

Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room – Daniel Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Chris Janku, Jerry Wade, Paul Sturtz, and Barbara Hoppe.

Absent: Laura Nauser

City Manager Bill Watkins and other city staff members were present.

Prior to beginning the formal meeting, the City Manager made the following announcements:

- Wednesday, June 11 – Council work session
- Monday, June 16 – Council photo, pending Council member Nauser’s availability
- Wednesday, June 25 – possible work session date (follow-up with Ms. Nauser)
- Reminder – 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 21, city hall “extreme makeover”

Liability Insurance

Mike Hood, Lori Fleming and Sarah Perry were present to discuss the issue of liability insurance. Mr. Hood reviewed the handout – Missouri Parks & Recreation Departments Special Use Permit Public Liability Insurance Requirements, which identifies what other cities in Missouri are doing. He explained there are two questions (1) what type(s) of activities held in a city park require additional liability insurance; and (2) if the activity does require insurance coverage, at what level should it be set.

The Council discussed the issue of balloons landing and taking off in city parks and how it should be dealt with. There was also discussion regarding bounce houses and why they are considered a very high risk. The Council was curious as to whether or not insurance companies had data on the level of exposure for different type of activities.

Council asked staff to prepare an amendment to the ordinance establishing a “tier system” which might include low, medium, high and “excluded”.

Budget/Community Priorities

Council was provided a copy of an earlier handout distributed at the May 3, 2008 mini-retreat. The City Manager called to Council’s attention page 10 of the handout.

Council discussed the parks sales tax and its expiration in 2011. It was suggested that the natural resources inventory could be funded with parks sales tax.

Council continued discussion of budget priorities and what, if any, shift in priorities should be made.

There was discussion regarding At-risk youth which receives funding through Parks and Recreation and Community Services budgets. The City Manager explained a shift in

social services funding in the near future which will be “data driven”. The shift will allow for allocations based on needs and data. He indicated the Council will see this outlined in greater detail in the annual program and priorities. He also explained he plans to propose an expansion of the mission of the Health Department to Health and Human Services. This, too, will be outlined in greater detail in the annual programs/priorities.

Council member Hoppe indicated that she’s researching and putting together statistics for sustainability directors.

Council member Wade outlined a list of priorities – (1) public safety (includes police and youth) \$500,000; (2) development policy – modernize the zoning, \$200,000; (3) small group communication design and facilitation (experimental project), \$20-25,000; and (4) economic development, \$150,000.

It was suggested that it may be time to consider an increase in the bed tax.

Mayor Hindman suggested there ought to be a way to calculate what this community spends on economic development.

Regarding Affordable Housing, Mr. Janku asked if we could look at program income as a way to fund some of the affordable housing needs.

Council member Hoppe indicated she does not support raising the bus fee and is interested in increasing ridership. Mr. Wade suggested the need to create a balance between the use of services and the amount of subsidy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.