



Wednesday, November 8, 2017, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park

At 11:33 AM the twentieth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Peter McKinney O'Connor, co-chair.

Committee Members present during the meeting were: Peter McKinney O'Connor, Steve Strickland, June Matheny, Musheerah Tharpe, Donald Shellabarger, Troy Laha, and Kristi Lambert.

Committee Members Not Present were: Dr. Sybil Hampton, Rep. Charles Blake, Denise Jones Ennett, and Kenneth Gill.

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

Welcome: Mr. O'Connor welcomed everyone. He noted that the dates for LR CENT 2018 meetings were in the packet.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the August 16, 2017, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Laha, seconded by Mr. Shellabarger.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director presented the General Financial Report. Overall, year to date, the city is 3.09% above the same time in 2016.

Ms. Lenehan told the committee that the City's collections were ahead of where they were this time last year. She reminded the committee there would be no additional short-term financing from the tax. This is because there would not be sufficient time to pay it off from proceeds before the tax sunsets.

She noted that the McFadden Building at 615 West Markham was being purchased for the new Police Headquarters. City Manager Moore discussed that after the LRPD had moved into it, the existing police building would be demolished. Plans for that site, as well as future plans for a new courts building are still undetermined.

Department of Community Programs

Dana Dossett, Director of Community Programs made the presentation. Since August 2017, seventy (70) Little Rock residents have enrolled in the reentry program.

The City currently employs re-entry participants in Fleet Services, the Zoo, Housing and Neighborhood Programs (animal services and code enforcement), Police, Public Works (sidewalks and right of way crews), and Community Programs. They are working with Fire, Finance, Planning and Parks & Recreation to create positions.

Regarding the employment placement services contract, 368 participants have been referred to providers. The city continues to partner with The Good Grid and Our House, Inc.

Fleet Services

Fleet Services Director Willie Hinton presented the update. He reviewed a list of fleet purchases since the last report given. These have been for Fleet (\$66,978), Public Works (\$305.19) and Zoo (\$22,001.87). This is a total of \$89,285.06

Information Technology

I.T. Directory Randy Foshee presented his department's report. The Lawson/Infor system has been upgraded. The new Voice Over Internet Protocol Phones Phase 1 & 2 is underway. To date, the department has installed upgrades to 738 of the approximate 1050 city managed phones which are in use daily. The fiber and equipment to connect the Northwest Police precinct, SID and the Stat Data Center to the City's fiber ring has been installed and the project is complete. All sites have experienced an increase in speed and reliability.

The paging system at the Central Fire Station has also been installed and is being tested.

IT has purchased 20 desktop computers, 7 laptops and the necessary licensing and accessories for a total of \$46,432.95. This new equipment will reduce maintenance expenditures in future years.

Parks and Recreation

Director John Eckart gave the Parks and Recreation update. The expansion of the Vogel-Schwartz Sculpture Garden was dedicated on October 1, 2017. This public private partnership leveraged \$50,000 from the sales tax with significantly more private dollars.

The new trail head at the River Mountain Trail has been completed at the cost of \$13,000. A question was asked about the progress on connecting the Arkansas River Trail. Mr. Moore stated that the City was still negotiating with Dillard's. The proposed path would not go between the Dillard's building and the Arkansas River, so the City was looking at ways to have the trail proceed in front of the building.

Little Rock Police Department

Police Chief Kenton Buckner announced that Recruit Class #88, with 25 recruits, began August 21, 2017. It is scheduled to graduate in February. Recruit Class #89 is set to start on November 13 with 42 recruits. An additional class is scheduled to start on February 19, 2018. This class will be the first to have been recruited and screened using the new, comprehensive process.

Regarding 911 Communications Personnel, ten (10) communications personnel graduated from their training academy on September 29, 2017. Additional personnel are scheduled to start an eight (8) week training academy on December 11, 2017. The Communications division has fifteen (15) vacant positions.

In response to a question, Chief Buckner reported on the success of the mandatory overtime initiative. Because of it, the department's visibility has increased and there has been a decrease in both shootings and homicides. He stressed that there is still much work to do—there will always be room for improvement.

Department of Public Works

Public Works Director Jon Honeywell reported that as of November 8, 2017, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 163,019 square feet (approximately 321,604 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by contractor with Sidewalk Program funds totals 86,081 square feet (17,160 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 249,100 square feet (49,820 linear feet) of sidewalk reconstruction

On the 2013 – 2015 Sales Tax Projects, a total of \$2,600,000 in Sales Tax funding was allocated for each Ward and the projects were approved by the Board of Directors for construction. Public Works is managing and reviewing the design of these projects by the selected design engineering firms. The public meeting process that allows citizens to review and comment on the design of the selected projects has been completed. Multiple projects have been bid and construction started. Six projects are not completed; all are in the construction phase.

Regarding the 2016 to 2018 Street Drainage Improvement Program, Public Works has received approved contracts and released all design consultants. All design work is scheduled to complete in 2017. Public Meetings to receive input from neighborhoods have recently been completed. Several projects have been moved to the Bid and Construction Phases

The 2016 Street Resurfacing Program is also funded by the sales tax issue. The 2016 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 84,780 linear feet of City streets. A list of the streets with expected timeframe to be resurfaced follows. The 2016 Street Resurfacing Program is complete. The 2017 Street Resurfacing Program is also funded by the sales tax issue. The 2017 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 6,475 linear feet of City streets. A list of the streets with expected timeframe to be resurfaced

follows.

For the 2019 to 2021 projects, following the public solicitation for project ideas, staff is reviewing the suggestions. There were approximately 400 new project requests. In 2018, public meetings will be held in each ward during the second quarter of 2018. The final list will be submitted to the City Board for approval prior to the end of the third quarter.

Little Rock Zoo

Zoo Director Susan Altrui updated the Committee. The Colobus/Serval Exhibit is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018. The construction bid is set for release in November 2018.

The Lion Exhibit upgrades have been completed. The female lions were acquired in October; keepers have begun introducing them to the male lion.

The Zoo is working with the Finance Department on a point-of-sale system that will be comprehensive. Because this is more involved than originally planned, it is taking longer to implement.

Upgrades to the tunnel exhibits are necessary to bring exhibits into compliance with AZA accreditation, USDA and OSHA requirements. Fences, gates, pools, landscaping and animal holding areas are being renovated for Somali Wild Asses, Maned Wolves, Yellow Back Duikers and Sarus Cranes. Renovations complete except for anteater and crane pools which will be completed in-house at a later date.

Other

In a follow up to a previous request for Ms. Tharpe, City Manager Moore noted that the City was in the process of renegotiating the contract with the Optimist Club on the space at the West Central Community Center. The goal is to have a more flexible schedule which will make the space available for use by the successful adult programs at the Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 11:30am at the Centre at University Park. Lunch service will start at 11:00am.