MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Heinrich, James Belz, Robert Cooper, Rob Foster, Cheryl Schram, and Gwen Beeson.

ABSENT: Lisa Parrish

CALLED TO ORDER: Called the Workshop to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance – Cheryl Schram

1. Mayor’s Comments.

Mayor Heinrich asked to start including the Texas Pledge.

2. Workshop.

Mike Conduff lead the workshop.

Questions to Council. Why did you run for office? Your perspective on Keene? Your thinking for the community? What are you hoping to accomplish today?

Council stated that they ran to help the community, make changes, work on the city’s debt. Keene is a predominately Christian community with a university and Keene has certain values and culture that makes the city unique. Small town feeling where you know your neighbors. Council would like to be debt free, make changes that are ascetically pleasing, make a difference, improve infrastructure, and educate the community. Council agreed that they wanted to come together and make good decisions for Keene and get to know each other better.

Mike Conduff brought up being good stewards of the citizen’s money and working together to come up with a plan for the city. Work to increase resources to handle the large projects. Delegate projects and problems to better customer service. What is the big goal for Keene? Describe your town.
Council agreed that Keene is safe, family focused, unique, educated, and health conscious. Council stated that future Keene is debt free, transparent, and easy to deal with, and progressive without losing the small-town feel.

Mike Conduff asked Council how to accomplish this.

Council stated that goals needs to be set in increments. This will take years. The community will need to be educated of the process too.

Mike Conduff stated that staff needs to show a comparison with other “like” communities, along with year to year comparisons within the city.

Council would like that. They would also like to change the perception of Keene for people who do not live here.

Mike Conduff asked Council how to get Keene’s story out.

Council suggested the website be updated with this information, social media updates with testimonials from residence and business owners. “Tell our story.”

Mike Conduff asked where Keene was with customer service.

Council stated that they want to be known as the easiest town to work with. Simple procedures with friendly service and reasonable fees. Straight forward information and flexibility.

Mike Conduff asked what makes the community safe.

Council stated that being able to walk around in the evening and children being able to play or walk to the park. EMS and police response. Walkability throughout the city.

Mike Conduff talked about accountability among Council and staff. Keeping the lines of communication open on a regular basis and working together to achieve the goals that have been set.

3. Adjourn.

Council adjourned at 12:01 p.m.
By:  
Gary Heinrich
Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest:  
Holly Owens, T.R.M.C., City Secretary