

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2008 – 6:00 P.M.
ROSEWOOD CENTER
MINUTES**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Present were Council Members: Josh Harrison, Walt McJunkin, Dwight Yates, Rick Clark, and Brian Petersen.

Absent: Michael Sheriff

Others Present: Chief Miller, Chief Sargent, Barry Chappell

Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and the meeting started at precisely 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION: CHRISTMAS PARADE

Mayor Deese stated this year's Christmas parade is Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6:00 pm. As usual everyone will line up at the ball field parking lot. The police and fire departments will get everyone organized and get the parade started right at 6:00. Mayor Deese invited council to walk in the Christmas parade.

DISCUSSION: GRANT FOR FIRE STATION

CM Clark reported to council they met with the Department of Commerce regarding the grant. The Department brought four or five people with them. CM Clark stated they answered all their questions and they seemed satisfied. He stated everything went positive and we should hear something by the end of this month. He stated he would probably write a letter to the Governor tonight because that is who gives the final approval.

DISCUSSION: BUDGET AND REVENUE REVIEW

CM Clark stated in seeing budgets being cut across the State he thought it would be a good idea at our January work session to have a year to date budget to compare to last years. He stated we need to know where we are in our revenue and spending. CM Clark stated if we need to start making adjustments, we need to start in January instead of waiting until June. The municipal association sent out a letter last week where State aid to local governments will be the same or less this year. Mayor Deese stated the revenue we will receive will be the same amount as we received last year. There will be no increase like they usually do. We will have to base our next year's budget revenue on what we received this year. Mayor Deese stated right now as far as expenditures we are a little under budget. CM Mcjunkin stated when gas prices come down the budget should come down quite a bit.

DISCUSSION: PEDESTRIAN PARK

Mayor Deese stated regarding the long going issue of the Pedestrian Park, he and CM Sheriff met with Al Wilson with TSP. We were going over the plans and Mr. Wilson has some ideas on how to put this into place. The ball is in Mr. Wilson's court now as far as the design and what it is going to take to put everything in and so forth. We hope to hear back from him in about a week. Mr. Wilson will be doing his work as cost. Of course we will be hiring contractors for the actual work.

LANDSCAPE FOR ROSEWOOD CENTER

Mayor Deese stated council has seen the plans for the Rosewood Center landscaping. He stated he is waiting on CM Sheriff to get back to finalize the plans. Once everyone agrees on the plans we will put it out for bids. Those funds will come out of our TIF funds. The landscaping also includes the signage out front. Mayor Deese stated he believed this would be a positive influence on the community and people coming into the City. We will probably get more use out of our facilities. CM Petersen asked if we had an estimated time line on when we would be putting that out to bid. Mayor Deese stated if everyone agreed on the plan, maybe within the next month. CM Harrison asked if we are going to ask that same person to do maintenance as well. Mayor Deese stated the maintenance of the landscaping will be put out for bid. He stated there will be other areas in town the landscaping will need to be taken care of. CM Petersen asked that a copy of the plan be posted in the Clerk's office so that everyone could reference it.

CM McJunkin did not have a report at this time.

CM Petersen stated we are processing our application for getting our fuel cards we all voted on. We should be able to give a formal report and the status of exactly where that is next week.

CM Clark stated he talked with Barry and wanted to know if anyone else got a water testing kit in the mail. He stated they are trying to sell you a water filtering system. CM Clark stated he thought he would turn it back in with City Hall's address on it so they will have to come in and the Clerk can ask them about business license.

CM Sheriff was absent.

CM Yates did not have a report at this time.

CM Harrison stated he had no report at this time.

Mayor Deese stated he thought everyone has a copy of the letter regarding Liberty Hills sewer line. He stated the sewer lines there are in a deplorable state and we have had a lot of problems there. He stated we have sent a letter to all the residents that would be affected by replacing that sewer line. There will be a meeting at Rosewood Center Wednesday night at 6:30 with those residents explaining what the procedure will be. There are obstructions in our right of way and they will have to be removed before we can get in there and dig up the old sewer lines. We already have the sewer pipe. This has to be coordinated with the residents since we need to go about 2000 ft. Everyone is inviting to attend this meeting. I have mentioned this to CM Yates and asked him to be here to answer any questions since this area is his ward. CM McJunkin asked Barry if he had walked the area to see how many obstacles are in the way. Barry stated he has walked the area but would be walking it again tomorrow. CM Clark asked if we had the right of way on a plat. Barry stated he only had what he had pulled up on the computer; he would have to go get the plat. CM Clark stated it would be a good idea to have a copy of the plat before the meeting. Mayor Deese stated we would be diligent in providing the residents with all the information we can get.

Mayor Deese stated for any of you who did not make it downtown for trick or treat missed an extraordinary large crowd. There must have been at least 2000 children and when you include adults, it must have been around 4000 people. Mayor Deese commended our police officers for keeping everything controlled and safe. Mayor Deese stated the Chamber is to be congratulated on sustaining this event and the City is to be congratulated for allowing it to take place downtown.

Mayor Deese reported he has a meeting tomorrow with AT&T. He stated he has gotten quotes from Verizon, Alltel and AT&T. I know we sat down months ago with Alltel talking about our cell phone use and they had us on separate lines, not a bundled package. Chief Miller and I sat in on that. They saved us about \$2500 by bundling it. However I still received quotes from Verizon and AT&T. AT&T will come in at \$692 a month plus tax which is an overall savings from our previous bill is about \$5000 per year. Verizon was a little bit higher. I am talking with AT&T in the morning because I do think our phone bill is excessive. I also found out if you switch from Alltel to AT&T you receive \$100 credit per phone. So we have a good substantive savings on our phone bill, plus gas is coming down and I understand oil went down again today. I want to keep you informed on some of the things we are looking at to help keep costs down and try to make a difference. I am looking into applying with the County through our Parks and Recreation for some money to put in our Freedom Park sign. I am working with CM Sheriff on that also.

Chief Sargent gave a report on the repairs to the ladder truck.

Adjourn

Mayor Deese adjourned the meeting.

Verification/Mayor

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Approval Date