Asheville City Council Retreat

March 13, 2020

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview	Mayor Esther Manheimer
2. A Look Back: 2019-2020 Accomplishments	Debra Campbell, City Manager
3. Meeting Goals and Guidelines	Ed Manning, Executive Director, Leadership Asheville
4. Economic Overview and Budget	
• Economic and Demographic Trends Economics	Tom Tveidt, President, SYNEVA
• City of Asheville Budget Overview Director	Tony McDowell, Asst. Finance
• Council Discussion	
5. Lunch	

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Agenda (cont'd)

6. Transit Overview	
• National Trends in Transit	Carolyn Flowers, Principal, InfraStrategies
• Asheville Transit Planning Service	Jessica Morriss, Asst. Transportation Dir.
• Council Discussion	
7. Sustainability Overview	
• Asheville Climate Resilience	Jim Fox, Senior Research Analyst, FernLeaf Interactive
• Asheville Sustainability Program	Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer
• Council Discussion	
8. Compensation and Classification	
• Study Overview	Marianne Oyaas, The Archer Company Larisa Lowman, Human Resources
• Council Discussion	
9. Review and Next Steps	Debra Campbell, City Manager
10. Closing Remarks	Mayor Esther Manheimer

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EQUITABLE & DIVERSE COMMUNITY
WELL-PLANNED AND LIVABLE COMMUNITY
THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY
CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
CITY COUNCIL VISION
THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY
QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HOUSING
CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY
FINANCIALLY RESILIENT CITY

Council Priority Strategies

1. **Implement Transit Master Plan** (E.2).
2. **Affordable housing development** (D.2).
3. Partner with ACS through the **Equity Collaborative** (A.5).
4. **Amend the UDO** (B.1).
5. Develop a **business inclusion program** (F.1).
6. Review and update **Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy** (D.1).
7. **Foster economic mobility** (A.6).
8. Reduce **municipal carbon footprint** by 4% per year (C.2).
9. Partner with BCTDA to develop a **capital investment plan** (H.8).
10. Dedicated **revenue for transit** (H.9).
11. **Develop new tax revenue** (H.11).
12. Complete **corridor studies** (B.3).
13. **Maintenance, new construction and operational needs** (H.1).

Equitable and Diverse

- Equity Collaboration with Asheville City Schools.
- Training staff and Boards and Commissions.
- Increase comfort talking about race/racism.
- Embed Racial Equity Framework in:
  - Budget Process
  - Policy Development - City Property Disposition Policy, Noise Ordinance Update, Urban Centers Rezoning
- Racial Healing mini-grants results.
- Deepened Racial Equity Facilitators' Pipeline (mini-grant).
- Responsive and Inclusive African American Business Development.

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Transportation and Accessibility





- 25% increase to ART service launched on Jan. 5.
- Maintenance and upgrades to Civic Center Garage and Wall Street Garage.
- Greenways in Progress:
  - French Broad River East Bank
  - French Broad River West Bank
  - Town Branch Greenway
- Continued work on the I-26 Connector.
- Downtown Parking at 50 Asheland Avenue.

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Thriving Local Economy

- Mountain Community Capital Fund - Launched August 2019.
- Mountain Business Equity Initiative.
- Building an Economic Inclusion Ecosystem Symposium.

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CAPITAL FUND

City of Asheville BUSINESS INCLUSION OFFICE



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Connected and Engaged Community

- Haywood/Page Engagement - 300 engaged in person and online.
- Noise Ordinance Engagement:
  - 30 stakeholder meetings and forums
  - 1,490 digital and paper survey responses
  - 150+ NoiseScore smartphone app “noise reviews”
- Village Roundtable - Collaboration with the County to engage with African American neighborhoods with approximately 50 attendees at each meeting.
- West Asheville and Asheville Police Department to address community crime concerns.

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Well Planned and Livable Community

- Haywood Street and Page Avenue Visioning
- Hotel Development Study
- Charlotte Street Road Diet
- Urban Centers
- Downtown Master Plan Updates
- African American Heritage Resource Survey
- Thomas Wolfe Cabin Master Planning Process
- APD Central District Implementation
- Written Consent Policy

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Clean and Healthy Environment

- Five Electric Buses
- Completion of the 100% Renewable Energy Roadmap for Municipal Buildings
- Aggregated Solar RFP w/ Buncombe County
- Creation of the Blue Horizons Project
- Eliminating the need for a peaker unit
- Enrollment of over 600 homes in Duke's EnergyWise energy conservation program
- Weatherization of over 400 low-income homes
- Continued partnership w/ Asheville Buncombe County Food Policy Council and Bountiful Cities
- Neighborhood Recycling + Waste Reduction Education Outreach
- Waste Audits

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Quality Affordable Housing

- City owned land disposition policy approved.
- Construction of Lee Walker Heights began for 212 affordable units (<60% AMI).
- City-owned Land at 360 Hilliard Avenue to Kassinger Development for mixed income & affordable development of 86 total units with 33 affordable units (20 units <80% AMI, 13 units <60% AMI).
- Purchase 319 Biltmore Avenue and issued a Request for Proposals to Developers for a mixed income, mixed use development.
- Units Approved and Being Built: 414 Units
  - 6 For Sale Units (Habitat)
  - 408 Rental Units
    - <30% AMI - 13
    - 30% AMI <60% AMI - 325
    - 60% AMI - <80% AMI - 70



Financially Resilient City

- Continue AAA Bond Rating
- Classification and Compensation Study
- Participation in TDA TMIP process
- Key Hires:
  - Assistant City Manager - Richard White
  - Police Chief - David Zack

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