



Special City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 8:30 AM

City Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW)

Any person needing special accommodation for the meeting is requested to notify the City Clerk's office at 857-4752.

Members Present: Mike Blessum, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Rob Fuller, Scott Samuelson, Mark Jantzer

Members Absent: Lisa Olson

1. SETTING THE STAGE

Julia Novak began the meeting at 8:34 am. She introduced Makenna Sturgeon, also with Raftelis. Julia presented the agenda for the day and discussed meeting norms. We did brief introductions and discussed individual expectations.

2. THIS I BELIEVE....

Alderman Pitner would like to make Minot better than before, so Minot is a place people come to and want to stay. Mayor Ross believes there is so much opportunity and growth facing Minot. We need to change the way we approach economic development and grow our tourism with things such as youth sports. Alderman Jantzer believes the council needs to approach issues as a community and as representatives you represent the entire community. Alderman Samuelson believes the City of Minot and the community of Minot need to become one, which will take time and effort. Alderman Fuller believes we need to build economic development, but be fiscally responsible. He also believes there is a trust issue between the community and the City representatives. Alderman Blessum believes the community needs to change the trajectory of the economy and the cost of living, so people stay.

3. GOVERNING TOGETHER AND COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT

Julia Novak discussed the process of how what gets done is at the intersection of political acceptability and administrative sustainability. She gave background information on Council - Manager forms of government. Governing together takes a majority. The group discussed what good governance looks like, which includes listening to the community and each other, being respectful, holding honest conversations, controlled conflict, and understanding others' opinions. Important values are honesty, freedom, critical thinking, transparency, integrity, respect, preparation/education, and responsiveness. It is important to understand that developing professional relationships between administration and council, because that will allow for positive growth in policy and changes. Build these relationships with professionalism, mutual respect, and understanding.

4. REVISITING EXPECTATIONS

The group looked at previously listed expectations of council, colleagues, and staff members. Council would like to see staff bring forward the pros and cons in their recommendations to the City Council. This will allow for more open and honest conversations in the public meetings.

Lunch was provided for the meeting from 12:15-1:00 pm.

5. TRENDS

Department Heads joined the council members for the meeting at 1:00 pm. The group broke out into smaller groups to discuss political, environmental, social, technological, economic and workforce trends.

6. THE CITY'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Julia discussed the key accomplishments of the City of Minot. She provided feedback about our strengths, some criticisms, and some top issues facing Minot. The participants discussed the City of Minot Aspirations, which make up our strategic plan framework:

1. Resilient and Prepared
2. Safe and Welcoming
3. Excellent and Connected
4. Dynamic and Flourishing

The department heads split up into groups to work with the council on the individual aspirations and vision.

7. UPDATING THE CITY'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The group discussed the proposed changes and will revisit them tomorrow.

8. WORKPLAN UPDATE

Julia wanted the group to think about the changes being made today to the vision and aspirations, along with thinking about what is missing.

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Harold Stewart wanted to discuss what role government has in managing the future of the community through economic development. State law provides cities with tools to use in economic development, such as equitable taxation, special assessment districts, TIF districts, and the Renaissance Program. It is not just about the tools in the tool box, but are the regulations or ordinances too strict to allow for businesses to come into Minot. Training local developers is another tool the City of Minot wants to provide in the 2025 budget. The group had an open conversation about the issues the City of Minot has with economic development and regarding perspectives on the tools we can use for it.

10. CLOSING

Everyone participated in an activity to give one word about the day's activities. Julia closed the facilitator meeting at 5:00 pm.