

## MINUTES

### SPECIAL WORK SHOP OF THE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

May 18, 2012

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10:30 AM

Participants: Mayor Oswalt, Councilwoman Kelly, Councilman Williams, Councilman J.B. Sowell, Councilman Ginn, City Manager Lancken, City Attorney Fincher, Treasurer Tripp, Public Works Superintendent Robinson, Police Chief Colwell and special guest Don Napoli.

The purpose of the meeting was to gain expert knowledge from Don Napoli on the subject of eminent domain and to exchange thoughts with the City Attorney on what can and cannot be considered for eminent domain (Don Napoli's resume is made apart hereof). This was necessary since the City is now gaining knowledge from various property owners and banks on abandoned commercial property pursuant to the recently passed Vacant Property Registry Ordinance.

The discussion centered on the necessity to define "blight" within the City's zoning ordinance as a means correct abandoned properties. Once so defined, the City could force the property owner to tear it down and or demolish the property and thereafter lien the property and foreclose the lien in a court of law.

It was established that eminent domain cannot take property from one individual and place it in the hands of another individual. Eminent domain means to take the property only for government usage.

The discussion included the need to upgrade the present zoning ordinances with perhaps the sharing of Morrow's recently documented impact study and thereby designate a certain area along Jonesboro Road as "down town" as a means to attract developers and federal grants for that kind of development.

In addition it was thought that Forest Parkway should be the designated area for logistics and transportation related commercial enterprises. It was agreed that developers and the representatives from Douglasville be invited to the next workshop or committee meeting on this subject to gain further insight into these potential initiatives.

**Other Business**      The Mayor and Council voted unanimously to provide the City Manager with a car/gas allowance in exchange for his not taking the City's group medical insurance coverage.

**Adjournment**                      The workshop ended at 11:30AM