



Wednesday, May 22, 2019, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park

At 11:36 AM the twenty-sixth 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, Steve Strickland, June Matheny, Kenneth Gill, Musheerah Tharpe, Don Shellabarger, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Erma Peterson and Kristi Lambert. There is one vacant At-Large position.

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

Welcome: Dr. Hampton welcomed everyone at 11:36 am.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the February 27, 2019, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Shellabarger.

General Financial Report

Due to a government finance conference which the City's senior Finance Department staff were attending, the General Financial Report was given by Mr. Carter. The report for May covered January and February collections. Year to date, the City is up 6.20% compared to the prior year. On behalf of Finance Director Sara Lenehan, City Manager Moore stressed that it was still early enough in the year to not yet call this increase a trend. He did state that obviously the City was pleased by the numbers.

Little Rock Tech Park

Brent Birch, Executive Director of the Little Rock Tech Park, gave an update on the project. In attendance with him was Tech Park Board Member Dickson Flake. Mr. Birch reviewed the history of the Little Rock Tech Park. He noted that after the Phase 1 facility opened in March 2017 with twelve initial tenants, there are now over 50 companies in the space. He discussed several of the Tech Park success stories including Apttegy which outgrew the space and is

now located elsewhere in Little Rock. Fifteen of the Tech Park companies are Minority or Women owned businesses.

Phase 2 will be a five story, 83,000 square foot building at 411 Main Street. It is designed to attract larger tenants.

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. Birch did note that was an important measure for the Tech Park to track in the future.

Fire

Chief Delphone Hubbard gave an update on the construction of Fire Station 24. Framing of the building has started. Training of personnel who will staff that building will begin in August. A new traffic signal will be installed near the station. It will open with one (1) apparatus and twelve (12) firefighters.

Fleet Services

Willie Hinton, Fleet Service Director, presented an update. They have spent \$14,541 for Fleet Services vehicles, \$927,665 for Fire Department vehicles, and \$19,553 on Police Department vehicles.

Among the Fire Department purchases were funds to equip quick response trucks. Use of these smaller vehicles which can respond to many First Responder situations will save on the wear and tear of big trucks. Refurbishing a 1998 Rescue Truck will add fifteen (15) years to the life of that vehicle at a significant cost savings; but a truck can only be refurbished once.

Mr. Hinton was asked about the status of some of the older cars being used by the Police Department. He replied that by the end of 2020, all Crown Victorias and Impalas will be out of service.

Police

Chief Keith Humphrey was introduced. He announced Recruit Class #94 currently has 19 members. Graduation will be in August. On COAT (Certified Officer Accelerated Training) officer completed training and began working on May 1, 2019.

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, five (5) call takers graduated from an 8 week training academy on March 15, 2019. At the end of May, the next call taker academy will begin with approximately ten (10) participants.

In response to an earlier request from Mr. Strickland, City Manager Moore discussed the 12th Street Station retail space. He is close to being able to announce a partnership which would use all of the space in that building.

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.

General Questions and Comments

City Manager Moore pointed out that this would be the final LR CENT meeting of Assistant City Manager James Jones before his retirement. Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Jones for his service. The LR CENT Committee joined Mr. Moore in expressing their appreciation.

A question was raised about the Parks Department installing Bike Polo in MacArthur Park and whether there was enough interest to make use of it. Mr. Eckart responded that this was in response to community input and that the neighborhood had been consulted. He noted that the repurposed court could also be used for other activities in addition to Bike Polo.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.