



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL

Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR
HON. WILLIAM C. WITHERS, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD TWO
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE
HON. BRADFORD C. ELLIS, WARD ONE
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., WARD FOUR

Council Work Session
May 24, 2016

Board and Commission Interviews

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia held a work session on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, beginning at 5:45 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Council Present. Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Presiding. Councilors William C. Withers, Jr., Kerry P. Devine, Timothy P. Duffy, Bradford C. Ellis, Charlie L. Frye, Jr. and Matthew J. Kelly.

Also Present. City Manager Beverly R. Cameron, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

Interviews. Council interviewed the following applicants for possible appointment to the Economic Development Authority and the Planning Commission.

Ben Keddie – Defined economic development as growth in the City through tax base or job base diversity would also fall into that. He would like less retail jobs and more office jobs, because he feels they are more valuable. He believes the EDA would be an accelerant to helping businesses come to the City. If he was on the EDA he would like his first learn what the EDA has done then he would like to help businesses expand in the City and bring additional businesses to the City from out of state. He said it would be an incredible opportunity for the EDA to assist with more projects like Liberty Place he feels it would be hard for other localities to compete with that type of project, combining Class A office in the downtown area. When asked about incentives Mr. Keddie stated that the Liberty Place project was a good project to incentivize and the baseball project was not. He said smaller projects such as Liberty Place will provide longer term benefits and he did not feel baseball would do the same. Mr. Keddie said he wanted to serve on the Board because had a duty and an obligation and this was the first time he had been asked to serve in a position that was such a good fit for him.

Chris Muldrow – Mr. Muldrow was asked how he felt the EDA could be used more proactively and he said in the master plan there were some target industries mentioned and he felt the EDA could use incentives to target those industries to attract them to the City. He would tailor the incentives to the individual businesses. He would like to see the EDA do a better job at attracting those industries. He would also like to see the Jumpstart Plan reevaluated. Mr. Muldrow said he did not think as many funds should be directed at façade improvements and that it seemed like the EDA was doing smaller projects and he would be a fan of larger projects but they have to be more diligent. When asked if he would give money upfront for a business he said sometimes front ending would be appropriate because there were bigger risk in the beginning of opening a business. Mr. Muldrow said he would like to market the City as a security hub because many commuters traveling north are cyber security employees. Another area of interest he believes should be marketed is the food industry. He said the City has the right environment for food entrepreneurs as well as high end craftsmanship and breweries.

Bill Beck – Going forward he stated that the EDA could improve on their ideas. He would like to see bigger and more meaningful ideas. He said he does not get excited about the little grants. He said he got interested in serving on the EDA when the Main Street program started. He said the EDA money was public money and should serve the public good. Mr. Beck stated that his real interest was downtown but the real money generator was Central Park. The standard strip retail developments were fading. He added that the downtown needed some recruitment and some polishing up and he felt EDA could make a difference. He said the EDA could be use more proactively to go out and promote Fredericksburg to small interest groups that need to be close to DC but not located in DC.

Rene Rodriguez – When asked what he thought was wrong with the Planning Commission he said there needed to be more transparency and more open dialog to get more public input. He said special exceptions must not be granted for every project they had to warrant the special exception. Mr. Rodriguez said the City Council sets the vision and the City Manager and the Planning Commission must enact he vision. There must be continuous dialog between the City Council, City Manager and the Planning Commission. He added that he loved the City and when he was looking for a place to settle Fredericksburg kept pulling him back in.

Closed Meeting Approved. Upon the motion of Councilor Ellis, seconded by Vice-Mayor Withers and passed by the following recorded votes, Council approved a closed session pertaining NBB, LLC v. City Council, CL15-0787, and City Council v. Architectural Review Board and NBB, LLC, CL15-0820 where such consultations or briefings in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the City Council, under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7). Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Duffy, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Return to Open Meeting Approved. Upon the motion of Councilor Devine, seconded by Councilor Kelly and passed by the following recorded votes, Council approved a return to an open meeting. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Duffy, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Resolution 16-42, Approved, Certifying Closed Meeting. Upon the motion Councilor Devine approved Resolution 16-42 certifying the closed meeting; seconded by Councilor Kelly and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time. Mayor Greenlaw declared the work session officially adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

_____ Tonya B
Lacey_____

**Tonya B. Lacey
Clerk of Council
City of Fredericksburg**