



**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park**

At 11:35 AM the twenty-first meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Dr. Sybil Hampton, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Peter McKinney O'Connor, Denise Jones Ennett, Erma Peterson, Steve Strickland, June Matheny, Musheerah Tharpe, Kenneth Gill, Donald Shellabarger, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Rep. Charles Blake and Kristi Lambert.

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

Welcome: Dr. Hampton welcomed everyone. She welcomed new Ward 2 member Erma Peterson.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the November 21, 2017, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Laha, seconded by Mr. O'Connor.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director presented the General Financial Report. The City does not yet have the numbers for the end of 2017. Those are expected by the end of February. Year to date, the City is 1.89% above where it was the prior year. Internet purchases continue to impact the City's revenue.

Ms. Lenehan 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.

Department of Community Programs

Dana Dossett, Director of Community Programs made the presentation. In 2017 three-hundred and sixty eight (368) Little Rock citizens were processed through the City of Little Rock's Re-Entry Program. Out of that number, thirty-seven (37) new participants were hired into the City of Little Rock's Re-Entry Employment Training Program.

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

Ms. Dossett also discussed that the staff is considering ways to promote the programs and celebrate the successes the department has had due to LR CENT funding.

Fire

City Manager Moore introduced the new Fire Chief, Delphone Hubbard. Chief Hubbard reported that two new fire engines had been purchased. In addition, the construction timeline for Fire Station #24 (Southwest Little Rock) has been approved. The ground breaking is anticipated for August. Employees for the new station will be hired in February 2019 so that they will be trained and ready for deployment when the station opens in August 2019.

Information Technology

Mary Cook of the IT Department presented the report. The Lawson/Infor system has been upgraded. The new Voice over Internet Protocol Phones Phase 1 & 2 is underway. As of January 31, 2018, 791 of the approximate 1050 city managed phones have been installed and are in use daily.

As part of Phase 2 of the VoIP upgrade, LRIT purchased equipment that will enable the recording of all calls for service taken by the newly established Police Telephone Reporting unit. Funds totaling \$35,200.59, were taken from the Operational Capital Expenditure account to cover this replacement.

Little Rock Police Department

Police Chief Kenton Buckner announced that twenty-two (22) members of Recruit Class #88 graduated on February 2, 2018. Thirty-five (35) members of Recruit Class #89 are scheduled to graduate in May 2018. Recruit Class #90 is scheduled to start February 19, 2018, with seventeen (17) recruits. An additional Recruit Class is scheduled for August 2018.

Regarding 911 Communications Personnel, eight (8) graduated from their training academy on February 2, 2018. The Communications division has eleven (11) vacant positions.

Department of Public Works

Public Works Assistant Director Ronny Loe reported that as of February 21, 2018, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 173,404 square feet (approximately 34,681 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by contractor with Sidewalk Program funds 88,307 square feet (17,661 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 261,711 square feet (52,342 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 has managed and reviewed the design of these projects by 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

Regarding the 2016 to 2018 Street Drainage Improvement Program, Public Works has managed and reviewed all project designs by selected design consultants. All design work is substantially complete. Public meetings to receive input from neighborhoods have been completed. Right of way and easement acquisitions are under way on multiple design projects. Utility coordination is underway to relocate facilities as necessary for all projects. Several projects have been moved to the Bid and Construction Phases.

The 2016 Street Resurfacing Program was funded by the sales tax issue. The 2016 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 84,780 linear feet of City streets. 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 46,205 linear feet of City streets.

For the 2019 to 2021 projects, following the public solicitation for project ideas, staff has reviewed 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 2018. Engineering and design phase completed. A pre-bid meeting was conducted February 1st. Construction bids were unsealed on February 15th and are currently under review.

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. The Bid is closed and being reviewed. Proposal review began on February 14, 2018.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.