

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING
JUNE 2, 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, Michael Sheriff, and Dwight Yates.
Absent: CM Rick Clark, cm Brian Petersen
Others Present: Chief Miller, Chief Sargent and Dean Thomas

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

DISCUSSION: 2008/2009 BUDGET

Mayor Deese stated we will have the 2nd Reading on the 2008/2009 Budget at next week's council meeting. He stated if there are any changes or discussion regarding this, we need to have it now so we can be ready for next week. CM McJunkin had questions regarding the \$20,000 salary in the Rec Department's budget. Mayor Deese stated we had an increase of \$19,000 which included a pretty good increase for Tony and three part time employees. Mayor Deese stated he was open to anything they wanted to do there, but it is not anything substantial. CM McJunkin stated George who works part time is making around \$20,000 which is more than some of the employees that we have. Mayor Deese stated Tony has a hard time trying to fill those positions. Tony's son, who is working part time now, will be gone in the fall. CM McJunkin stated that the law states that it is nepotism when you hire your own family member. That is not only the law in Liberty that we had, it is also the law of the State Ethics Commission. Mayor Deese stated when the personnel manual was updated five or six years ago, the labor lawyers took a lot of things out of our personnel manual due to liability reasons. CM McJunkin stated it still is the law of the State Ethics Commission and he put a copy of that in everyone's box. I had a complaint about it and that is why I followed up on it. I did not know that that condition existed until a short while ago. CM Sheriff stated that situation was being studied and there would be a recommendation to do something about that but in all due respect that is not the issue of the budget. If it works out that they cannot work there then somebody is going to have to do the job, so that money is needed in the budget for that reason. Mayor Deese stated the appointed personnel committee would make that recommendation. CM McJunkin stated another issue that concerned him was the issue of small tools in the Public Works Department. When I mentioned this to Olen, he stated he had been using his tools. Every since the tools were bought, there has been \$1000 added to the budget every year for small tools. What I am saying is when I buy small tools that usually end up lasting me for years. Mayor Deese stated we need to remember we are dealing with public people here who have their hands on tools all year long and they are bound to be misplaced or lost from time to time. Those funds are to cover us, we may have to spend it and we may not. CM McJunkin stated we need to engrave our tools with property of the City of Liberty or something to that affect. Mayor Deese agreed and stated he would look into marking all the City's tools. CM Sheriff asked why our landscape maintenance went down from \$2000 to \$1500. Mayor Deese stated this was not cutting grass or anything like that; it is putting mulch in the park. We did not spend that much last year, so we are trying to be a little more conservative this year. Mayor Deese stated if no one had any more questions and there was no more discussion on the budget, it would be on the agenda at Monday night's council meeting for a second Reading.

DISCUSSION: ENVIRONMENTAL FEE

Mayor Deese stated we picked up about 2 and ½ ton of cardboard in two weeks. For them to take the tonnage at the recycling center it has to be bound. We do not have a binding machine. Gerald in Pickens told us he may be able to find us a used one at a reasonable price. We could probably average around \$600 bucks a month. According to Josie we are being billed around \$1100 to \$1200 per month. The schools get picked up every single day. Pickens charges \$250 per month to the schools to pick up their dumpsters every day. I am suggesting that we charge the schools \$150 per month to pick up the dumpsters every day. Outside of that we have 16 other dumpsters in the City and I am suggesting that we go back to the \$35 fee that we charged before for the dumpsters, not for curbside pickup. Those two would give us \$800 or \$900 per month plus the recycling cardboard would put us up around \$1400 per month which would sufficiently take care of the County's fee. Mayor Deese stated he was open for other suggestions on this point. CM Sheriff stated we do not want to put a tax or a burden on anybody, but he had beat this thing to death trying to come up with a solution and this may be about the best one we can come up with. Mayor Deese stated they are trying to be fair to everyone and not hurt the small businesses. Mayor Deese stated this would be on the agenda for Monday night's council meeting unless someone else has a better idea. CM Harrison also brought up the idea CM Petersen had about recycling paper. Mayor Deese stated he had spoke with CM Petersen this morning about that before he went out of town and he thought they would be implementing that also. CM Sheriff stated that would not preclude us from having to collect that fee now.

DISCUSSION: ORDINANCE NO. 08-0502, AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL – 102 GOLDEN SPRINGS LANE

DISCUSSION: ORDINANCE NO. 08-0503, AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL – 105 GOLDEN SPRINGS LANE

Mayor Deese stated the recommendation on this Ordinance from the Planning and Zoning Commission was tabled last month. Mayor Deese stated he received a copy of the covenants for that subdivision and all lots are to remain low density residential except for lots 1, 43 and 44. These two lots are lot numbers 1 and 44, both which could go commercial. Based upon that information, this ordinance will be on the agenda next week for a 1st Reading.

DISCUSSION: LOGICS LLC - NEW SOFTWARE

Mayor Deese stated he wanted to update council where we were with the new software. He stated CM Petersen had mentioned using the procurement code to obtain this software, but according to ACOG and the Municipal Association we do not have to use the procurement code to purchase software because it is a specialized operating system for specific use. We have also reviewed another operating system which did not have as strong an operating background as Logics LLC has. We've done some research at City Hall and sat through some classes on these systems and our recommendation to council is Logics LLC if council chooses to obtain a new operating system. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of this and the costs. It was suggested that Gloria, Josie and Sue, the Mayor and any council member who wanted to, go to Newberry to review the system and talk with them about any problems they may have with it.

DISCUSSION: SIGNAGE FOR FREEDOM PARK

Mayor Deese stated if CM Sheriff has something laid out for the signage for Freedom Park, we need to get it done. CM Sheriff stated he did have something laid out for signage at Freedom Park and something for the Pedestrian Park also. Mayor Deese stated he needed to get the water feature in the Pedestrian Park so they could finish it. Mayor Deese showed council one of the lights that would be going in Rosewood Center that CM Sheriff had ordered. Mayor Deese also

reported that he had received a call from the Elm Tree Society of America. They will donate to Liberty a tree called the Liberty Elm. We would also receive a plaque with it describing the history of the tree. We would need to plant this tree in a distinguished area and we would need to either have a bench around the tree or a fence. Mayor Deese stated he thought the 4th of July would be a good time to have the boy scouts come out for a ceremony to plant the tree.

DISCUSSION: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FOR ROSEWOOD CENTER

Mayor Deese stated part of our vision for the Rosewood Center was landscaping. He stated he had placed a copy of the quote for landscaping the Rosewood Center from Barry Anderson in everyone's box. We will be able to look at Barry's drawings and proposals and we can tweak those any way we want to. The money for this is in the TIF account. Mayor Deese stated he was asking for council's blessing to move forward on this. CM Sheriff stated we need to allocate some monies from the TIF account for this and we can also use King's Nursery for the plants who gives us a good deal. CM Sheriff stated he thought the quote was a fair price considering the work involved in this. Mayor Deese said we also need to be looking at replacing the doors. Mayor Deese asked if everyone was on board with this quote.

Mayor Deese stated every two years he is supposed to change committee assignments. He stated he has been a little remiss this year. He gave everyone a copy of his new committee assignments and stated everyone needed to take a turn doing different things each term. These terms will run from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. We have had a couple of people to leave the Planning and Zoning Commission and have had some applications to come on these commissions. These new people are my recommendations for the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Appeals. We will vote next week on these new members and to reinstate the terms of the other members. Mayor Deese thanked Barry Chappell for being proactive and getting people to apply for these commissions. Mayor Deese stated he would be happy to accept any other names the council may have. Mayor Deese stated that we now have to have some type of protective firewall for identity theft. If council would like to see a demonstration on this we will arrange it. Mayor Deese stated we have a new quote on repairing the ladder truck from Advanced Fire Equipment Services. Chief Sargent read the bid and explained it. Chief Sargent stated it was his recommendation that we go with this bid.

*CM McJunkin made a motion to accept the bid from Advanced Fire Equipment for repairing the ladder truck.
CM Sheriff seconded the motion
Vote: All in favor*

Mayor Deese stated we really have to concentrate on adding on a couple of bays to the Fire Station. I will be talking to Roger Powell in the morning at Reliable. Chief Sargent and I are going to meet with them hopefully in the next week and they have talked about donating substantial funds that could possibly be enough to build the addition without looking for any other money. They have not guaranteed anything, but they are talking about it and the amount they are talking about we may be able to add the two bays. Roger Powell will put us in touch with Benjamin Kilpatrick who oversees this sort of thing. CM Sheriff stated he would like to attend that meeting also. Mayor Deese stated he would let him know when the appointment is scheduled. CM McJunkin mentioned the 2nd reading on the annexation for Monday night. Mayor Deese also stated he would be furnishing council a quote on the Pinpoint Geotech System for them to review. Mayor Deese also informed council they should start paving Front Street and Peachtree Street on Wednesday.

Adjourn

- CM Yates made motion to adjourn.
- CM McJunkin seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor

Verification/Mayor

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Approval Date