

WORKSHOP OF LAKE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

August 23, 2012

9:30 AM

Participants: Mayor Oswalt and City Council Members JB Sowell, Yvonne Kelly, Bobby Williams, Dwight Ginn, City Attorney Steve Fincher, City Manager Joel Lanen, City Treasurer Tonya Tripp, Director, Public Works Eddie Robinson, City Clerk Eric Beckman, Staff Assistant Tim Hoyle, Police Chief David Colwell, Newspaper reporter, Fay Stovall, resident.

The City Manager indicated that a professional working relationship was entered into with the County Director of Economic Development, Grant Wainscott. He was optimistic that the relationship would be meaningful.

The subject of a Blight Taxation Ordinance was discussed and the City Attorney presented a draft ordinance with the request that the City Manager have it staffed and returned to him with comments as a precedent to a formal ordinance being prepared for City Council consideration and passage in September. This ordinance is designed to increase taxes on vacated commercial property as a means to encourage repairs and maintenance and or sale and rental at which time the blighted taxation would be removed from the facility.

The City Manager discussed an update on the status of 21 vacant commercial properties. The trailer park is under contract with a 40 day due diligence period, the Orange Buffet Building has had an engineering study completed for curing its deficiencies in the next 30 days and the green shopping center across from City Hall has been foreclosed upon with the previous buyer hoping to purchase it at a foreclosure sale.

It was announced that the ARC would be conducting public hearings at City Hall at 7PM on August 28 and September 18, 2012 to gather resident input in preparation of documenting a 2012 Comprehensive Plan for the City.

The City Clerk advised the Council of the need for a policy applicable to tattoo parlors since a person wanted to make application. After much discussion it was decided that the City Attorney would document a 90 day moratorium for allowing tattoo parlors. In the meantime the City Attorney would draft an ordinance consisting of regulations and permitted locations for tattoo parlors. The question was called for a motion and Councilman Sowell made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Kelly which passed unanimously.

Staff Assistant Tim Holye and Clayton State Intern Simeon Payne produced a power point presentation outlining the development of the City's new website design. Following the placement of narrative and photo's it is intended to go live by the end of October at a cost of approximately \$1,500 which was far less than the quotes of upwards to \$10,000 by web designer firms.

City Treasurer Tripp presented target dates for the preparation of the Fiscal 2013 Budget. In addition, she presented a current Expense and Revenue Report together with a Surplus Forecast Report. In addition, the Capital Project List was illustrated to reflect that \$90,000 was reduced to \$56,000 as a consideration for inclusion in the next year's budget allocation.

A discussion moved toward the targeted date of October 6, 2012 for the official opening of the Community Center. The time for the opening ceremony will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. It was decided not to include the cook out at this event and in fact not to serve any food or drink during the opening ceremony. The City cookout is scheduled for October 27, 2012 as a traditional separate event.

During this discussion the following thoughts were exchanged:

The issue of a delayed CO being issued by the Fire Department was caused by the fact that when the Nature Park was constructed there was no need for an inspection by the Fire Department. Therefore the issue of ingress and egress by emergency equipment to the park was never a consideration because a CO is not required on a park.

It was only when the Community Center was constructed on the site of the Nature Park did the Fire Department inspect the facility to assure that it was in conformance with the fire code.

That inspection was completed by the Fire Department and found the Community Center to be in full compliance with the fire code. However, during that inspection it was ascertained by the Fire Department the gate leading to the Community Center was not wide enough to allow emergency vehicles through and found that there would be difficulty in accessing the necessary fire hydrants.

In addition, it was found that there could be an issue with regard to certain roads leading to the Community Center not being wide enough for ingress and egress of Fire Department Emergency Vehicles in addition to their not being able to turn around once they were near the facility.

These matters were the subject for remedial action as offered by the Fire Department, the contractors and architects on Wednesday August 29, 2012 and the results of which will assure that the all matters will be in compliance with the fire code with the issuance of an unqualified CO in advance of the planned opening date of October 6, 2012.

The matter of a new wrecker service contract was discussed with the request for the City Manager to draft a renewal to the current agreement with the Forest Park Wrecker Service with the inclusion of an economic rebate coming to the City. In the event that the rebate is not agreed to by the vendor, then an RFP would be presented to the Council for passage in securing bids for this service.

The City Manager requested an Executive Session to discuss the applicability of recent salary survey data as it applied to proposed salary adjustments. As such a motion was made by Councilman Sowell and Seconded by Councilwoman Kelly to enter an executive session which passed unanimously.

Thereafter, the executive session was closed with a motion by Councilman Sowell and seconded by Councilwomen Kelly which passed unanimously at which time the regular work session was terminated.