



Wednesday, August 15, 2018, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park

At 11:40 AM the twenty-third meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Peter McKinney O'Connor, Denise Jones Ennett, Erma Peterson, June Matheny, Kenneth Gill, Donald Shellabarger, Kristi Lambert and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Steve Strickland, Musheerah Tharpe, and Rep. Charles Blake.

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

Welcome: Dr. Hampton welcomed everyone at 11:37 am.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the June 20, 2018, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Shellabarger, seconded by Mr. Gill.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director presented the General Financial Report. When looking at the first half of 2018 compared to the first half of 2017, Ms. Lenehan reminded the committee that the part of the 2017 numbers do not contain Amazon collections. Year to date, the City is down 0.03% where it was the prior year. Internet purchases continue to impact the City's revenue.

Fire

Chief Delphone Hubbard reported that the department is in the process of hiring the twelve (12) new Firefighters for Station 24. Currently, the process is in the background check phase. The Department received two new pumper trucks in July. The groundbreaking for Station 24 is scheduled for October. The projected completion date is scheduled for November of 2019.

Information Technology

Jeff Ralston presented the report for Information Technology. LRIT is currently working with the Zoo, Fleet Services, Solid Waste, the Police Training Academy and the Police Special Investigations Division to install new equipment for the Voice Over Internet Protocol Phones. Additional VoIP networking equipment and phones, totaling \$45,905.31 was purchased with funds from both the 3/8 Cent Capital Expenditure and the LRIT Special Projects accounts.

Police

Police Chief Kenton Buckner announced 14 members of Recruit Class #90 graduated April 3 as did 4 members of the COAT (Certified Officers Accelerated Training) Class #91. Recruit Class #92 is scheduled to commence August 20 with approximately 25 recruits.

Chief Buckner was asked about the process of recruiting and filling vacancies. He responded that while Finance may consider a vacancy filled once the person is on the City's payroll, the Police Department does not count a position as filled until that officer has an assignment without another officer. That can take thirty-six (36) to forty (40) weeks after graduation.

There was then discussion about the COAT recruitment processes. Little Rock is very strict in this. In the quest to fill vacancies, the City does not want to be recruiting persons who caused issues for other departments.

In November 2017, the City purchased a building at 615 West Markham Street. The building, once renovated, will be the new headquarters for the Little Rock Police Department. A selection committee has been formed and the procurement process will begin to find a vendor for building renovation. The anticipated project completion date is 2020.

Regarding 911 Communications personnel, a new eight (8) week training academy for communications personnel will begin on August 20, 2018. The Communications division has fourteen (14) vacant positions.

Department of Public Works

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

As of July 23, 2018, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 177,294 square feet (approximately 35,459 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 265,601 square feet (53,120 linear feet) of sidewalk reconstruction.

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 94% complete. Public meetings to receive input from neighborhoods have been completed. Right of way and easement acquisitions are 78% complete. 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 89,043 linear feet of City streets. The 2018 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 47,937 linear feet of City streets.

A question was asked about utilities and others making street cuts to do work, but not repairing them to the original standards. Mr. Moore noted that an additional inspector was being added to help address this concern.

Zoo

Director Susan Altrui presented the report. Site preparation and construction began in July on the new Colobus/Serval exhibit. Staff is targeting March 2019 for completion. The Zoo is upgrading each piece of the current Point of Sale system under contract, including upgrading software, installing necessary network infrastructure, and purchasing new hardware. Tax funds will be used for new infrastructure, including completing a fiber loop to ensure the security and reliability of the point of sale system.

Engineering has been completed on two additional ADA areas at the Zoo. The specification manual is under final review with the City of Little Rock legal department.

General Questions and Comments

Mr. Shellabarger requested an update from the Tech Park. Since it receives LR CENT funds, he felt the committee needed to receive information about how those funds had been spent. City Manager Moore responded that he agreed and the City staff would schedule them and the Little Rock Port Authority (also a recipient Economic Development funds) for an upcoming meeting.

The annual LR CENT report to the City Board will be on September 11 at 4pm in the City Board Chambers at City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm.