

CITY OF BLAINE
COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES
Retreat recording is available upon request.

Friday, February 4, 2022

9:00 AM

Location: Lion's Camp Horizon
7506 Gemini Street

Mayor: Mary Lou Steward
Mayor Pro Tem: Richard May

Facilitator: Laura Todd

The retreat was called to order at roughly 9:00 AM.

PRESENT:

Council: Garth Baldwin, Eric Davidson, Mike Hill, Rhyan Lopez, Richard May, and Mary Lou Steward

STAFF: City Manager Michael Jones, Finance Director Dan Heverling, Police Lieutenant Michael Munden, Community Development Services Director Stacie Pratschner, Public Works Director Bernie Ziemianek, City Attorney Peter Ruffatto, Deputy City Clerk Naomi Soulard, and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Samuel Crawford.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, PURPOSE OF MEETING, AGENDA REVIEW, GROUND RULES

Laura Todd and Michael Jones led the short introduction to the meeting.

OBJECTIVES OF RETREAT

Some of the objectives of the City Council retreat included establishing and understanding healthy and appropriate communication in and out of council meetings, clarifying the strategy of working together, refining priorities and developing strategy goals, and ensuring understanding of what is the acceptable norms of communication with each other and city departments.

COMMUNICATION

City staff and City Council discussed appropriate avenues of communication with city staff as well as worked on setting clear expectations for communications going forward.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Each department presented how action was taken in the past year to align with priorities set in 2019. The order of discussion is below:

1. City Clerk
2. City Manager/Administration
3. Public Works
4. Finance
5. Police

6. Community Development Services

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR 2022

City Council reviewed the goals set back in 2020, as well as discussed potential new goals for 2022. While several goals were ultimately discussed, Economic Development, Housing, and Community Services were goals that many Councilmembers agreed upon due to the fact that these goals encompass many of the priorities from 2020. The other goals discussed include:

- Downtown Revitalization
- Infrastructure
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Communication and Transparency
- Community Health

City Council and City staff reviewed the expected positive outcomes that have resulted from this retreat.

The retreat was adjourned at roughly 3:00 PM.

Mary Lou Steward, Mayor

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

City Council Retreat minutes for February 4, 2022, were approved at the February 28, 2022, Council meeting.