



Meeting Minutes
Public Services Council Committee

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

1:00 PM

Huntington Building

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

Mr. Tony Thomas from the Mayor's Office was in attendance.

Present 5 - Ann Williams; Tim McCall; Cecil Province; Jim Hargis and Charles Frierson

Absent 1 - Faye McCall

2. New Business

Resolutions To Be Introduced

RES-08:192 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BIDS FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [2008 Contract with Arkoma Playgrounds for Fort Rotary at Access #6 11-4-2](#)
[2008 Contract with Arkoma Playgrounds for Fort Rotary at Access #6 Install](#)
[Official Bid sheet for Fort Rotary at Access #6](#)

Parks Director Jason Wilkie explained the resolution is related to the contract to build the playground at Craighead Forest Park. He further explained the Public Services Committee approved the contract but the City Council has not. He added he has bid the contract out and has selected the project that met specifications. Councilman Tim McCall asked if this was contingent upon approval of the contract. Mr. Wilkie answered yes. Chairman Charles Frierson asked what amount the City will have to pay. Mr. Wilkie answered approximately \$40,000. Chairman Frierson asked if the rest was being paid by the Rotary Club. Mr. Wilkie answered the remaining money will be paid by the Rotary Club, Parks and Tourism and appropriations from Representative Ray Kidd. Chairman Frierson asked if there were other bidders. Mr. Wilkie explained there were other bidders. He further explained the bidder he chose was not the lowest bidder, but they met the qualifications.

Councilman Jim Hargis asked if anyone is allowed to view the bids. Mr. Wilkie answered yes.

Councilman McCall suggested in the future Mr. Wilkie provide copies of the contract and bids. Mr. Tony Thomas stated he will be emailing them out this afternoon.

A motion was made by Councilman Tim McCall, seconded by Councilman Cecil Province, that this matter be Recommended to Council contingent upon Council approval of the contract. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; Tim McCall; Cecil Province and Jim Hargis

Absent: 1 - Faye McCall

RES-08:180

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL AID FUNDS FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [2008 SRTS Agreement of Understanding](#)

Mr. Wilkie explained this is a 100% grant through the state.

Councilman Hargis asked what is the background of the grant and what schools are included. Mr. Wilkie explained he wants to add school flashers to all Kindergarten through 8th grade schools in Jonesboro. Councilman Hargis asked where the flashers will be placed. Mr. Wilkie answered the flashers will be placed in the traffic right-of-way in school zones. Mr. Thomas explained the flashers will be similar to what is in front of Jonesboro High School. He also stated this grant is collaboration between all the schools in Jonesboro.

Mr. Wilkie noted the schools considered the flashing school zone lights the top priority. Mr. Thomas explained sidewalks were included in the original contract but the funding amount was not enough to cover all of the projects.

A motion was made by Councilman Tim McCall, seconded by Councilman Cecil Province, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; Tim McCall; Cecil Province and Jim Hargis

Absent: 1 - Faye McCall

RES-08:200

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TURTLE CREEK GREENWAY

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [2008 Rec Trails Contract](#)

Mr. Wilkie explained he applied for the funds in 2007 for the 2008 grant cycle. He further explained 1,000 feet of greenway will be constructed north of Highland Drive and on the north boundary of the Turtle Creek Mall. He added this grant is the last grant needed to be able to bid out the next section of the greenway. Councilman Hargis asked how wide the greenway will be. Mr. Wilkie answered 12 feet in most areas but there are a few areas that will be more narrow. Councilwoman Ann Williams asked where the greenway will end. Mr. Wilkie answered Viking Street.

Councilman Hargis stated he recommended the trail be 10 feet wide and include lighting every 60 feet. Mr. Wilkie explained the City was not granted funding for lighting. Councilman Hargis suggested Mr. Wilkie have the electrical work done before the greenway is made so the track would not have to be tore up. Councilman Cecil Province stated the plans he saw had enough of a right-of-way to put lighting in without tearing up the track. Mr. Wilkie stated the previous sections have enough right-of-way to add the lighting, but the new section does not have enough right-of-way in a couple of areas.

A motion was made by Councilman Tim McCall, seconded by Councilwoman

Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; Tim McCall; Cecil Province and Jim Hargis

Absent: 1 - Faye McCall

Discussion concerning the condition of the trees in Jonesboro

Mr. Wilkie gave a presentation concerning trees in Jonesboro. He explained some headstones were damaged when a tree fell in the City Cemetery. He added insurance will not cover the damage.

Councilman McCall asked if the mausoleum was damaged. Mr. Wilkie answered no. Councilman McCall explained he had heard the roof was damaged. Mr. Wilkie stated he will check into that.

Mr. Wilkie explained some of the trees had damage not detectable without some sophisticated system of checking the trees. He added he spoke with the Forestry Commission and they explained the older trees can look healthy but have damage in the core.

Mr. Wilkie explained 200 to 300 trees in Jonesboro could be considered hazard trees. He added hazard trees are considered a hazard if they have a defect and there is an object or person under the tree.

Mr. Wilkie explained an urban forester could benefit the City concerning the health and problems with the trees.

Councilman Province asked if developers were aware of efforts to save some of the trees in subdivisions. Mr. Wilkie explained the City has not had an organized effort to inform developers and there has been some resistance.

Ordinances To Be Introduced

ORD-08:098 AN ORDINANCE WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A SINGLE UNIT GFI GENFARE SYSTEM FOR JETS.

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [gfi genfare quote](#)

JETS Interim Director Steve Ewart explained JETS has 10 Genfare machines which count riders.

Councilman Province asked if each bus has a Genfare machine. Mr. Ewart answered yes. Councilman Province then asked if funding is taken care of. Mr. Ewart explained the 20% of the money will have to be funded by the City and the other 80% will be reimbursed to the City.

Councilman Hargis asked how many buses JETS has. Mr. Ewart answered JETS has 8 buses and 3 para-transit vehicles. Councilman McCall asked if all buses need a Genfare machine. Mr. Ewart answered the buses and the para-transit vehicles need one each. He stated JETS has 3 para-transit routes during the a.m. shift and 3 para-transit routes during the p.m. shift. He noted if JETS uses the 3rd para-transit vehicle they are giving away free rides because it does not have a Genfare machine.

Councilman Hargis asked what the Genfare machine does. Mr. Ewart answered it collects the money or records the bus pass and then counts each rider. He added the machine will be checked every night.

Mr. Ewart explained the City has to offer a capable transit system to the riders. He added most JETS system riders qualify for ADA and if someone is not qualified for ADA ridership they are being turned away because there is not enough room.

A motion was made by Councilman Cecil Province, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;Tim McCall;Cecil Province and Jim Hargis

Absent: 1 - Faye McCall

COM-08:151 JETS Route Change

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [JETS Bus Route Change Letter](#)
[JETS Bus Detail Line Routes](#)
[JETS Bus Route Map](#)

Chairman Frierson asked if the routes were mandated by the City Council. Mr. Ewart answered no. Chairman Frierson asked why the City Council is involved in changing them. Mr. Ewart answered he was advised it would be good policy to give the Council information. He explained this is just FYI because the JETS Community Advisory Board has already approved the route change.

Mr. Ewart explained the Industrial Route will be discontinued between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. because there are no riders during those times. He further explained they will start the Industrial Route 30 minutes earlier at 5 a.m. Councilman Hargis asked if the Industrial Route is the green line. Mr. Ewart answered it is the gold line. He stated they have 6 buses which will run 6 routes. Discussion was held concerning the routes. Mr. Ewart explained he is working with ASU on a service that will move some of the buses off campus and run routes around the Prospect Road area.

This item was Read.

COM-08:152 JETS Advertising Rates

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [JETS Advertising Rate Change Letter](#)
[JETS Advertising Rates](#)

Mr. Ewart explained the advertising revenues are down because companies are not renewing their advertisements. Discussion was held concerning comparison between Jonesboro and other cities.

Mr. Ewart explained the Advisory Board approved to cut JETS advertising rates by 1/3. He added out-sourcing advertising is not an option right now while they can do it in-house. he noted the changes will be as of October 29th. He stated JETS is concluding the negotiations with the Kentucky Fried Chicken advertiser.

This item was Read.

3. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Frierson adjourned the meeting.