Effective Implementation.

Councilmember DeWorken thanked Mr. Pedigo and his staff for the work performed regarding the project. Councilmember DeWorken commented on the foundation already in place in the City, implementing the plan, and improving the ability to pursue economic development.

Councilmember Flemming asked if past economic development plans, diversity, and community organizations have been considered as a part of the process. Councilmember Flemming encouraged bringing in former staff members that might provide assistance. Councilmember DeWorken agreed with Councilmember Flemming's comments and reminded everyone that the plan is a working document that can be adjusted as it is reviewed and implemented.

Councilmember Dowe stated it is important moving forward to recognize that the City is in a new normal following COVID and that Greenville should evaluate itself as a gem and should consider economic development opportunities under that lens. Councilmember Stall acknowledged Councilmember Flemming's comments and asked if the next step will be implementation and what will be the big hurdles.

Mr. Pedigo referred to community development and economic development being different and the potential need for additional skillsets. Mr. Pedigo advised that the prior economic development plans were reviewed as a part of the process. Mr. Pedigo recommended maintaining the steering

committee and having it meet quarterly to hold the City accountable with meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. Mr. Pedigo also recommended being inclusive of public, private and nonprofit partners.

Councilmember Gibson expressed his support for the plan; however, he suggested including diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a component in each of the areas. Councilmember Gibson stated that Council is attempting to attract a proportion of talent consistent with what it wants the City to look like. Councilmember Dowe stated she would like for everyone to remember that DEI is inclusive of gender, disabilities, orientation and the like. Councilmember DeWorken offered to sit down with Councilmember Gibson and review how to better implement DEI in the plan. Councilmember DeWorken noted two points for the plan which are to integrate DEI and to provide benchmarks that may not be as flattering.

Mayor White asked about implementation and utilizing space that is available. Councilmember Dowe referred to the GVL2040 plan and a section which helps to provide the next steps and keeps Council accountable. Councilmember Flemming stated she appreciates the suggestion of keeping the steering committee together to assist with accountability.

Mr. Johnson responded that the City continues to work with Eric Weissmann on developing an Innovation District which will include the implementation matrix including the following: overarching goal, goal leads to the tactics, and tactics lead to the metrics that get measured. Mr. Johnson referred to the prior economic development plans and to some of the steps that have been implemented in those plans. Mayor White encouraged the process of determining the amount of square feet available and needed.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Pedigo, the steering committee, Council members, and staff for their involvement and engagement in the process.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor White asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. City Attorney Leigh Paoletti recommended going into executive session under S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) negotiations for proposed contractual matters regarding the Unity Park Maintenance Facility and potential land acquisitions for GVL2040 open space goals.

Councilmember Flemming moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on October 21, 2022.