

RESOLUTION NO. 11-9-21 E

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A HOUSING AFFORDABILITY
WORK GROUP TO STUDY WORK FORCE AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING IN BENTONVILLE; PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE CITY TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO SUCH HOUSING; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Bentonville and the Bentonville City Council support diverse and inclusive housing allowing all individuals the opportunity to pursue the housing of their choice;

WHEREAS, before proposing solutions, an understanding of what work force and affordable housing really mean, as well as what is needed in Bentonville to better serve the citizens, is required; and

WHEREAS, it is well established that access to quality affordable housing is a fundamental underpinning of healthy and thriving communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Bentonville, Arkansas hereby establishes The Housing Affordability Work Group, hereinafter “The Work Group” for an interim period of one-year to study and prepare recommendations to improve residents’ accessibility to work force and affordable housing in Bentonville;

Section 2: That the role of The Work Group is to conduct a review of housing needs, availability, and affordability in Bentonville by:

- a) Defining affordable housing, work force housing, and any distinctions between the two;
- b) Analyzing the cost, availability, and application requirements for affordable and work force housing, both existing and planned in the City; and
- c) Assessing the ways the City might have an effect on the availability, affordability, and application requirements of affordable and work force housing.

Section 3: That the membership of The Work Group will consist of 7 non-compensated members who shall be appointed by the Mayor, and affirmed by the City Council, to serve in this voluntary role. The membership should reflect representation from various community stake holders, for example: local non-profit housing authorities, local developers or builders, ULI or NWAHBA members, private citizens, etc. this suggested list is non-exhaustive. The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson and Secretary from the 7 members appointed. The Mayor shall appoint 1 City Council member to serve as part of the 7 member Work Group. The Mayor shall appoint at least 3 City staff members to serve in an advisory and informational capacity.

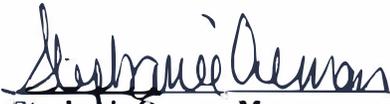
Section 4: That the meetings for the Work Group will be open to the public and the Work Group will host at least two public workshops specifically for public comment;

Section 5: That the Work Group will serve under the guidance of the Planning Department for administrative purposes; and

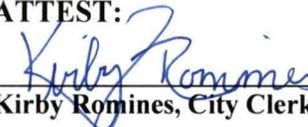
Section 6: That the Work Group will prepare a written report outlining a plan of action responsive to the tasks contained in Section 2, summarizing the public input and data analysis, and providing recommendations for further study if needed. These findings shall be presented to City Council by June 30, 2022 at which time more tasks may be assigned to the Work Group, at the discretion of the Mayor or the City Council, for its final report due by November 30, 2022.

PASSED and APPROVED this 9 day of NOVEMBER, 2021.

APPROVED


Stephanie Orman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kirby Romines, City Clerk

Prepared By: Bonnie Bridges, Associate Staff Attorney

