

CITY OF CAMERON
MINUTES
June 7, 2008
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FOCUS SESSION

Dennis M. Clark	P
Everett W. Ice	P
Ronnie Jack	P
Larry L. McCord, Jr.	P
Artis Stoebener	P

The City Council of the City of Cameron, Missouri met in a Focus Session on Saturday, the 7th day of June 2008, at eight o'clock a.m. at City Hall. Mayor Larry L. McCord, Jr. presided with the following Councilmembers present: Dennis M. Clark, Everett W. Ice, Ronnie Jack and Artis Stoebener. Absent: none.

Present were Interim City Manager Mark Gaugh, Attorney for the City Mitch Elliott and City Clerk Barbara J. O'Connor. Department Heads attending were Inspector Clyde Han, Chief of Police Corey Sloan, Electric Superintendent Josh Kobs, Development Director Shellby Hendee, Director of Public Works Drew Bontrager, Finance Specialist Carmen Weigand, Planning and Zoning Chairman Mike O'Donnell. The Focus Session was open to the public and there were three (3) members of the public in attendance.

Finance Specialist Weigand started the meeting with a review of financial trends with the following discussion and observations:

- Financial trends.
 - a. The Assessed Property Valuations trend continues to show an increase.
 - b. The Sales Tax, One Cent – General Fund, has shown a downward trend for the 2005 and the 2006 reports. The 2007 audited amounts, however, do reflect an increase.
 - c. Housing Units fluctuate with the number of apartments included making a difference each year. Housing unit numbers were down for 2007.
 - d. Electric Fund Balance. The Electric Fund has spent a lot of money on lighting projects, but is continuing to grow.
 - e. The Sewer Fund is showing a downward trend.
 - f. General Fund. The goal has been to have a six (6) months operating balance. This would be approximately \$1,000,000. The General Fund is currently hovering at that amount.

- g. Debt Service All Funds. The debt is going down in all areas. Finance Specialist Weigand reviewed a debt schedule informing Council of the continued reduction of debt in all the debt service funds.

- Review three-year Capital Improvement Projects.

Utilities: Interim City Manager Mark Gaugh stated the list of projects needs a lot of work.

- Demolition of the power plant building, review of peak shaving and automated meter reading were Electric Department topics.
- In the Water Department, the water initiative improvements and a remote meter system were discussed.
- The Sewer Department will see significant operating cost increases in the future due to increased Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates. The mandates could produce multi-million dollar projects. Interim City Manager Gaugh said the City needs to be aggressive and stay ahead of the game.

Airport, Solid Waste, Public Works and Parks. Public Works Director Bontrager reviewed several topics.

- The Airport is holding a “Fly In” scheduled for July 26, 2008.
- Capital Improvements include: extending the runway to 5,000 feet, improving fencing and building new T-Hangers at the airport.
- Solid Waste is planning a relocation of the recycling drop off center and maintenance in various locations. Discussion was held regarding enhancing the weekly refuse collection to include all items each week and, also suggested the possibility of a grant program to assist citizens who are unable to clean their properties up and get items curbside for pickup. Closure of the City landfills was discussed.
- Public Works Director Bontrager also discussed the GIS program, stating he would like to see it made available to the public.
- Under Public Works Capital Improvements, a cemetery entry marker, a new dump truck, street sweeper and crack sealing rejuvenator were reviewed. The overall condition of the streets is deteriorating and Public Works Director Bontrager stated the rejuvenating would save money and preserve the streets for years to come.
- The deadline for completion of McElwain Drive Extension has been extended to July 30, 2008.
- There will be an agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportations for Route A improvements at the next Council Session. Further discussion was held on the improvements noting the MoDOT funding agreement would allow the improvements on the highly traveled route.

- Parks. New Parks Department employee Steve Garr is doing an excellent job. Capitol improvements discussed: more park ground, aquatic center irrigation for the new soccer fields and a skate board park.

Police Department. Chief of Police Sloan said in lieu of capitol projects, the Department would prefer to be able to replace a position vacancy created by a recent retirement. Two (2) officers are going to experience active military duty in the near future and the Department will then be down three (3) staff members. Chief Sloan stated the capital improvements are not as important to the Department as having adequate staff to protect the public. Chief Sloan asked Council to allow him to replace the retired officer. Mayor McCord said the Department should try to secure two (2) officers instead of only one (1).

Economic Development. Development Director Hendee gave an in depth review of the importance of economic development. City Attorney Elliott discussed different types of annexation: voluntary versus involuntary.

Code. Inspector Han listed the following needs for his department: new pick-up for Code Enforcement Officer, pet waste stations in parks; trap, neuter and release program for cats, anti-tether law, noting this is a Planning and Zoning issue; and enlarging the current animal shelter. Inspector Han also discussed the annual loss control insurance audit. A good audit will result in a discount on our insurance premium with MARCIT and also a refund to be used in the safety budget.

Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning Chairman Mike O'Donnell reviewed the process used by the Commission. City Attorney Elliott reminded Council any recommendation from the Commission, following a public hearing held before the Commission, is the only information that can be considered by the Council in making a decision. Council can re-visit issues and send comments back to the Commission for further review and recommendations. The Commission can then hold another public hearing to solicit public input before making another recommendation to Council. City Attorney Elliott reminded all present that the ultimate authority is the elected officials. Discussion was held on complaints that stem from action recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and implemented by the City Council. It was pointed out that the action taken should be the best for the whole community rather than a small group. The City tries to work with the citizens to remedy issues instead of punishing them. This is not always the perception of all citizens. Communication was urged on all issues.

Mayor McCord noting the time frame for the Focus Session had come to an end suggested completing the Focus Session at the end of the Regular Council Session to be held on June 16, 2008. There were no objections.

Councilmember Stoebener moved to adjourn the Focus Session at 12:10 p.m. Councilmember Ice seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVED:

Mayor Larry L. McCord, Jr.

ATTEST:

City Clerk