




**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS HELD
MAY 28-31, 2019 IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS LOCATED
AT 224 SAVAGE AVENUE**

The City of Raton hired the economic development consulting group Better City to help create and implement an economic development strategy for the City of Raton. An initial kickoff open house and community meeting was held on March 7, 2019 at the Convention Center so that Better City could perform a preliminary assessment of the community. Ideas and a vision for Raton were shared and potential projects and initiatives were also discussed. As a result of their initial visit, Better City identified needs including workforce development, enhancing the entrepreneurial infrastructure and creating a program for sustainable economic development. Opportunities included revitalizing the downtown core and leveraging outdoor recreation offerings to improve quality of life.

Subsequent workshops were held May 28-31, 2019 as an “economic development boot camp” to provide the City Commission educational sessions in the identified strategic areas so that city leaders would have the needed resources as they lead the community through critical economic development initiatives and successful implementation. Pursuant to the open meetings act, public notice and an agenda were posted regarding the workshops and that a potential quorum of the City Commission would be in attendance. The workshops were held over a 4 day period on the following dates and times: May 28th 2:00 -4:00 pm, May 29th 1:00 – 5:30 pm and May 30th 1:00 – 5:30 pm. In attendance was Mayor Neil Segotta (all sessions but Friday), Mayor Pro-tem Linde’ Schuster, Commissioners: Lori Chatterley, Ron Chavez and Don Giacomo. Also in attendance was City Manager Berry, Paul Jenkins with GrowRaton!, Adam Hughes, Better City CEO and Eric Gibson, Better City Research Analyst. Geoff Peterson with the Center for Community Innovation attended the Friday session only.

The topics covered during the sessions were Workforce Development, Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Economic Development, Downtown Revitalization, Business Retention & Expansion and Outdoor Recreation. No action was taken by the City Commission during these workshops and a final economic development plan will be brought to the City Commission for adoption at a later date. The next open house and community economic development meeting will be held on June 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Raton Convention Center to introduce community members to the topics and implementation steps which the City will use in its economic development strategy.

CITY OF RATON


James Neil Segotta Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Michael Anne Antonucci, City Clerk