



Meeting Minutes
Public Services Council Committee

Monday, October 13, 2008

4:00 PM

Huntington Building

1. Call To Order

Ms. Allison Whitley and Mr. Tony Thomas from the Mayor's Office were also in attendance.

Present 4 - Ann Williams; Jim Hargis; Charles Frierson and Faye McCall

Absent 2 - Tim McCall and Cecil Province

2. Approval of minutes

MIN-08:171 Minutes for the Public Services Committee meeting on August 11, 2008.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman Jim Hargis, that this Minutes be Passed. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Jim Hargis and Faye McCall

Absent: 2 - Tim McCall and Cecil Province

3. New Business

Resolutions To Be Introduced

RES-08:169 A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EXPERIENCE WORKS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE OPERATION OF THE E. BOONE WATSON CENTER

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Experience Works 2008-2013 Agreement 6-17-2008](#)

Parks Director Jason Wilkie explained he has been working with Experience Works Employment Training Coordinator Christy Owens on a project to allow them to use a public facility to allow Experience Works staff to work out of. He explained the CDBG board requested the E. Boone Watson Community Center have more business hours. Mr. Wilkie stated he has agreed the hours should be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. He added the Experience Works staff will have someone answering the phones and would be able to open the African American Center if someone wanted to tour the center.

Mr. Wilkie explained Ms. Gayle Vickers is developing a program that would add more senior citizens activities at the center and add a computer center, so the citizens could have access to register for public services. He added she has the funds

available.

Chairman Charles Frierson asked how many people will be on staff. Ms. Owens explained there would be 1 full time secretary and there could be 2 or 3 extra staff during the day if there are appointments.

Councilman Jim Hargis asked what Experience Works does. Ms. Owens stated they are a non-profit organization that works with mature workers 55 and over, who want to re-enter the workforce.

Councilman Hargis asked if there is a legality with providing a non-profit organization with internet service.

Mr. Wilkie stated he had spoke with IT Director Bill Jenkins concerning what lines are at the E. Boone Watson building but he has not gotten an answer. He added he tried to contact Ms. Vickers to see if there were funds available to supply the line but was unable to reach her before the meeting. Chairman Frierson asked if the City would be supplying the furniture and telephone system. Mr. Wilkie explained the telephone, table and chairs were already at the building and the contract states the City will only provide the existing furniture. He added the City will maintain the facility. Councilman Hargis asked Ms. Owens if Experience Works is responsible for the building. Ms. Owens explained they are responsible only during business hours.

Chairman Frierson recommended Mr. Wilkie get an opinion from City Attorney Phillip Crego concerning the internet service. Councilman Hargis stated he would like to know the cost.

Mr. Wilkie stated he thinks the City provides the line for the service. He added Ms. Vickers would need internet service for her program. He explained he believes Experience Works would be responsible for purchasing the internet service. Ms. Owens explained Experience Works already has their phone line so it would be no extra charge to the City. She added in order to rent out the facility to people, they would need an internet connection.

Chairman Frierson explained the contract states E. Boone Watson Center would be responsible for additional phone lines and internet. Councilman Hargis stated the contract makes it seem like the City is responsible for the first phone line. Mr. Wilkie explains the contract is supposed to state the City pays for the line and Experience Works pays for the internet service. Ms. Owens stated she understood the work Experience Works will be doing for the City would require internet service to already be existing.

Chairman Frierson stated there is a conflict in the contract, so Mr. Wilkie needs to contact Mr. Crego.

Councilwoman Faye McCall asked if this project is going through Ms. Vickers program or if it is in addition to this project. Mr. Wilkie explained CDBG Board member Victor Hill contacted him about a year ago stating he would like to see the E. Boone Watson Center be utilized the way it needs to be and he would like to have it open more hours.

Mr. Wilkie asked if he needs to make the changes to the ordinance and then add it back into Legistar for the 16th. City Clerk Donna Jackson stated she does not know.

Ms. Owens asked if it was just for telephone service or internet. Councilman Hargis explained it will be for any extra services. Ms. Jackson stated it will need to be reviewed by Mr. Crego.

Councilman Jim Hargis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Faye McCall, to proceed with the project with the clarification that the City will not be paying for extra phone service. All voted aye.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Jim Hargis and Faye McCall

Absent: 2 - Tim McCall and Cecil Province

Ordinances To Be Introduced

ORD-08:084 AN ORDINANCE TO CONTRACT WITH THE ROTARY CLUBS OF JONESBORO TO CONSTRUCT A PLAYGROUND AT CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLAYGROUND

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Aerial Photograph of Fort Rotary Location](#)
[Final Signed Contract for Fort Rotary Funding and Construction 10-2-2008](#)

Discussion was held concerning the ordinance. Mr. Wilkie explained after consulting with playground manufacturers the new playground will cost around \$350,000 and the Rotary Club agreed to pay \$240,000. He added the City has \$112,105 available to pay for the playground equipment.

Discussion was held concerning the ordinance.

Mr. Wilkie explained he made this an ordinance because the City will need to appropriate funds of \$240,000 for this project. He further explained the Rotary Club will reimburse the City the full \$240,000 amount. He added this year the Rotary Club will reimburse the city \$80,000 and \$160,000 in 2009. He added they would like to get the appropriation done this year so the City can get the 2008 steel prices. He added the steel prices will go up 20% at the first of the year.

Councilwoman Faye McCall asked if this ordinance would need to be referred to Finance. Mr. Wilkie answered yes.

Councilman Hargis asked what amount the City will be reimbursed. Mr. Wilkie explained the City will only pay \$112,000 for the project. He further explained the City will pay the full amount up front, but the Rotary Club will reimburse the City for \$240,000 of the \$352,000.

Mr. Wilkie suggested there should be a special called meeting to approve the bids. He explained he is in the process of picking the manufacturer to install the playground equipment by the end of the year. Chairman Frierson asked when Mr. Wilkie would know something. Mr. Wilkie stated he would not know anything until the Rotary Club selected the final bidder. He added they have a 5 p.m. deadline tomorrow. Chairman Frierson stated if Mr. Wilkie needs a special called meeting then one could be called.

A motion was made by Councilman Jim Hargis, seconded by Councilwoman Faye McCall, that this matter be Recommended to the Finance & Administration Council Committee. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Jim Hargis and Faye McCall

Absent: 2 - Tim McCall and Cecil Province

4. Pending Items

5. Other BusinessTurtle Creek Greenway

Councilman Hargis asked if the homes across from the Turtle Creek Mall were demolished. Mr. Wilkie stated his understanding is the homes were demolished.

Mr. Wilkie explained he is meeting with the Trails for Life Grant administrator tomorrow at the Greenway site to get the final approval for the trail going north of Highland Drive and east of Turtle Creek Mall. He added City Engineer Craig Light is still working on re-routing the ditch so it will shorten the bridge to help bring the cost down.

Councilwoman Williams asked what the opening date of the first section of greenway will be. Mr. Wilkie answered June or July. He added once the bridge is corrected the project should move along quickly. Councilwoman Williams asked if the greenway will come out at the rugby field on Caraway Road. Mr. Wilkie explained an engineering firm is currently studying where the trail will go from the mall. He added the firm is looking at 3 or 4 different routes and trying to get around the railroad has been the biggest problem.

Bathhouse

Employee Representative Larry Jackson stated the new bathroom at the campground is open. He added they added a washer and dryer to the facility and it has made \$61.25 in 1-1/2 weeks of operation.

Councilman Hargis suggested putting trash cans on the walking trails so people could pick up and throw the trash away.

6. Public Comments**7. Adjournment**

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned.