

**ROLLA CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014; 5:30 P.M.
ROLLA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
901 NORTH ELM STREET**

Presiding: Mayor Louis J. Magdits, IV

Council Members in Attendance: Jonathan Hines, Monty Jordan, Greg Sawyer, Matthew Miller, Kelly Long, Don Morris, Steve Bowles, Jim Williams, Brian Woolley, and Walt Bowe

Council Members Absent: Susan J. Eudaly and Tony Bahr

Department Directors in Attendance: Public Works Director Steve Hargis

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

Mayor Louis J. Magdits, IV, called the workshop to order at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Legal Issues: Mayor Magdits began the meeting by stating there are some legal issues that probably should be discussed with the City's legal counsel before the public hearing is conducted during the Monday, July 21, 2014, Council meeting pertaining to the rezoning request for the proposed Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market. He noted there are some nuances about how the City's ordinances are written. Mayor Magdits indicated the Council has a couple of options and asked the Council how they would prefer handling it. The ideal option would be to meet in closed session about an hour before the Council meeting. The other option would be to postpone Monday's public hearing and meet in closed session following Monday's meeting. After a brief discussion, the Council consensus was to meet in closed session beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 21, 2014.

Sustainable Park Funding: With the defeat of Proposition A (park sales tax) during the April 2014 election, Mayor Magdits emphasized the City has a General Fund that will continue to be stressed with the current tax revenues. While the election was still on people's minds, Mayor Magdits reported he and City Administrator John Butz met with some of the opponents of Proposition A. He said they met with about 15 to 20 people who did not just vote "no" out of principle. Mayor Magdits reported everyone was very engaging and there was a fair amount of consistency in their comments. He then outlined and commented on the following findings from the meetings: 1) All of the participants cited The Centre as the primary reason they voted against the tax.

JULY 17, 2014

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2014
PAGE 2**

Sustainable Park Funding (continued): 2) All of them commented favorably of the Park system and would have voted for the sales tax if parks were the sole basis of the tax. 3) When asked where SplashZone “Belonged” most felt it was part of the traditional park system. 4) The specific amount of the tax, ¼ cent vs. some other amount, did not factor into their decision. 5) Many believed the General Fund or Park Fund was subsidizing The Centre. 6) Nearly all believed that some sort of sunset provision was necessary for any future ballot initiatives. 7) Several felt a full sunset was necessary to obtain their vote (in order to hold “the city” accountable for performance) while others felt they could support some sort of split – a portion to address capital improvements vs. ongoing operating and maintenance needs. 8) A commitment from the city that monies from a future “park tax” would not find its way, directly or indirectly, to The Centre was essential for gaining support. When we discussed services that The Centre provides to the overall park system (housing of offices, front desk services/reservations, managing recreation programs located outside of The Centre) most of the participants felt The Centre should not have to bear those direct park/recreation costs in The Centre’s operation. 9) The City needs to be very credible “on the accounting.” Mechanism to prevent a future Council from using the park tax to fund The Centre. 10) Operate The Centre like a business. It is okay to compete head to head with the private sector if no tax dollars are used to support The Centre.

Regarding the comment about running The Centre like a business, Mr. Butz said they felt this meant increasing fees at The Centre.

Mayor Magdits asked the Council what they thought about placing a ballot initiative on the November 2014 ballot. Based on the comments from the some of the opponents, he said the ballot language should stipulate the tax would only be used for parks and The Centre would have to be entirely off the table.

So the public can understand it better, Mr. Butz indicated the City would need to separate the parks and Centre funds.

Mayor Magdits suggested he and Mr. Butz meet again with some of the people in the focus groups and ask them if they would be supportive of a tax for parks only, regardless of whether they plan to vote for the tax. He told the Council The Centre must have a solution, but it must be entirely separate from the parks.

If the Council is amenable to placing the parks sales tax initiative on the November 2014 ballot, Mr. Butz said the ordinance authorizing the ballot language must be approved no later than the August 18, 2014, Council meeting. He added if the Council

JULY 17, 2014

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2014
PAGE 3**

Sustainable Park Funding (continued): decides to ask for a one-quarter cent sales tax, it would assist the General Fund, which needs to take care of the basic concerns of the City.

Mayor Magdits told the Council he and staff would meet with some of the focus groups within the next few weeks.

Major Transportation Planning (TDD)

Mayor Magdits reported UTW Rolla Development, LLC, recently approached the City about an opportunity to engage in transportation improvements through a Transportation Development District (TDD). He said staff initially thought UTW wanted to talk about retailers who are interested in coming to Rolla. Mayor Magdits said the City has previously discussed certain transportation components if Rolla West occurs. He said if you think traffic congestion is bad now, it will worsen with the development of Rolla West. Mayor Magdits said City staff would like to get the Council's "pulse" on recommended transportation improvements.

Mr. Butz referred the Council to a copy of the Route 63 Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement, which began in 1995 and was approved in 2002. He pointed out the Statement includes the Highway 63 bypass around Rolla, the Highway 72 extension west to Interstate 44, transportation infrastructure needed for development opportunities in the Rolla West area, relieving congestion on Kingshighway and how a TDD could help fund these projects. Mr. Butz said when staff met with UTW their vision was not drastically different from what the City has been discussing as far as transportation improvements are concerned and they believe there is an opportunity to engage in a TDD.

Before moving to the next step of a TDD, Mayor Magdits said the City would need to obtain feedback from engineers, focus groups, neighborhoods, businesses, and anyone who would benefit from the improvements. He told the Council staff wanted to obtain their thoughts before engaging with these people.

Councilman Williams left the meeting at approximately 6:27 p.m.

From the discussion that followed, the Council appeared to support staff moving forward by speaking with HNTB, university and hospital representatives, and others pertaining to the discussed improvements.

JULY 17, 2014

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2014
PAGE 4**

Having no further business, the workshop adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Carol Daniels.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

JULY 17, 2014