

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Saturday, October 1, 2022

Riverside, OH

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Work Session to order at 8:10 am at the Wright Brothers Institute offices located at 5000 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, present; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, present; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** No members were absent.

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:** No changes were made.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denning, to approve the agenda as presented. All were favor. **Motion carried.**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION** – Scott Springer, Wright Brothers Institute Director of Collaboration & Development, provided a summary of the feedback from the first meeting on August 13, 2022. He reviewed the geography/proximity to the museum, community pride, cost of living/affordability, and police, fire, and safety. He reviewed the discussion held around opportunities: capitalize on land assets, establish economic city nodes, creation of multiple centers, enhancing safety, and partnerships.

Ms. Fry indicated they did not cover the threats as much at the last meeting and need to include the financial concerns in their strategic plan. Dr. Robert (Bart) Barthelemy, Wright Brothers Institute Founding Director, stated there are always constraints on anything they do. He stated that money, people, and time are variables that continue to impact one another. He stated that making three or four strategic priorities that they can agree on and having goals under them, and then looking at the opportunities and threats, will allow them to make better decisions.

Discussion continued on threats. Mr. Maxfield stated that council can get in its own way by not being on the same page and not able to agree on the same vision/goals. Mr. Joseph stated that part of council can change every two years due to the election cycle; the strategic plan is important to provide consistency. Mrs. Franklin stated that during this point of strategic planning the goal would be to make legislative changes in zoning and code so when they are done it doesn't matter who comes in afterwards as they are established. Should they wish to change the code, then the council on board would have to go through that process. They are making little changes to the code now to make improvements. Mr. Maxfield added if they make changes now, it will free up a lot of things they can do in the future. Deputy Mayor Denning added that it allows the city manager to prioritize things in the budget; if debt reduction is a focus, then that needs to be reflected in the budget.

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Mayor Williams stated that they haven't done one of these for a long time and the water is very muddy on strategic objectives and tactical acts throughout the course of a year. He believes they would all agree on large strategic items. He added once the strategic objectives are identified, they need to not get into the weeds on tactics on how staff is going to do it. They need to act as a board of directors to give the city manager the directives and resources and clear a path for them. They get too focused on tactical aspects on management of the city and outcomes of the city as opposed to a grounding document or strategic plan; council doesn't need to be in on every single decision the city manager makes because he knows their objective.

General discussion was held on the debt and the budget; Mr. Rauch stated they aren't going to dive too deep into that now since he will be covering this in two weeks. Mr. Springer stated that one of their priorities it seems would be to have accountability and financial transparency. They are trying to identify what their ideas are on priorities and to work on a consensus on what the top four or five are. Dr. Barthelemy stated he agreed with the mayor in that their role is like a board of directors. They should think of themselves in that way.

Council participated in workshop activities. Mr. Springer reviewed the processes they went through. Top priorities that came to surface included financial stability, roads, public safety, and economic development. He asked them to identify key initiatives they want to pursue under each of the categories.

Discussion continued regarding strategic initiatives for the city and ranking priorities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Franklin moved, seconded by Ms., Lommatzsch, to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.



Peter J. Williams, Mayor



Clerk of Council