



Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
VIRTUAL

At 11:35 AM the thirty-fifth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, co-chair. Members present were Troy Laha, Peter McKinney O'Connor, Erma Peterson, Donald Shellabarger, Steve Strickland, and Stacy Tierney.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 2021 were approved upon a motion by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Dr. Hampton.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, the City's Chief Financial Officer, reviewed sales tax collection through January 2022 (based on the report to the City by the State of Arkansas through November 2021). Year to date, the City is \$7,256,135 or 15.05% over the same period in 2020. However, these numbers include the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic so there was expected to be an increase from 2021 compared to 2020.

In the first nine years of the tax, the City has received \$314,655,979 in the 5/8 cent Operating Tax and \$188,940,242 in the 3/8 cent Capital Tax for a total of \$503,596,221 in new tax proceeds.

Finance continues to look at the conclusion of the original 10 years of projects, all projects will be completed. Those unfinished projects will receive approximately 97 percent of their original allocation. But due to budget estimates and other cost savings, the projects will still be finished.

In looking at the financial forecast for the future, it is not expected that the growth in building material revenue (which is up \$1 million over the previous year) will likely continue at that rate. However, all other categories are expected to continue to grow at approximately the rate they have increased.

Community Programs

Director Dana Dossett reviewed the Reentry opportunities from November 2021 to January 2022. During that time period, they served 60 residents. They were 40 males/20 females; racially they were 54 African-American and six white.

The Re-Entry Program Cohort Meeting is in the process of planning another Cohort meeting with potential clients. These are small meetings to assist our clients through their employment journey. Clients have an opportunity to meet other individuals struggling with the same issues. Classes had been postponed due to Covid and will resume in the near future to help ensure that our clients remain on a successful path.

There was a discussion by Community Programs to increase outreach to other organizations doing similar work. The goal would be to build a stronger network of similarly focused groups.

Fleet Services

Donna Facen gave the report on behalf of Fleet Services Director Willie Hinton. Fleet Services begin leasing City units in January 2019. To date, they have leased 199 units. In order to continue leasing, the department decided to use the LR CENT accounts toward the lease payments to cover the units. They started using these funds in March 2021 and will continue in year 2022.

The balance in the LR CENT accounts including the \$800,000 received in 2022 reflecting the 5/8 Cent Sales Tax is \$1,541,299. The remaining projected leased payments for 2022 is \$1,163,579 leaving a balance of \$377,719 for new purchases.

911 Communications

Director Juana Green gave her department's report. 9-1-1 Communications currently has 23 vacancies (22 are call taker positions). On November 26, 2021, three (3) trainees graduated from the academy and two (2) are currently in training. The 9-1-1 phone system was upgraded to the Vesta hosted system on November 17, 2021.

Police

Ms. Latreasa Mullins updated the committee on behalf of Chief Humphrey. She discussed plans for the new Police headquarters building. Much interior and exterior work is underway. It is hoped that it will be occupied by the second quarter of 2022.

Effective February 12, 2022 – Lt. Cody Miller was promoted to rank of Major. Sgt. Kenneth Baker was promoted to Lieutenant.

Recruit Class #99 graduated on January 28, 2022, with nine recruits completing the class. One recruit, from Class 98 who was injured during his class, also completed Recruit School with Class 99. A total of 10 recruits will begin the Field Training portion of their initial entry training.

Recruit Class #100 is began on February 14, 2022. There are 21 applicants scheduled to begin this class. Recruit Class #100 contains 11 female recruits and 10 male recruits, making it the first ever majority female traditional Recruit Class at LRPD.

The Department has begun accepting applications for Recruit Class #101 and a COATS Class (Certified Officer) scheduled to begin in August of 2022.

Dr. Hampton asked for an update on the Twelfth Street Station tenant space. Mr. Carter stated that negotiations were wrapping up with the three tenants and that plans were moving ahead for the finishing out of that space.

Public Works

Director Jon Honeywell presented the Public Works update. As of January 2022, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 261,472 square feet (approximately 52,294 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by the contractor with Sidewalk Program funds totals 253,404 square feet (50,680 linear feet) since September 2015. Together that is a total of 514,876 square feet (102,975 linear feet) or 19.5 miles of sidewalk.

The 2019 to 2021 Street and Drainage Improvement Program is underway. \$55.7 million was allocated for Street, Drainage, and Resurfacing projects. All 76 Street & Drainage projects for the 2019 – 2021 program have been funded. Public Meetings to receive input from neighborhoods are complete and resurfacing work is under way in all Wards.

Resurfacing work under construction in all Wards.

- 7 Projects are in Design Phase.
- 6 Projects are in the Right-of-Way Phase.
- 1 Project is in the Bidding and Award Phase.
- 18 Projects are Under Construction.
- 5 Projects are Substantially Complete
- 39 Projects are complete.

The 2019 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 119,300 linear feet of City streets. The 2019 Street Resurfacing Program is 100% complete.

The 2020 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 79,275 linear feet of City streets. The 2020 Street Resurfacing Program is 100% complete.

The 2021 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 6,700 linear feet of City streets. The 2021 Street Resurfacing Program is 10% complete.

General Comments/Questions

Mr. Carter noted that the next meeting would be on a Wednesday in May at 11:30 a.m. As it gets closer to the meeting, the exact date and the format of the meeting will be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm.