



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JOSHUA FIRE DEPARTMENT
AUGUST 12, 2023
9:00 AM**

PRESENT

Mayor Scott Kimble
Councilmember Shelly Anderson
Councilmember Merle Breitenstein
Councilmember Angela Nichols

ABSENT

Councilmember Mike Kidd
Councilmember Dakota Marshall
Councilmember Johnny Waldrip

STAFF

City Manager Mike Peacock
City Secretary Alice Holloway
Court Administrator Carla Bonham
Asst. City Manager Amber Bransom
Dev. Services Dir. Aaron Maldonado
EDC Director Molly Martin
Police Chief David Gelsthorpe
Animal Services Manager Kelley Gelsthorpe
Parks Supervisor Kenny Jaskolowski
HR Manager Brittany Grounds
Finance Director Marcie Freelen
Fire Chief Tom Griffith
Captain Jay White
Public Works Director Kristin Hubacek

The Joshua City Council held a Work Session at 9:00 am in the training room at the Joshua Fire Department, located at 770 N. Main St., Joshua, Texas. This meeting is subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Texas, on August 12, 2023.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM PRESENT

Mayor Kimble announced a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:28 am.

B. WORK SESSION

1. Discussion on the City's Strategic Plan and Goal Setting for Fiscal Year 2024.

Paulette Hartman, Deputy City Manager of North Richland Hills introduced herself and stated that she will be serving as the facilitator for the Planning Session.

The following topics were discussed:

Purpose of a Municipality

- 1) Provide for the safety and security of the community
- 2) Maintain infrastructure
- 3) Plan for orderly growth and sustainability

Roles and Responsibilities

The council sets the vision and prioritizes the goals and objectives to determine where City resources should be focused to reach the vision.

List projects that went well in the last year:

- 1) Going fully staff at the fire department-they met the goals they were given
- 2) Economic Development- Business Recruitment, Downtown area, starting chamber backup
- 3) Overall city doing well, outstanding staff that is fully supported.
- 4) Grants for police and fire department
- 5) Informational Technology, infrastructure improvements
- 6) Community Outreach, Christmas event, and Joshua United
- 7) Communication
- 8) Community Communication-Website, newsletter, social media,
- 9) Improving collaboration with outside agencies- JCSUD, School District
- 10) Employee Recruitment

What projects that did not go well?

- 1) Streets, Utility relocates, Dragged out projects, and Natural Springs
- 2) Drainage Issues
- 3) Bond Election, lack of info/education
- 4) FM 917 Project, delayed facility decisions
- 5) IT Infrastructure improvements, past bad decisions
- 6) Issues with zoning and codes
- 7) State Legislative Session
- 8) Lack of development

Challenges and Opportunities

- 1) Streets-cost to maintenance and improvements, communication to community, data-driven conditions
- 2) Development - infrastructure, cost of infrastructure
- 3) Balancing the need for bond/debt with rising costs and needs
- 4) Communicating with the public
- 5) Overcrowding in city hall and police department

6) Dealing with legislative decisions-unfunded maintenance, constraints on city revenues, city code, unresponsive legislators.

Opportunities

- 1) Growth
- 2) Lack of middle housing
- 3) FM 917 strategy, land use plan / vision, consider mixed use
- 4) Community events and outreach
- 5) Grantworks relationship
- 6) Continue working on ISD/Police Department relationship
- 7) MVCC Opportunity
- 8) Continue downtown development

Threats

- 1) Texas Legislature
- 2) Constrained revenues
- 3) Drainage Issues
- 4) Change in leadership
- 5) Change in council
- 6) Change in staff
- 7) Neighboring cities
- 8) Political Climate
- 9) Economy recession
- 10) Limits on local control

City Manager Peacock gave an update on the 2022 set goals.

Department heads gave a brief description of their departments.

Paulette Hartman asked each councilmember to rank ongoing projects with the handout provided by the city manager.

Discussion for staff to send out a citizen's survey regarding how they want to see the city move forward.

Mayor Kimble thanked everyone for coming.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kimble adjourned the meeting at 12:54 pm.

Scott Kimble, Mayor

Alice Holloway, City Secretary

Approved: September 21, 2023