

**Infrastructure Task Force
Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m.
City Hall, Conference Room 2A**

Members Present: Scott Atkins, Andrew Beverley, Rex Campbell, Ryan Euliss, Mike Grellner, Phebe LaMar, Andy Lee, Ben Londeree, Rusty Strodtman, Bob Walters and Doug Wheeler, Rhonda Carlson, Tracy Greever-Rice.

Staff Present: Paula Hertwig Hopkins, Billye Clemons.

Members Absent: None.

Old Business

Mr. Campbell moves to approve minutes from August 19, 2010 meeting. Mr. Skala seconds.
Motion carries.

Financial Overview – Lori Fleming

Ms. Fleming presented the proposed 2011 budget. The City has a series of budgets categorized by general government and enterprise. Dedicated revenues are legally restricted. Dedicated and non-dedicated revenue items described and reviewed. Capital project funds reviewed. Of everything we spend our general government revenues on, 9.45% goes to Capital Projects in the proposed 2011 budget. A fine line between general maintenance and capital projects sometimes, but dollar amount is a key factor. Scott Atkins asks for 20 year trend line. Ms. Fleming does not have a 20 year, but does have a 10 year trend manual on line, but not separated out by category.

Transportation sales tax funds Public Works operating budget for street maintenance, bus operations, airport operations and capital needs in streets, transit and airport.

Funding sources outlined for ten year transportation needs is distributed. Ms. Fleming reviews potential November ballot alternatives and 10 year projections. Transportation counts for 70% of those funds and 30% toward public safety.

Mr. Campbell asks if the enterprises project population growth. Ms. Fleming notes projections have customer based and rate growth. Water and Electric use different consumption models. Another significant component in the 2005 ballot issue was voters had to approve an increase in the development charge, which was a raise in licensing fees based on square footage.

Park infrastructure has a park sales tax; dedicated, self-contained source. Park infrastructure is supported with the park sales tax; no general tax revenue.

Each utility component is self-sustaining with their own fees and funding source for capital improvements.

Streets and Sidewalks, Sewer and Storm Water – John Glascock

Mr. Glascock reviews handout, which includes sanitary sewer, storm water utility and storm water development charges.

The City has a storm water advisory board and a rate consultant that is working to restructure this utility as self-sustaining. The advisory board portion is expected to be done by the end of the year with hopes to be on the April 2011 ballot for voter consideration. Current storm water utility charges are reviewed. New projections will be about five times the current rate.

Potential sites for regional detention reviewed.

New capital investments vs. maintenance for existing systems is discussed. Mr. Glascock notes constructing, “taking a road down to the earth” is considered capital. When you overlay asphalt over the top of concrete that is considered maintenance and comes out of the operating fund. Mr. Glascock notes approximately one million is spent annually on overlay.

Mr. Atkins asks for a comparative from 2000 – present of building permit fees. Mr. Glascock notes he does not have that information, but will obtain.

Mr. Wheeler asks for the past several years of capital expenditures. Mr. Glascock notes he has provided the revenue and expenditures; capital has not been added. Ms. Fleming notes the capital varies dramatically from year to year. She cautions that how a contract for a project is done changes how the expenditure looks. Mr. Glascock will provide a draft of the storm water study.

Economic Development Perspective – Mike Brooks

Mr. Brooks notes REDI does not represent developers. He recommends inviting Don Stamper to have that discussion from the developer’s perspective. REDI does represent interests from that group. The real question for him is “is there a point where development fees and charges adversely affect economic development?” Tourism is not the economic driver for this community. Development is a core driver for Columbia. We have to make sure when REDI tries to recruit employers, their employees have a quality life here that is attractive and has the possibility of providing good jobs to people with reasonable cost of living.

Mr. Brooks states IBM would not have gone into the Lemone site if the north entrance would not have been in construction.

Another infrastructure issue is fiber broadband, which is a critical component of future growth. The challenge, unlike water and sewer which is controlled by the City or the County, internet fiber is basically managed by for-profit companies, so the challenge is how to encourage the type of investment needed to support our potential growth in this information highway. There is a city fiber loop, but there are limitations on that that can be used for. From an economic development perspective, we are always in competition with other communities for new projects and also to keep existing employers.

Mr. Grellner asks Mr. Brooks to put together a list of infrastructure problems from REDI’s perspective in this community. Mr. Brooks notes his perspective of infrastructure issues might be things the task force would not consider, such as an incubator in the downtown

parking garage. Mr. Grellner asks for any other examples be forwarded to this group. Issue of hard vs. soft infrastructure discussed again.

Other

Committee would like Don Stamper to be invited to an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Brooks notes the Chamber of Commerce is doing a study on the big 12. Notes a potential good resource. Ms. Hertwig Hopkins will check.

Mr. Campbell asks if Centurylink should also be invited to an upcoming meeting. It's noted that fiber is provided by many different companies.

All other items on the agenda postponed until next meeting.

Next Meeting September 16, 2010, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Tad Johnson and Mike Hood scheduled to attend. Mr. Grellner makes a motion to meet from 3-5 p.m. on the 16th. Mr. Lee seconds. *Motion carries.*

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.