



Belton City Council Planning Retreat

February 25, 2012

City Council members met in the second floor conference room in City Hall from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All sitting council members were present except Wallace Shaw. Others present: City Administrator Michelle Ricketson, Councilman-elect Jay West, and reporter Kurt Brown. Below, find a summary of the discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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SHORT-TERM GOALS:

#1) Economic Development!!!!!!

Including stepping promotion of land, empty buildings & the City Capitalize on: RR, electric power, sewer capacity, highway access
Manage growth by targeting types of businesses/industries
Recruit new businesses, especially restaurants & grocery stores
Redevelop/clean blighted areas: old mill sites, N. Main Street, etc
Encourage the improvement of rental property to lessen neighborhood issues (property maintenance code)
Improve & maintain ISO rating (& hire more police)

#2) Seek Grants, Grants, Grants & other funding sources

#3) Communicate with the public about things happening throughout the City and during City Council meetings

Possibly a weekly or monthly column in the News-Chronicle
Continue to add more information to the City Web site

#4) Maintain relationships at federal, state, county & municipal levels

Attend state & regional meetings to stay tuned into trends/network

LONG-TERM GOALS:

#1) Water & Sewer planning

#2) Improve access to/from Belton

Stay in communication with ANATS
Develop access to 81 (medical care)
Look at 4-lane access to I-85, US 25, US 29 & SC 81
Make sure Belton is included on way-finding signage

#3) Explore best uses for downtown space

Enlarge Depot for performances &/or meetings
Consider amphitheater downtown
Space for plays/theater performances
Stage/seating for musical events
Hotel or Bed & Breakfast

#4) Multi-propose recreational center

Indoor basketball
Exercise classes
Meeting rooms