

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
AUGUST 27, 2012
5:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING TRAINING ROOM

The Oak Ridge City Council has desired to follow-up on its retreat of May 30, 2012. Instead of the traditional work session on upcoming issues, the City Council will be facilitated by the City Manager on a focus session on Economic Development.

- I. City Manager Updates
 - A. Current status of changes at DOE and current work on DOE related grants.
 - B. Update on Blanchard & Calhoun project at the Oak Ridge Turnpike and Illinois Avenue.
 - C. City of Oak Ridge inclusion in Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).
 - D. EPA submittals and planning efforts and financial overviews.
 - E. Status of Southern Appalachia Railway Museum (SARM) grant at Heritage Center and requirements / deadlines of TDOT for execution; also, future action by City Council.
 - F. Update on TDOT improvement project at USEC interchange.
- II. Conducting of City Council "Retreat" on future strategic planning goals on the topic of *Future Economic Development Strategies for the City of Oak Ridge*.
- III. Adjournment / scheduling of next retreat—time and topic.

CITY OF OAK RIDGE



POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

DATE: August 23, 2012
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: Mark S. Watson, City Manager
SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

On Monday night, the City Council has scheduled a retreat to sit down and discuss City issues and challenges. On that night, I want to facilitate our discussion in a different way than perhaps you have been used to. We will go through a process that will give you a result or focus by the end of the night. We will be using our thinking processes differently and it will hopefully help you to refine some old ideas and develop new ones.

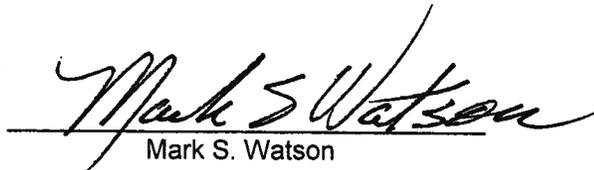
On Monday, we will be discussing the topic of Economic Development. As you might guess, this topic can go in a variety of directions. Remember, as the old adage goes, "if we keep doing the same thing, we will get the same results." Economic Development in Oak Ridge is done through a series of organizations with the City of Oak Ridge at the center of the group. This has resulted in many reports from many agencies touting success for the City, the region and the DOE labs. New products, such as carbon fiber, are targeted, but the overall game plan is yet to be defined. How do we play in a competitive world? With the engagement of the City, we find we are involved with each project effort in numerous organizational, financial, and regulatory ways.

Economic Development has been defined as "a net gain of money flow into a community." However, the wants and desires of our citizens are for more, not less, amenities using more dollars spread over a smaller per capita. This requires the strong ability to attract new jobs and new investment in Oak Ridge.

I have assembled a series of fact sheets, articles, and reports that pertain to Economic Development activities in Oak Ridge and other places. It is important that the group operate from the same base of information, so please scan through the material. I know we all have our own knowledge, but the use of the same information can help us focus on the development of creative thinking responses to the issue.

I look forward to working with you. As your facilitator, I will try to focus the work product and serve as an information source. Our findings will help to generate new positive focus and investment for the City which will plan for new future outcomes.

Most of all have fun!


Mark S. Watson

Attachments

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking!"-----Albert Einstein