



September 19th, 2012 Meeting Notes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center

At 11:35 AM the third meeting of the LRCent Committee was called to order by presiding Co-Chair Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton.

The following Committee Members were present during the meeting: Co-Chair Gary Smith, 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 gave an update that regular programming had been fully implemented and that a bidders conference had been held to open bids for programs to be implemented in 2013. Responses from bidders are due back by October 4, 2012.

Little Rock Fire Department

Fire Chief Greg Summers reported that twelve firefighters had been hired and apparatus had been purchased for the West Little Rock Fire Station which will be open in early December 2012. Land is still being evaluated for a fire station in South West Little Rock. Mr. Moore indicated that staff is looking at land near Stagecoach and Otter Creek area.

Fleet Services

Fleet Director Wendell Jones reported on vehicles and other specialized equipment that had been purchased to fulfill the needs of several departments. His report included the purchase of eighteen police cars and twenty-five code enforcement trucks.

Housing and Neighborhood Programs

Victor Turner the Assistant Director, 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.

Dr. Whitefield asked what type of community outreach was being done code enforcement officers to help educate the public. Mr. Moore indicated that once the positions are filled staff will be more proactive in reaching out to the community to address code enforcement needs.

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 should be operational 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. By mid October they hope to fill a zoning enforcement officer and two plans examiner positions.

Little Rock Police Department

Police Chief Stuart Thomas highlighted that the radio system upgrade are underway as planned. Most of the land has been acquired for the 12th Street Mid town Station and bids will soon go out for a construction manger. Staff is currently seeking the lawful owner of a site west of Interstate-430 along highway 10 to negotiate the location of a West Little Rock Police Station.

30 candidates are going through recruit school and should graduate in December. The next recruit class is scheduled to begin on December 10. They are also actively recruiting applicants for twenty-three 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 is accepted project recommendations through the end of August at which time 1,400 project requests had been submitted. The 2012 infrastructure projects are underway and the sidewalk construction program has constructed 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.

She also indicated that an RFQ will go out to begin revising the 2001 master plan and they plan to begin making capital improvements to renovate the tiger exhibit.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Hinton Center. Mr. Moore asked the committee to be thinking about what they would like to be added to the agenda.

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