



Wednesday, February 27, 2019, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park

At 11:38 AM the twenty-fifth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order Peter McKinney O'Connor, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Denise Jones Ennett, Erma Peterson, Steve Strickland, Musheerah Tharpe, Don Shellabarger, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: June Matheny, Kenneth Gill, Rep. Charles Blake, and Kristi Lambert.

Also present were: Assistant City Manager James Jones, LR CENT staff member Scott Whiteley Carter, and other City Staff.

Welcome: Mr. O'Connor welcomed everyone at 11:38 am.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the November 7, 2018, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Shellabarger.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, Finance Director presented the General Financial Report. The report in February is through the end of December 2018. Year to date, the City is up 0.99% compared to the prior year. Internet purchases continue to impact the City's revenue.

Due to a potential difference between what was projected for the ten years of the bonds and what will actually be collected, Ms. Lenehan was asked the process for determining how projects may be impacted. She noted the following:

- At the current rate, there would be money for 94% of the projects. A new Courts building will likely be the only project not funded. The purchase and renovations of the McFadden building (for Police headquarters) will cost less money than would have the construction of a new building. Those savings should ensure there are enough funds for the other projects which have not yet been started.
- Some line items that were listed did not have specific projects listed, such as "Parks Improvements." In those instances, parks improvements are still being completed, but

the funding was not allocated 100% at the beginning, so there are not Parks improvement projects that were promised that will not be undertaken.

- Funding for some street and drainage projects may end up coming from the 2012 Capital Bond program instead of LR CENT sales tax.
- Interest from the bonds has been used to help pay for contingencies on some projects.

Little Rock Port Authority

Bryan Day, Executive Director of the Little Rock Port Authority, gave an update on economic development activities at the Port. He reviewed a variety of purchases the Port had made with the LR CENT economic development funds. These currently total nearly 1400 acres. Some have included existing buildings which may be repurposed for the new owner.

There are five more offers on the table for an additional 500 acres of sales. The strategies that the Port uses are: willing buyer, ensuring the Port can serve it with existing resources or linking to existing land, and making sure that the project is sensitive to wetlands, burial sites and cemeteries that are in the area.

He was asked about the return on the investment from the LR CENT dollars. Because so many of the projects are more recent, that cannot yet be calculated, he responded. Mr. Day did point out that the Port's economic impact was \$5.1 billion.

Community Programs

Dana Dossett reported on the program for Disconnected Youth in Transition (ages 18 to 30). Through December 2018, this contract has served 309 clients. Of these, 162 acquired full-time employment with 142 of those maintaining employment for 90 days.

Ms. Dossett also discussed the 2019 Pilot of the Career Empowerment Opportunity. It has three phases. Phase 1 is Entry-level Training and Job Opportunities, Phase 2 is Empowerment Opportunities, and Phase 3 is Stability and Sustainability Opportunities. This is targeted to Reentry participants and Disconnected Youth. After the pilot program is completed, staff will evaluate the effectiveness for future years.

Fire

Chief Delphone Hubbard reported thirty-six (36) firefighter candidates will begin their recruit training on March 4, 2019. After the contract with Baldwin & Shell Construction Company was approved by the City Board and signed, they have started work on Station 24 construction earlier this week.

Parks and Recreation

John Eckart presented the report for Parks and Recreation. A new trail is being constructed in Allsopp Park. A new mountain bike trail system is being created in River Mountain Park, Two Rivers Park, and Allsopp Park. Work is also being done on the parking lot at the Reservoir Tennis Courts.

Mr. Eckart was asked about the status of the Parks master plan. A draft is being reviewed. It will be released in the next few months. He was also asked about the process to engage a golf course consultant. He responded that an RFP had been issued and that the study would be underway soon.

Police

Assistant Chief Alice Fulk announced Recruit Class #92 graduated on February 1 with 23 members. Recruit Class #94 began on February 18 with 22 members.

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.

The City is in the process of purchasing a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Through the formal bid process, Motorola was selected as the vendor for the purchase. The department is currently in the contract approval process with Motorola. Once the contract is signed, it is anticipated that the new CAD will be ready in fourteen (14) months.

Regarding 911 Communications personnel, five (5) call takers graduated from an 8 week training academy on January 22, 2019.

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. Multiple projects have now been completed with one project still under construction.

As of January 31, 2019, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 194,572 square feet (approximately 38,914 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by contractor with Sidewalk Program funds 107,997 square feet (21,599 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 302,569 square feet (60,513 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. Most projects are in the Bid and Construction Phases.

The 2019 to 2021 Street and Drainage Improvement Program is underway. Design contracts have been executed for all projects. Project design is 11% complete.

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 95,157 linear feet of City streets. The 2018 Street Resurfacing Program has completed asphalt resurfacing on 63,977 linear feet of City streets.

Zoo

Zoo Director Susan Altrui presented the update. Construction continues on the new Colobus/Serval exhibit. The contractor is finishing ceilings, doors, and utility work. Poles for the exhibit wiring and viewing areas will be installed starting this month.

The Zoo is upgrading each piece of the current Point of Sale (POS) system under contract, including software, network infrastructure, and new hardware. The fiber optic cable and conduit loop to ensure the security and reliability of the point of sale system is complete, and front gate staff is training on how to use the new POS system.

Engineering has been completed on two additional ADA pathway areas. The specification manual is complete and the bid draft is under final review with the City of Little Rock purchasing department.

Future LR CENT projects for the Zoo include the delivery of two modular education buildings to serve rapidly growing camp programs, afterschool programs, birthday parties, and other zoo rentals; Constructing new fencing throughout the Zoo, including at the renovated education building, elephant exhibit, Arkansas Farm and Diamond Express Train area; and the construction of a central hay barn.

General Questions and Comments

Mr. Strickland asked for an update on the 12th Street Station building at the May 2019 meeting. Dr. Hampton stated that one would be given at that time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.