

**CITY OF CARROLLTON
SPECIAL JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
WITH ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE**

CITY HALL

**DECEMBER 18, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

MAYOR: ROBB ADAMS

**COUNCIL: KEVIN CRAIG
JEFF DICKOW
HAYLEY FRANKLIN
MIKE GORDON
DOUG HILL
DWIGHT LOUDEN**

ATTORNEY FOR CITY: JAKE THOMPSON

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK: BETH TOOMBS

CODE ENFORCEMENT: JOHN WELCH

PRESS: KRISTIN BECK/NEWS-DEMOCRAT

**GUESTS: CARROLLTON MAIN STREET ECONOMIC
VITALITY COMMITTEE:**

SAM BURGESS

CARA LONG

JEFF MOORE

HILLARY ARNEY

ERICA BOWERS

CALL TO ORDER

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT THE HOUR OF 6:03 P.M. BY MAYOR ADAMS. THE MAYOR DECIDED TO FOREGO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION.

DISCUSSION OF RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

MAYOR ADAMS SAID THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM THAT THE ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE HAD DEVELOPED TO POSSIBLY REPLACE THE EIP PROGRAM AND BE CLOSER TO AGREEMENT.

HILLARY ARNEY WAS THE FIRST TO SPEAK AND GAVE SOME BACKGROUND ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM. SHE SAID THE \$25,000 START UP WOULD BE A WIN FOR THE

BUSINESS OWNER AND THE BUILDING OWNER. THE RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM WOULD BE A MONTH TO MONTH BASICS AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE FACADE PORTION OF THE EIP PROGRAM.

COUNCILMAN LOUDEN ASKED THE ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE IF THEY WANTED TO COMBINE EIP PROGRAM, FACADE GRANT, AND THE RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM AS ONE.

SAM BURGESS REPLIED THEY WANTED TO AMEND THE HISTORICAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE TO HELP DEVELOP THE BUSINESS DOWN TOWN AND PRESERVE THE OLD BUILDINGS AND KEEP DOWNTOWN UP. MR. BURGESS WANTS THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM. THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO LET THE COMMITTEE KNOW WHAT THEY LIKE, DISLIKE, AND MEET SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE.

COUNCILMAN LOUDEN SAID YOU CAN ONLY AMEND AN ORDINANCE SO MANY TIMES.

HILLARY ARNEY SAID HAVING NEW BUSINESS WOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD ONLY TARGET BUSINESSES THAT THE CITY OF CARROLLTON NEEDS. THE COMMITTEE WOULD OFFER A PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE NEW BUSINESS OWNER WITH A BUSINESS PLAN AND A BUDGET TO HELP WITH TURNOVER AND THE COUNCIL IS ABLE TO LOOK AT THE BUSINESS BOOKS AT ANYTIME. THE RENT SUPPORT PAYMENT WOULD GO STRAIGHT TO THE BUILDINGS OWNER.

MAYOR ADAMS SAID HE LIKES THE MONTH TO MONTH PAYMENT INSTEAD OF HANDING OUT THE FULL \$25,000 AND THAT THE CITY OF CARROLLTON NEEDS SOME TYPE OF PROGRAM TO HELP DOWNTOWN.

SAM BURGESS SAID IN THE PAST THE COUNCIL HAS PAID GOOD MONEY TO HAVE A MARKET ANALYSIS REPORT DONE TO IMPROVE DOWNTOWN. MR. BURGESS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT VACANT BUILDINGS THE OWNERS SHOULD BE HELP TO SOME KIND OF PENALTY.

MAYOR ADAMS ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A LIST OF ALL THE BUILDINGS THAT ARE VACANT AND WHY; WHAT PROPERTIES ARE FOR SELL; AND WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO RENT THE SPACE.

COUNCILMAN LOUDEN ASKED IF THERE IS NO BUSINESS ON THE PRIMARY LEAVE MAY THE UPSTAIRS BE RENTED OUT.

CODE ENFORCEMENT WELCH REPLIED THAT THE PRIMARY LEAVE MUST BE AN OPEN STORE FRONT BEFORE THE BUILDING OWNER MAY RENT THE UPSTAIRS AND THE CITY CODES NEED TO BE ENFORCED .

COUNCILWOMAN FRANKLIN SAID SHE LIKED THE MONTH TO MONTH PAYMENT, THAT CARROLLTON IS LOSING MONEY WITH THE COMMUNITY GOING OUTSIDE THE CITY TO PURCHASE ITEMS, NEED TO KEEP THE FACADE GRANT, AND THE COMMUNITY IS TELLING US THEY WANT THESE NEW BUSINESS.

MAYOR ADAMS SAID IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BUSINESS OWNERS KNOW THAT WE JUST WANT TO HELP AND THAT THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY TO START A NEW BUSINESS NOT A MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. MAYOR ADAMS SAID THE COUNCIL HAD ENOUGH INFORMATION HAD BEEN ADDRESSED FOR TONIGHT AND THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO PREPARE A NEW PROPOSED RENT SUPPORT PROGRAM AND WE NEED TO CALL THE LEAGUE OF CITIES TO ASK ABOUT ORDINANCES THAT OTHER CITIES HAVE REGARDING PENALTIES OF VACANT BUILDINGS.

ADJOURNMENT

**THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN LOUDEN AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILMAN DICKOW AND DULY CARRIED TO STAND IN ADJOURNMENT AT THE
HOUR OF 7:15 P.M.**

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ATTEST:

**ROBB W. ADAMS,
MAYOR**

**BETH TOOMBS,
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**