

The Town Council of the Town of Nashville held a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 PM in Town Council Chambers. Members Present: Mayor Donald B. Street, Council Member Larry Taylor, Council Member Louise Hinton, and Council Member Kate Burns. Member(s) Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Charles Taylor. Staff Present: Randy Lansing – Town Manager, Julie Spriggs – Planning and Development Director, Tina Price – Planning Technician, Sam Sanchez – Finance Director, Anthony Puckett – Police Chief, Robbie Bobbitt – Battalion Chief, Scott Whitford – Battalion Chief, Lee Brown – Public Works Director, Marguerite Bishop – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director, Chris Joyner – Fire Chief, Lee Coppedge – Battalion Chief, JT Winstead – Captain, David Boykin – Police Lieutenant, Andy Joyner – Fire Lieutenant, and Lou Bunch – Town Clerk and Human Resources Director.

1. Mayor Street called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed those in attendance.
2. Mayor Street stated that the purpose of this meeting is for Town Council members to participate in a forum, along with citizens, business owners, and staff, to come up with an economic positioning and visioning statement for the Town of Nashville.

Mayor Street then turned the meeting over to Bruce Naegelen, Community Economic Development Planner with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, to facilitate the forum.

Mr. Naegelen divided the 42 participants into six groups. Participants were given an overview of the visioning process, an agenda, operating guidance, and a town map showing boundaries. Groups were then asked to work with each other to compile a list of 1) Economic Drivers, 2) Community Assets, and 3) Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities.

There were several common themes found in the each group’s lists. Economic Drivers were shared aloud by each group. Some common drivers listed included: the names of particular businesses, Nashville’s central location, local events, government offices, the low cost of living, and low crime. Community Assets were not shared aloud by each group but included examples of economic, cultural, natural/recreational, institutional, community, and governmental assets. Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities were then shared by each group and also displayed common themes among the groups. Common strengths included location, low crime rate, downtown, affordability, and accessibility. Common weaknesses included the lack of: lodging/hotels in the area, civic involvement, citizen involvement, and sit-down restaurants. Lastly, common opportunities included business recruitment, highway expansion, jobs, and new homes.

Each group was then given the task of developing an economic positioning statement. Groups were asked to consider what makes the Town of Nashville different from other towns as well as our weaknesses, opportunities, assets, and economic drivers. Each group was then asked to share their statement with the entire group. Mr. Naegelen asked participants to vote for their favorite statement before leaving.

Mr. Naegelen informed the participants that the next step in the visioning process would be to hold a half day focus group exercise and interviews involving some of Nashville’s stakeholders. All of the data will be put in a report and presented at a future Town Council meeting. He then turned the meeting back over to Mayor Street for adjournment.

3. There being no further business, Mayor Street called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member L. Taylor made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Hinton. There being no discussion, Mayor Street called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved (3-0).

Mayor Street declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

*Donald B. Street*  
Donald B. Street, Mayor

ATTEST:  
*Lou C. Bunch*  
Lou C. Bunch, Town Clerk

