



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

4:30 PM

Municipal Center

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 4 - Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long and Joe Hafner

Absent 1 - Charles Frierson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-16:084](#)

Minutes for Public Services Committee Meeting on June 21, 2016

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman Bobby Long, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Bobby Long and Joe Hafner

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

4. New Business

Assistant Parks Director Danny Kapales discussed the current projects with their department.

Phase 2 of Craighead Forest Park is complete. The road phase will be started soon. They are waiting on the contracts to be executed. Phase 3 is in the design phase and has been sent down to the Highway Department for review. Once they get those back, the project will continue. That section will start at the back entrance of Craighead Forest, run down Lincoln, go east down Craighead Forest Road and connect to Harrisburg Road. This will be funded by a grant.

A new playground has been installed at Rev. Dr. Lewellen Park. They are also building a shade structure closer to the parking lot. Both projects have been funded by CDBG.

They are in the last stages of putting in LED scoreboards at Joe Mack Campbell Park. They should be in place this week. The Parks Department is paying for two of the scoreboards with Jonesboro Baseball Boosters paying for the other two. They won't have to worry about changing lightbulbs with the new scoreboards.

They have a bid opening tomorrow for the new entrances at Southside Softball Complex. They are putting in a more ornamental fencing with wrought iron. They are also finishing up the outfield fencing and backstops. That is being paid for by the A&P Commission.

They have two new shops in design. The first shop will be located at Joe Mack Campbell Park. The current shop floods in heavy rains, with up to six inches of rain getting in it sometimes. They are constantly having to pick things up and dry it out. The new shop will be located on the Lacy property that was just purchased adjacent to Joe Mack Campbell Park. It's a higher elevation, so there shouldn't be a flooding issue there.

The other shop will be located on the property that was just purchased adjacent to the Parks and Rec office on Dan Avenue. It will be for the Cemetery Department. They do not have a shop at this time. They are currently sharing a shop and are crowded.

Regarding sports programs, they have about 2,100 kids playing soccer between the travel and recreational teams ranging in age from 4 to 18. The numbers are holding steady over last year, but have increased from 1,200 to 2,100 over the last five years. A few years ago they decided to merge CCSA and City Stars soccer because, at that point, things were not going well with CCSA. Councilman Hafner asked if ASU is involved. Mr. Kapales answered yes, Coach Dooley is their director of coaching. He runs the academy program and helps with coach training.

Softball has 510 youth players and 600 adults. The softball numbers have gone down with one of the reasons being travel softball. While they have lost kids in the recreational softball, they have retained them in the travel and tournament play. Baseball has the same situation. There's 820 kids. At one point that was a 1,200 kid program. But, the kids at six and seven years old are starting to do more travel ball. This, in turn, increases the amount of tournaments. They have tournaments about every other weekend with a minimum of 50 teams per tournament.

There was a good influx of kids for winter basketball. 960 kids played City Stars basketball over a seven-week period. That's a good amount of kids when you take into consideration there's also school and AAU ball going on at the same time.

Chairman Gibson mentioned a few months ago Parks Director Wixson Huffstetler had mentioned to him that the city has some kayaks in storage that they are thinking of renting out at Craighead Forest. Mr. Kapales explained the department has kayaks, canoes and sailboats at Parker Park. They were part of Craighead Forest when they still had the boathouse. Mayor Perrin noted that before they can do that, CWL will have to aerate the whole lake which will take a lot of work. If the lake can be aerated, then a new boathouse structure can be built. Mr. Kapales added they would like to see boats out there again, but they're not at that point just yet.

Councilman Hafner asked if the City Stars program could be clarified. Mr. Kapales explained City Stars was started about fifteen years ago. The city helps fund part of it, but it also receives grant funding from different sources. They receive money from the A&P Commission and then host low cost tournaments in order to bring more teams into town. They don't charge for soccer or basketball for kids to participate, but there are gate fees to help offset the cost for officials. The concession stands at events also help offset costs. At the end of the year, they usually break even with the program.

[COM-17:022](#)

JETS update as provided to the Public Services Committee on April 4, 2017

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [Department information](#)

JETS Director Michael Black discussed the JETS department. They are struggling to maintain an acceptable on time performance due to the increase in ridership. A lot of time they are picking up so many passengers on some routes they are not making it to some of their stops until after they are scheduled to leave.

They had 13% of their budget remaining in 2016. He attributes that to good management and the transfer station and sidewalk projects coming in under budget.

They received word this week they were approved for a 5339 Grant that will help them build a canopy in order to protect the buses at their facility. The first ad for bids will run on the 9th, with the second running on the 16th. They will open bids on May 17th. The grant was made possible due to Conway, Arkansas. Conway was looking at starting a transit program, but they decided to hold off. They turned their money back into the state and, in turn, the state dispersed it as a competitive grant. They are also going to purchase enhanced maintenance equipment for their vehicles to catch problems before they occur. They already have two buses on order through this program. They expect the buses to arrive in mid to late October. He also anticipates ordering a paratransit vehicle in late June, early July to add to their fleet. Their fleet is increasing in years and miles, especially paratransit so they could use a new vehicle.

They until December 31, 2020, to have all their stops ADA compliant. Right now they are at 32%. He hopes to be aggressive and have them done by the end of the year.

Ads are being sold through Maas and have been since March 15th. They have an issue with the shelter in front of the plasma center on Nettleton. They had to move the shelter closer to the street due to the right of way. Placing advertising in the shelter would cause an obstruction for motorists, so they will not be able to advertise in that particular shelter. Councilman Gibson asked if they will be advertising within the interior of the bus. Mr. Black answered no, it's just on the outside of the bus. When they order buses, they may come from the same manufacturer but could have different body styles. What will fit inside one bus may not fit in another. It would be expensive to manipulate the signs for every type of vehicle interior. They are looking at possibly installing an LED sign that is in front of the passengers, but behind the driver.

They have partnered with the Jonesboro Sun. They purchase 25 papers and place them on the buses and in the transfer station. In turn, the Sun gives them two 1/8 page ads per month. He's been using it to promote JETS and their programs, including the summer youth program and the youth program.

Due to the growth, they are continually looking for part-time help and part-time drivers.

Councilman Hafner asked if there is a camera system on the buses. Mr. Black answered yes. Councilman Hafner stated drivers and passengers can be monitored. Mr. Black explained it's not a live feed; rather, it's a hard drive setup where the hard drives can be changed. They can be plugged in and the recordings can be viewed. Councilman Hafner added his company uses a system called Drive Cam that allows you to see video and get data feedback to monitor performance and provide safety. Mr. Black further explained that is something they use to determine performance. They'll pull hard drives and watch hours of tape to monitor how the drivers are interacting with the passengers. They also have AVLs on the buses to monitor the

location of all of the vehicles. Mayor Perrin added they recently terminated an employee and one of the pieces of evidence used was the film. AVLs will also tell you if the bus is speeding or idling. The only thing they don't have is the live feed. Mr. Black noted they also have the ability to receive emails if a bus is speeding, telling them when and where the speeding occurred.

Councilman Hafner stated he's glad they do preventive maintenance to help with the vehicles. Mr. Black stated they have figured out one problem in that some of the transmissions from 2009 have a weakened clutch and may separate with no warning between 75,000 and 79,000 miles. He's trying to purchase a part that is strengthened for the buses. He would like to go to an oil analysis that would help things even more, but he would have to jump through hoops with the FTA to change the maintenance policy. FTA will be in town on June 20th and 21st for a site visit. Once that is done, he may dive into changing the maintenance policy.

Councilman questioned policies regarding CPR. Mr. Black stated they try to keep the drivers current on CPR licenses. But, with the way the schedules are set up the drivers work 14-hour shifts with training days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Councilman Long noted that recertification classes aren't as long as the original class. He would like to send his director of operations off to be heart saver certified so he can do the training on a bi-weekly basis on an on-going basis. Mayor Perrin asked Councilman Long if he had any suggestions and, if so, to send them to him.

This item was Filed.

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilman Bobby Long, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Bobby Long and Joe Hafner

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson