

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016, Minutes**

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center**

At 11:41 AM the sixteenth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Dr. Sybil Hampton, co-chair. She welcomed new At Large member Kristi Lambert.

Committee Members present during the meeting were: Dr. Sybil Hampton, Peter McKinney O’Connor, Denise Jones Ennett, Steve Strickland, Musheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Kristi Lamberet, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Kenneth Gill and Rep. Charles Blake.

Also present were: City Manager Bruce Moore, LR CENT staff member Scott Whiteley Carter, and other City Staff.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the June 15, 2016, meeting were approved.

**General Financial Report**

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director presented the General Financial Report. The city collected $4.1 million in June. That put the City approximately 1% under the same time period the previous year. Finance is working to determine why the figures are lower. Two potential areas are lower franchise fees due to the weather, which also impacts sales tax on utility bills, and internet sales tax.

Ms. Lenehan noted that another short-term financing note would probably be issued before the end of the year.

Mr. Shellabarger asked her about the appropriations for the Tech Park. He stated that there had not been expenditures in a while. She replied that they had not yet made an additional request from the City.

**Department of Community Programs**

Community Programs staff members Michael Sanders and Keith Alexander made the presentation. They discussed the youth employment program and the efforts to reach out to disconnected youth. They also informed the committee that the department was developing a new data management tool to enable them to use data to better steer services to the greatest needs.

**Little Rock Police Department**

Chief Kenton Buckner reported that the new Pankey Station in West Little Rock would be opening in November. There were questions about cost over-runs and delays in the project. The Chief and City Manager explained that there had been some unanticipated changes to the design, as well as much more extensive work for sewer and water.

Discussion then turned to the 12th Street Station retail space. City Manager Moore replied that a real estate agent had been retained to market the space. He expected to see progress on that project. An update would be available at the February 2017 meeting of LR CENT.

Recruit School #85 began August 5 with ten (10) recruits and will graduate in February 2017. There are 19 vacant positions in 911. The LRPD is working with HR to review applications to fill those positions.

**Parks and Recreation Department**

Director Truman Tolefree updated the committee on the construction of the West Central Community Center. It will open in November 2016.

**Little Rock Zoo**

City Manager Moore thanked Zoo Director Mike Blakeley who is retiring. Mr. Blakely then provided an updates on a variety of Zoo projects. The tunnel renovation (necessary for AZA, USDA and OSHA requirements) is nearing completion and the primate renovations are about to start. He then thanked the LR CENT Committee for their work.

**Information Technology Department**

I.T. Director Randy Foshee discussed upgrades to the City’s website as well as plans for enhancing the City’s Infor/Lawson finance system and HR system. They have also been working to install all necessary equipment at new Pankey Station and West Central Community Center.

**Department of Fleet Services**

Fleet Services Director, Willie Hinton reviewed a list of fleet purchases since the last report given. These have been for Housing and Neighborhood Programs ($9,337.20), Parks and Recreation ($515.48), Planning & Development ($45,100.35), Planning and Development (R225.00), Zoo ($10,731.05). and Fleet Services ($39,484.45) This represents a total of $105,393.50 in the third quarter of the year.

**Department of Public Works**

Public Works Director Jon Honeywell noted that 6.4 miles of sidewalks reconstruction have taken place.

He then reviewed the status of the projects approved by the City Board for the 2013-2015 time period. Only a few have not been completed.

Mr. Honeywell then discussed the 2016 to 2018 projects. Public Works is currently in the consultant selection process. The schedule is to start design work in September 2016.

**Other**

City Manager Moore proposed to the Committee that it not meet in December due to the meeting date’s proximity to Christmas. He stated that the City would mail out a packet of materials for the Committee members to review.

The meeting schedule is shifting in 2017 to February, May, August, and November. The location will also change to the Centre at University Park, which was an early LR CENT project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.07 pm.