



March 5th Meeting Notes
4:00 PM
City Hall – City Board Chambers

Committee Members Present: Co-Chairs Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton and Gary Smith, Chrystal Gray, Dr. Anika Whitfield, Steve Strickland, Kyle Demilt, Peter McKinney O’Conor, Mursheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Charles Blake and Troy Laha

Mayor Mark Stodola and City Manager Bruce Moore

Committee Member Absent: Khayyam Eddings

Co-Chair Gary Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and the two co-chairs introduced themselves. Mayor Stodola kicked off the meeting by explaining the mission and the purpose of the committee. He also stressed how important it is for the City to be transparent in how it spends the new sales tax dollars.

City Manager Bruce Moore thanked committee members for their willingness to serve and recognized City Director B.J. Wyrick who was in the audience. He then asked each Department Director and other City Staff in the room to stand and make introductions the following were present:

- Fire – Chief Greg Summers
- Finance – Sara Lenehan
- Public Works – Ronny Loe and John Honeywell
- LR Zoo – Mike Blakely
- Planning – Tony Bozynski
- Park & Recreation – Truman Tolefree
- Information Technology – Randy Foshee
- Human Resources – Don Flegal
- Fleet – Wendell Jones
- LRPD – Chief Stuart Thomas
- Assistant City Manager – Bryan Day
- Intergovernmental Relations – Odies Wilson

Following those introductions Mr. Moore introduced Frederick Gentry who has served as the Assistant to the Little Rock City Board and will now staff the LRCent Committee. Bruce gave a brief presentation of the one page priority needs-estimated cost list which summarizes how the 5/8 Cent operating revenues will be spent and the 3/8 Cent capital

revenues will be spent. He also explained that certain departments would receive a pro-rata share of funding to get projects underway.

Donald Shellabarger asked how the funding for the State Fair would be used. Mayor Stodola indicated that the funding is there as a bargaining tool pending what the Arkansas State Fair Commission decided regarding potential relocation.

City Manager Moore went through the resolutions and ordinances that passed regarding the sales tax and how it should be spent along with a chart that shows how the dollars will be spent in three (3) year cycles. He also explained the short-term financing ordinance that the City Board passed which would allow the City to borrow \$18,580,000 to get specific projects started which would be paid back as sales tax revenues are collected. The goal is to have all capital projects completed by 2015.

Steve Strickland asked about the communications system and why Motorola was chosen without going through the typical bid process. Mr. Moore explained that the City entered into a sole source agreement with Motorola which the law allows when there is no other company that meets certain requirements.

Gary Smith asked how the interest on the short-term financing would be paid. Finance Director Lenehan explained that it would be paid out of the general fund.

Dr. Whitfield had a question regarding the bid and contracting process that the City uses. Mr. Moore gave a very brief overview of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP) Process.

Dr. Hampton asked the group if they could set their initial two meetings in April and June. It was decided that the first official meeting would take place on April 18th and on June 20th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Both meetings are to take place at the Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center located on 12th Street. She also noted that the committee would provide a report to the City Board twice a year.

The floor was opened for additional questions at which time Dr. Whitfield asked about the Research Park Authority and its plans to determine where the Technology Park will be located. Mr. Moore stated that the Authority is a separate entity and that the City has no control over the Authority. He did note that they recently hired a consulting firm to review and provide study information on several locations that were under consideration.

Mr. Smith reminded the committee that all meetings would be open to the public and that the media would be notified prior to each meeting. A question was raised as to whether or not the committee had to file statements of financial interest. Staff indicated that they didn't think that would be necessary since the committee would not be expending funds, but would confirm such with the City Attorney.

There were no further questions or comments and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.