



**Wednesday, August 21, 2019, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park**

At 11:33 AM the twenty-seventh meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Peter McKinney O'Connor, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Erma Peterson, Steve Strickland, June Matheny, Musheerah Tharpe, Don Shellabarger, and Troy Laha.

Committee Members Not Present were: Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth Gill, 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: Mr. O'Connor welcomed everyone at 11:33 am.

Approval of Minutes:

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

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, the City's Chief Financial Officer, reviewed sales tax collection. Through the end of May, there is a growth of six percent (6%). This does include a large variance in April, which could be eligible for rebate, but the Department of Finance and Administration will not disclose the cause for the marked increase. Even without that outlier, revenues for 2019 seem to be stronger than 2018.

Ms. Lenehan reported that most short-term financing has been paid off. 2016 was the last year the City issued short-term financing based on the sales tax because of the time period necessary for paying it off and the fact that the capital portion of the sales tax ends in December 2021.

A question was asked about whether there had been money in the LR CENT program set aside for the golf courses which were closed in July 2019. City Manager Moore replied that

there was money set aside for War Memorial Park and Hindman Park, but not specifically the golf courses.

Community Programs

Dana Dossett, Director of Community Programs, reviewed the Department's two Crash Courses they had offered for disconnected youth. The first was for those in transition, aged 18 to 30. The second was for Hall High Students. 36 students participated at some point in the first one, with 19 successfully completing the training. In addition 10 of the students successfully passed the SafeServ customer service test and became certified. The Course ended with a job fair which was open to the public. The question was asked why 17 students did not complete the program. Ms. Dossett replied it was largely due to other obligations such as lack of childcare.

In April, working with the Little Rock School District, a program was offered at Hall High School. 30 students participated at some point, with 23 successfully completing the training. It included real world job interview scenarios (which are featured in the photo) with several students being hired through the program to work at local employers.

Regarding the Re-Entry program, through August 16, 193 persons have been Re-Entry clients. Fifteen Re-Entry clients have been hired into City departments, additionally two have been moved into full-time positions. Twelve Re-Entry clients have been hired by outside partners, while 52 have been referred to outside partners for services.

Fire

Chief Delphone Hubbard gave an update on the construction of Fire Station 24. Construction is on schedule; the roof was installed the previous week. The final inspection for the fire truck to be placed in the station will take place in December 2019. It will be delivered in early 2020. Thirty-one (31) firefighter candidates will complete their recruit training on August 22, 2019.

Parks and Recreation

John Eckart, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that tennis courts had been upgraded at Allsopp and Reservoir Parks. The Rebsamen Tennis Center entrance had also been enhanced. LED lighting had been installed at a soccer field in Otter Creek Park.

Police

Chief Keith Humphrey updated the committee on plans for the new Police headquarters building. The bid for construction management was awarded to Baldwin & Shell. The bid for architectural services closes on August 21, 2019. He announced Recruit Class #94 graduated 17 members on August 2. On August 19, Recruit Class #95 began with 34 members.

911 Communications personnel added ten (10) call takers who graduated from an 8 week training academy on July 25, 2019.

Regarding the 12th Street Station retail space, City Manager Moore reported that negotiations were being finalized with a tenant. It is expected that the space will be occupied before the end of 2020.

Public Works

Director Jon Honeywell presented the Public Works update. 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. Of all the many projects, only one remains that is still under construction.

As of July 31, 2019, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 205,252 square feet (approximately 41,050 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by contractor with Sidewalk Program funds 127,141 square feet (25,428 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 332,393 square feet (66,478 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.

Little Rock Zoo

Zoo Director Susan Altrui reported the construction continues on the new Colobus/Serval exhibit. The Zoo's Trails bid has been awarded with construction set for late autumn. The Zoofari education program set records and is going to year-round programming. The classrooms which have been constructed in 2019 will allow for these ongoing classes and programs. Work continues on Zoo fencing and implementing the new point of sale system.

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 12:43 pm.