



**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting Notes**  
**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center**

At 11:40 AM the fourth meeting of the LRCent Committee was called to order by presiding Co-Chair Gary Smith.

The following Committee Members were present during the meeting: Co-Chair Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Dr. Anika Whitfield, Peter McKinney O’Conor, Mursheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Charles Blake and Troy Laha

Members Not Present: Chrystal Gray, Steve Strickland, Kyle Demilt and Khayyam Eddings

Also present were: City Manager Bruce Moore, Mayor Stodola and other City Staff

Dr. Hampton opened the meeting by introducing Finance Director Sara Lenehan to give a summary update of sales tax revenues and expenditures through August 31, 2012.

**Revenue and Capital Projects as of August 31, 2012**

Finance Director Sara Lenehan explained the details of a handout that was given to the committee. She highlighted that as of the end of August \$23,026,474 in revenue had been generated from the new sales tax and \$12,904,536 has been expended. At the end of her report Mr. Smith mentioned that although each project has a total estimated cost, until it is actually bid on there is no way of knowing whether or not the cost could be over or under.

Mr. Blake asked what the average projected revenue is for each month. Sara explained that the projected revenue is based on two percent growth, but it is difficult to actually estimate an actual dollar amount because the revenue streams fluctuate from month to month.

**Departmental Presentations:**

**Finance Department – Director Sara Lenehan**

Finance Director Sara Lenehan briefly gave an update highlighting that she has filled several vacancies, provided professional education for staff, increased software maintenance and replaced or upgraded computers. She also noted that there is money allocated to Central Arkansas Transit

for the funding of routes to serve the John Barrow area and Pulaski Technical College which should be reflected in the fourth quarter. There has also been increased funding in 2012 for closed Police and Fire Pension funds by \$500,000 each as well as an increased City match for non-uniform pension fund from four percent to seven percent.

Mr. Shellabarger asked why the airport was able to give a larger percentage of increases to its employees since it is also a public entity. It was explained that because the airport generates some of its income from enterprise funds they function separately and can establish their own policies.

Mr. Laha asked whether or not the City increased the monthly amount of pay to retired employees based on inflation. Sara explained that retired employees only get what was paid into the system however Cost of Living Adjustments are taken into consideration.

#### **Department of Community Programs**

Community Programs Director Dorothy Nayles reported that she and her staff are undergoing contract negotiations with qualified bidders for the 2013 budget. Once that process has been completed most of the \$3 million budget for neighborhood based/community initiatives will have been committed. She added that they have filled the position of re-entry coordinator.

#### **Little Rock Fire Department**

Fire Chief Greg Summers reported that that \$250,000 of sales tax dollars had been spent to refurbish an older engine at one of the stations. Twelve firefighters have been hired to run the West Little Rock fire station which is now fully operational \$800,000 of sales tax dollars was used to help finish this facility. One Engine had also been purchased along with four staff vehicles. He also added that they are currently undergoing negotiations for land to be purchased for a future Southwest Little Rock Fire Station

#### **Fleet Services**

Fleet Director Wendell Jones reported that about 73 vehicles and other specialized equipment had been purchased over the year to fulfill the needs of several departments which was over a million dollars. Mr. Smith asked how Fleet was able to purchase so many vehicles so quickly. The City Manager explained that funding came out of the 3/8 Cent Capital as well as the 5/8 Cent Operational dollars.

Mr. Strickland asked about the other purchasing measures that were used to acquire equipment. It was explained that at the top of one of the handouts that state law allows municipalities to purchase using the state contracts and other applicable certified processes. (State purchasing law and amendment 54 to the Arkansas Constitution)

#### **Housing and Neighborhood Programs**

Victor Turner the Assistant Director reported that Housings goal is to fill 20 positions which include current vacancies. To date they have hired ten code officer and are conducting interviews to fill the others. Four Animal Control Officers have been hired and they are continuing to accrue funds for the expansion of the Animal Village.

Under the Landbank division he indicated that there were seventy-two (72) properties in inventory, with twenty-seven (27) available for development. Eighty-one (81) lots are undergoing survey.

reported that ten additional code enforcement officers had been hired in 2012 and that they plan to hire ten more in 2013. The department plans to hire four more animal control officers. The Land Bank has sixty-eight properties in its inventory with an additional ninety-two lots undergoing survey and plat. The Animal Village will be undergoing expansion to create additional room to house cats, add an officer quarters along with a shower room for staff that has to stay overnight.

### **Human Resources**

Director Don Flegal reported that they have been able to fill a front desk position in his department. He also highlighted that there will be improvements made to the non-uniform pension plan. Specifically the defined contribution will go from 4% to 7%. Staff is continuing to look at making adjustments for 2013.

### **Information Technology**

Director Randy Foshee reported that IT continues to work with every department to make upgrades across the City for network connectivity and reliability of systems. IT has filled five of seven vacancies and contract was recent put in place to upgrade the City's Financial Human Resources system.

The department is working to replace out dated Windows 2000 PCs throughout several departments with new equipment that will meet the network requirements.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Parks Director Truman Tolefree reported that twenty-four full time positions had been filled to help expand and improve park maintenance. Construction on the Centre at University Park, formerly the Adult Leisure Center will begin and should be open in 2013. The Ottenheimer Center is now open and funds have been allocated for utilities, supplies and maintenance. He also indicated that the West Central Community Center and pool, a \$6 million project should be under construction in 2014.

### **Department of Planning and Development**

Director Tony Bozynski indicated that his department has filled some key positions such as a building inspector, graphics/GIS Technician and an office assistant, zoning enforcement officer and two plans examiner positions.

### **Little Rock Police Department**

Police Chief Stuart Thomas highlighted that the radio system upgrades are underway as planned. Most of the land has been acquired for the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Mid town Station and twelve (12) applications for the construction manger position have been received and a selection committee has been formed. The Department is still actively evaluating properties along Cantrell Road west of Interstate 430 for the location of a West Little Rock Police Station.

Thirty-one (31) Recruit Officer graduated on December 7 and Recruit School #75 is scheduled to commence on December 17 with twenty-five (25) candidates. The department is also actively recruiting applicants for twenty-seven 911/311 call taker positions.

### **Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Steve Beck reported that a series of public meetings had been held in every ward and that staff had accepted project recommendations through the end of August at which time at least 1,400 project requests had been submitted. Staff is working on compiling all of those requests and adding cost estimates to each one after which there will be another round of ward meetings to prioritize which projects will be done in the first three year cycle.

Most of the 2012 infrastructure projects have been completed and are waiting inspection. The sidewalk construction program has resulted in the construction of 6,570 sq feet of sidewalk.

### **Little Rock Zoo**

Public Relations Manager Susan Altrui reported that the Zoo has filled six positions as recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquarium to maintain accreditation and is in the process of filling nine additional needed positions.

Current projects underway are the tiger habitat renovations for tiger breeding, bear habitat renovations, otter habitat renovations and amphitheater renovation.

### **Next Meeting:**

The group was given a calendar for 2013 however there was a conflict with the first meeting since it fell during spring break. Staff indicated that a different date would be selected

There were no further questions or comments and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.