



Oberlin City Council Work Session - Retreat

**Meeting Place: Oberlin Fire Station – Training Room
430 South Main Street**

Minutes

May 4, 2013 - 1:00 p.m.

The Work Session was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

Attendance:

Council Members:

Charles Peterson
Bryan Burgess
Sharon Soucy
Elizabeth Meadows
Scott Broadwell
Aaron Mucciolo
Ronnie Rimbart

Appointees:

Eric Norenberg, City Manager
Sal Talarico, Finance Director

1. Review and discuss the status of goals established during the Feb. 2012 Retreat

The City Manager reviewed previously distributed reports on several of the following topics and answered questions from the City Council.

Focus on Economic Development and Tourism

- Continue to support development of the Underground Railroad Center to be a high profile destination.
 - This continues to be a high priority for the City Council.

Make Infrastructure Upgrades and Building Improvements

- Protect water quality (monitor supply quality and consider UV treatment).
 - Consensus was to not proceed unless there is a grant to help pay for the project.
- Create Stormwater Utility.
 - Update provide: Phase I is underway.
- Evaluate energy efficient street lights.
 - There was discussion regarding including the Planning Commission and Open Space and Visual Environment Commission in the evaluation of the LED streetlights.
- Plan for Green Acres property.
 - There was a question regarding the completion of the demolition and interest in hearing more about the outcome of the RFQ process and next steps.
- Increase public art.

- There is interest in including public art in the downtown streetscape improvements and involving Sharon Soucy and Elizabeth Meadows in the OBP Design Team discussions about this.
- Explore options for handicapped accessibility and audible crosswalk signals.
 - An update on the on various capital projects was provided by the City Manager.

Lead with Sustainable Practices

- Support parking/bicycle/pedestrian/sidewalk friendliness and examine “Complete Streets”.
 - An update on the various capital projects was provided by the City Manager.
- Complete sidewalk repairs / extensions.
 - Council supports restarting the sidewalk repair and maintenance program when staff resources allow. There was discussion about the repayment process.
 - Discussion included the status of the Safe Routes to School grant and how to overcome delays in implementing the sidewalk improvements and alternatives.
- Install electric vehicle charging stations.
 - An update was provided by the City Manager.

In addition, the City Manager provided updates on engineering matters related to Reserve Avenue stormwater issues and the status of the sign inventory and policy. In response to questions from Councilmembers, the City Manager and Finance Director provided a status update on the annexation of the Lorain County Joint Vocational School.

2. Review and discuss Council Meeting Operations

Discussion amongst Councilmembers on the following topics ensued:

- Meeting preparedness
- Attendance at Board and Committee meetings
- Speak once on an issue
- Council meeting technology improvements

3. Other Council Concerns

4. Public Participation - None

5. Adjourn - 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Eric P. Norenberg
Oberlin City Manager

Attest:

BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 05/20/2013

POSTED: 05/21/2013