

## **CITY OF LONOKE**

### **CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, Sept 2, 2021 at 6pm

The Lonoke City Council held a working session in City Hall for the purpose of discussing the City's long-term Economic Development strategy. The mayor and all members of the City Council were present. Koy Butler was present via telephone and had to leave early. Jimmy VonTungeln and Karen Dill were in attendance. Gene Eagle was the main presenter.

A.) Drainage/Energy Service Performance Contract Updates – The Mayor opened the evening's discussion with updates on the City's ongoing drainage study being carried out by McClelland Engineers. He mentioned the study is approximately halfway complete and should near 80% completion by the end of the month. Next, he updated the Council on an on-going plan to utilize approximately 4 acres of the Lonoke Community Center grounds for the City's future solar array.

B.) Economic Development – The Mayor spoke about the history of the City's general plan and its current recommendations regarding Economic Development, Retail Development, and Utility expansion. Gene Eagle was given the floor and proceeded to inform the council on the work he has been conducting as Economic Developer. Complimentary to the General Plan's recommendations, he explained the work he has conducted over the past few years has been primarily focused on positioning the city to secure local control in furtherance of the previously identified 1000-acre super site on the Northwest side of town. By the end of the presentation general consensus within the room was that the city should not completely abandon this approach, however it must place more emphasis on the growth of industry downtown and further encourage housing development.