

**MINUTES of SPECIAL WORK SESSION
of the BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
of the CITY of BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY
held JULY 22, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Bowling Green, Kentucky met in special session in Ballroom A at the Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky at 4:30 p.m. on July 22, 2021. The special session was called to order and the following members were present: Commissioner Melinda Hill, Commissioner Sue Parrigin, Commissioner Carlos Bailey, Commissioner Dana Beasley-Brown and Mayor Todd Alcott. Absent: none. There was a full quorum of the Board of Commissioners.

The purpose of this special Work Session was to discuss homelessness in the community. Mayor Todd Alcott provided a summary and presentation of the over 70 citizen comments previously submitted to the Office of City Clerk, and explained non-profit agencies with an interest in homelessness provided feedback in a questionnaire created by the City and was present to make comments. Mayor Alcott introduced facilitator Tad Long, Community and Economic Development Coordinator of the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). Mr. Long reviewed the meeting procedures and stated each agency that submitted a questionnaire would be given an opportunity to speak for four (4) minutes.

The following individuals and agencies made comments and/or presentations: Deinara "Daisy" Carter with Anti-Eviction Network; Rhondell Miller of HOTEL INC; Tori Henninger of Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. (BRASS); Ron Goodman of Habitat for Humanity of Bowling Green/Warren County (provided video); Abraham Williams of the Housing Authority of Bowling Green; Jennifer Cromer and Penny Ritchie of Bowling Green VA Outpatient Clinic and Kentucky Veterans Brigade; Melanie Watts of Lifeskills; Heather Ryan of the Salvation Army; Debbie Hills of United Way of Southern Kentucky; Deanna Stone Department of Veterans Affairs; Doug Depp of Room in the Inn, and Alice Gatewood Waddell and Chiquita Sparks of the Bowling Green Human Rights Commission. Agencies suggested working together with the City and other agencies to come up with long term solutions to help homelessness. Ideas included: create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, provide additional assistance with mental health issues, educate the community, change the process for housing choice vouchers, purchase a campus to provide wrap around services from various agencies, continue assisting with Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), fund and build a POD village, affordable housing, work with landlords to incentivize more available housing for rentals and homeowners and emergency shelters.

The Board of Commissioners thanked all the agencies and citizens for the feedback, and made some comments. Remarks were made from Parks and Recreation Director Brent Belcher, Neighborhood and Community Services Director Brent Childers and Police Chief Michael Delaney regarding City services related to concerns in the parks facilities with homelessness, affordable housing and code enforcement, and Police Department services for the homeless. Additionally, it was made clear panhandling and homelessness were not the same, and many individuals assume panhandlers are homeless, but HOTEL INC Director Rhondell Miller said statistics show there was a small amount of panhandlers who were actually homeless. Commissioner Beasley-Brown clarified her proposal from the budget discussion during a Board of Commissioners meeting, she was not advocating for a designated City position to provide direct services to the homeless, rather she proposed a position so the City would have staff capacity to lead the effort to create a community wide strategic plan to address homelessness. She further clarified the position could be outsourced to a consultant or non-profit agencies. There was a consensus of the Board of Commissioners to work together with local agencies to find some solutions for homelessness and affordable housing. Mayor Alcott planned to take all the information obtained by the

(Minutes-Board of Commissioners-July 22, 2021)

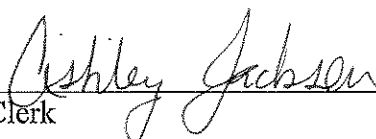
City and partner with the non-profits, additional local agencies and county government to achieve some results.

ADJOURNMENT

This being a special Work Session with no formal action permitted and with no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, at approximately 6:40 p.m., the special session was adjourned.

ADOPTED: August 3, 2021

APPROVED: 
Mayor, Chairman of Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

Minutes prepared by City Clerk Ashley Jackson