

**ROLLA CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013; 5:30 P.M.
ROLLA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
901 NORTH ELM STREET**

Presiding: Mayor William S. Jenks, III

Council Members in Attendance: Rhonda Sue Myers, Monty Jordan, Greg Sawyer, Steven Leonard, Kelly Long, Susan J. Eudaly, Don Morris, Lou Magdits, Jim Williams, Brian Woolley, Tony Bahr, and Fran Mazanec

Council Members Absent: None.

Department Directors in Attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Scott Caron, Public Works Director Steve Hargis, and Finance Director Steffanie Rogers

Other City Officials in Attendance: City Administrator John Butz and City Clerk Carol Daniels

Mayor William S. Jenks, III called the workshop to order at approximately 5:34 p.m. and then turned the floor over to Parks and Recreation Director Scott Caron.

I. Sustainability of Parks and Recreation: Mr. Caron noted the information staff provided to the Council was compiled to allow the Council to understand where the entire Parks and Recreation system is financially and where improvements are needed. He said staff attempted to identify the areas of need and to prioritize them.

After some Council discussion, City Administrator John Butz reminded the Council the one-half cent park sales tax expires at the end of this year. He said the one-half cent sales tax annually generates approximately \$1,895,000, which has been used for maintaining The Centre, paying for The Centre's subsidies, and has allowed the City to build a reserve fund estimated at \$4 million when the sales tax expires. While the sales tax expires December 31, 2013, the City will continue to receive payments from the State Department of Revenue in January and February 2014. Mr. Butz indicated staff is not proposing the use of money from the Parkland Reserve Fund; although there are some projects that would be good improvements to make at The Centre and/or SplashZone. He said these improvements could be funded from a reauthorized 1/8 cent park sales tax or the funds could come from the Parkland Reserve Fund if there is some rationale for lowering the Parkland Reserve Fund amount.

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I. Sustainability of Parks and Recreation (continued): Mr. Butz added that of the 7.85% sales tax collected inside the Rolla city limits, the City receives about one-third (2.5%) of that amount. On December 31, 2013, the City's portion will drop by .50%. Mr. Butz noted that if the voters approve a new park sales tax of .25% (quarter cent), it would cost consumers \$0.25 for every \$100 purchase. He pointed out the consolidation of the Parks and Recreation Department and The Centre, along with personnel and support cuts of about \$250,000, has helped in lowering the General Fund subsidy. Mr. Butz said the proposed model still anticipates about a \$200,000 to \$250,000 General Fund subsidy into the Park system. This has been a tradition in Rolla for many years and it would continue unless the Council changes it in the budgetary process.

The Council discussed conducting ward meetings to obtain input from the residents in order to prioritize the park projects.

Mr. Lynn McFarland, 601 Penny Lane, Rolla, Missouri, emphasized he is not addressing the Council as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, but rather as a voter. As a voter, Mr. McFarland asked the Council to not add anything to the Parks and Recreation tax, such as a senior citizen center. He said he and his wife voted against the last park sales tax issue and they are huge supporters of the park system and are willing to pay for it. Mr. McFarland asked the Council to possibly consider placing two separate issues on the ballot instead of one. One issue would pertain to running the daily needs of the Parks and Recreation Department and The Centre, i.e., daily operations, mowing the grass, cleaning the windows, putting chemicals in the pool, paying the umpires, etc. The second issue on the ballot could say one-eighth, three-sixteenths, or one-quarter, for specific capital improvements, i.e., paved parking lot at Ber Juan, new disc golf baskets, new basketball goals, new bathrooms, etc.

Following some Council discussion regarding Mr. McFarland's comments, Mr. Walt Bowe, 102 Fairburn, stated that credibility is the City's biggest issue. He recalled he was a member of the Park Sales Tax Committee the last time the park sales tax was on the ballot. Mr. Bowe stated the recommendation that was submitted to the Council was not what was discussed. Mr. Bowe indicated the senior center issue was discussed in the meetings, but no one on the committee expressed interest in placing it on the ballot. He said the biggest problem with the last park sales tax election was the way it was handled.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Leonard and seconded by Myers to draft an ordinance for placing a one-eighth cent park sales tax with an additional one-eighth cent park sales tax sun setting after eight years for the purpose of capital improvements.

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I. Sustainability of Parks and Recreation (continued): A voice vote on the motion showed twelve ayes, zero nays, and zero absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Butz clarified the Council would first engage the community through ward meetings for the next two to three months and the Council would consider the ordinance in November or December.

II. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Carol Daniels.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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