



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Hudson Davis
Councilmember Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Joanna B. Craig
Councilmember Stephen R. Smoak
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Mel Person
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Corbett
Finance Director Debra Courtney
Chronicle-Independent Martin L. Cahn
and interested citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford called the Camden City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 pm.

WELCOME

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford welcomed Council to the June 27, 2017, Camden City Council Work Session.

MAIN STREET RECOMMENDATIONS – Beppie LeGrand and Eric Budds

Beppie LeGrand, Manager of the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Main Street Program (MASC), presented council with information on the baseline assessment of Main Street SC needs for Camden's downtown area and Eric Budds, MASC's executive vice president focused his presentation on the economic vitality aspect of the Main Street program. The following were suggestions by both Mrs. LeGrand and Mr. Budds to improve Camden's downtown image: Communication among city staff as well as downtown merchants and property owners, focus on business-generating activities, the need for additional signage enhancements, install "visual treatments" in vacant storefronts, attract mix of retail, restaurants and service-oriented businesses, downtown housing, and maximizing available city, state and federal incentive programs.

For additional comments and information please refer to the MASC's report.

RETAIL STRATEGIES – Lacy Beasley and Brandon Cummings or Retail Strategies

Lacy Beasley, President and COO of Retail Strategies and Brandon Cummings, Retail Development Coordinator of Birmingham, Alabama was in attendance at Council's Work Session. Mrs. Beasley spoke during Council's Work Session providing council with detail information of what her firm could do to help with Camden's economic development: by bringing in national brands to Camden.



Council received a booklet and handouts from Brandon Cummings of Retail Strategies as a guide to their approach, persistence and success in bringing in developers and retailers to rehabilitate vacant or underutilized shopping centers.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business from Council.

ADJOURN

The Work Session meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

City Clerk Brenda Davis