



Wednesday, November 20, 2019, Minutes
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Centre at University Park

At 11:34 AM the twenty-eighth meeting of the LR CENT Committee was called to order by Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, co-chair. Committee Members present during the meeting were: Erma Peterson, June Matheny, Ken Gill, Musheerah Tharpe, Don Shellabarger, Troy Laha, and Tim Daters

Committee Members Not Present were: Peter McKinney O'Connor, Denise Jones Ennett, Steve Strickland, and Kristi Lambert.

Also present were: Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.; City Manager Bruce Moore; LR CENT liaison Scott Whiteley Carter, and other City Staff.

Welcome: Dr. Hampton welcomed everyone at 11:34 am. She then introduced Tim Daters, a new At Large member of the LR CENT Committee.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the August 2019, meeting were approved. Motion was made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Ms. Matheny.

General Financial Report

Sara Lenehan, the City's Chief Financial Officer, reviewed sales tax collection. Through the end of September, 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. All that remains is the residual interest. As a reminder, 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.

Fire

Chief Delphone Hubbard gave an update on the construction of Fire Station 24. During the week of December 16th, Fire Department personnel will travel to do a final inspection for the fire truck for Station 24. The building construction is proceeding. It is scheduled to be completed in January 2020. Fire personnel are on staff and are ready to be assigned to the station once it is operational.

Fleet Services

Donna Facen, Fleet Financial Manager, presented that department's report on behalf of Fleet Services Director Willie Hinton. Since the previous report, Fleet had spent a total of \$212,204 on vehicles for the Fleet Services and the Parks & Recreation departments.

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 architectural contract was awarded to Wittenberg Delony & Davidson. A walkthrough of the building took place on October 5 in order to discuss future office needs.

Four officers were promoted to Sergeant in October and November. On August 19, Recruit Class #95 began with 34 members. There were 24 still in the class as of November 15. Another academy is scheduled to begin in February.

911 Communications personnel added five (5) call takers have started an 8 week training academy on October 28. 911 is close to being fully staffed. Chief Humphrey was asked if he could see an improvement in the professionalism in that office now that a Captain oversees it. He stated that yes there had been and further noted that complaints have been reduced.

Chief Humphrey was asked about retention of new officers. He estimated that 75 to 80 percent of the recruits are still with LRPD five years after they graduated.

A question was asked about Body Cameras. Chief replied that the department was in the testing phase. The goal is that every patrol officer will have one while they are on duty.

Regarding the 12th Street Station retail space, City Manager Moore reported that negotiations were being finalized with Philander Smith College. 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 November, 2019, the in-house Sidewalk Program crew has completed 216,395 square feet (approximately 43,279 linear feet) of new sidewalks since July 2012. Sidewalk constructed by the contractor with Sidewalk Program funds totals 153,725 square feet (30,745 linear feet) since September 2015. A total of 370,120 square feet (74,024 linear feet) of sidewalk reconstruction.

Regarding the 2016 to 2018 Street Drainage Improvement Program, there were 38 street/drainage projects: all design work is completed, one project is in bidding and award phase, one is in the right-of-way and bid phase, ten are under construction, and 24 are complete.

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

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 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. All three are complete.

Mr. Honeywell was asked about whether resurfacing efforts complied with the City's Complete Streets initiative. He replied that Public Works complies with that where it is feasible.

Little Rock Zoo

Zoo Director Susan Altrui reported the construction continues on the new Colobus/Serval Cat exhibit. It is scheduled for a Spring grand opening. 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.

The Zoo is planning to construct a central hay barn, so they won't have to have trucks drive over the newly constructed public paths. A pasture will be built to provide additional encounters at the Arkansas Heritage Farm.

The Zoo Task Force and Kids Task Force continue to meet.

General Comments

City Manager Moore noted that the LR CENT Committee is unique in municipal governments; he is not aware of another one. He thanked the Committee members for their service and expressed appreciation to the staff for keeping up with this very aggressive program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.