

AGENDA

Real Estate Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 8:30 A.M.
Boardroom, 2nd Floor, City Hall

Committee Members: Chairman Ron Bratton, Joel Pierce, Pat Shelton

Call to Order: Chairman Ron Bratton
Approval of Minutes: November 4, 2014

1. Closed Session
2. Additions/Updates
3. Adjournment

A quorum of the Council may be in attendance, and may participate in the discussion, but not vote.

MINUTES

Real Estate Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 8:30 A.M.
Boardroom, 2nd Floor, City Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Joe G. Bennett; and Council Members: Chairman Ron Bratton; Neal Grimes; Joel Pierce; Pat Shelton; Scott Styers; Raleigh York, Jr.; and City Manager Kelly Craver; Administrative Assistant Pam Galloway; Dave Ogren; and Barney W. Hill.

Chairman Bratton called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Joel Pierce to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014; Pat Shelton seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

1. **Presentation by Dave Ogren**
Local Museum Project

Kelly Craver introduced Dave Ogren. Mr. Ogren has started a project in which he plans to preserve and display a variety of memorabilia from Thomasville Furniture Industries where he worked for many years. Knowing the bankruptcy was coming; he obtained permission from a lawyer in the old corporate office in St. Louis to go into the old files and pull out old material. There were only a couple of minor restrictions. Twenty seven boxes were filled from the old office building on Main Street next to Plant C. They were gone through again and pared down to seventeen boxes which remain in storage at the City Garage on Turner Street.

Mr. Ogren said his dream is that this project goes far beyond TFI. There are items at the Depot, City Hall and just all around town. He would like to make this a "city history project." One of the ideas is to broaden the scope of a museum using the building that is currently our Police Department. The textile industry could be represented by displaying famous ladies' gowns, such as those worn by former Miss North Carolinas. Special interests in addition to history would help draw visitors.

Money wise, Mr. Ogren said that during some meetings, the Finch Family Foundation has given assurances that they would be interested in helping with the funding in presentation of the "startup costs" of the museum, to give a pleasant environment. Mr. Ogren has spoken with someone else who may have funds to commit to a museum.

Mr. Ogren would like to come up with a committee of people to do some preliminary work; someone representing City Government, the Historic Preservation Commission, generally just people who are interested in the project.

Mr. Ogren said today was just a preliminary meeting to bring Council up to date as to what is going on. He asked that Council not sell the building to anyone yet, when plans come together to build the new Police Department!

Neal Grimes suggested that Mr. Ogren contact Hubert Leonard.

Scott Styers said he hoped that someday there would be a use for that building that we can accommodate at either a very low cost or no cost, to the right group, to do this very thing. He said he hoped it would be owned by a non-profit and the City would not have to maintain it. He commended Mr. Ogren on his efforts and all the work done behind the scenes.

Mr. Ogren said this project is basically looking into the past, not that we can live in the past, but we can remember it. Why let it all disappear? Put it on display for visitors, school children and others to view. He sees this as an outstanding use of the building.

Raleigh York added that the City may have access to some old fire trucks at such a time that we have a museum and a place to keep them. They are 1929, 1948 and 1956 model trucks owned by John Holton. The City still owns the oldest truck, a 1922 model and the pole that was in the old fire station plus lots of other memorabilia.

Neal Grimes said furniture could certainly be a cornerstone but it definitely needs to be a full community museum.

Pat Shelton said she could see it being interactive and suggested obtaining a machine from Hill Hosiery.

Mr. Ogren said someday when Kelly is available he would love a tour of the Old City Hall. He thanked everyone for their time today and asked them to call him anytime with ideas, questions or suggestions.

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Pat Shelton made a motion to go into closed session; Joel Pierce seconded the motion.

2. Closed Session

No action was taken.

Pat Shelton made a motion to end the closed session. Joel Pierce seconded the motion.

3. Adjournment

With no further business to come before committee, Chairman Bratton adjourned the meeting.