

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 19, 2020
City Hall
326 Grant Street

Public Services Committee Members Present; Juan Topete, Ed Barlow, and Mike Daugherty, James Harrison

Members Absent;

Staff Present; Tom Short, Mark Peterson, and Kailey Williams

Non-Members Present:

At 5:30 P.M., Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

Mr. Topete moved to approve minutes from the April 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider and Discuss 2003 Ford F-150 Park Department Truck for Surplus.

Mr. Peterson discussed mechanical issues with the 2003 F150. The total cost of the repair would cost about \$4,000. The age and condition of the truck would bring in approximately \$1500 through a bid process. All things factored in it would be best to make the truck surplus. There is a scheduled replacement in upcoming capital for this truck.

Mike Daugherty made the motion to accept the 2003 Ford F-150 Park Department truck for Surplus. Motion Carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director- Mark Peterson

Riverside Fireworks- contract has been signed and is ready to go. First invoice has been sent in to pay first 50% of the contract price. The remaining balance will be paid after the show. Budget adjustment was made of \$930 to meet the upgraded show price.

Hallam Field -In Municipal Park, after the last storm we had on April 28th, we had a light pole fall down. That pole was associated with the Adult Softball field. The significance with that pole is it had the meter attached to it from CWEP that came down with it. The issue is we were grandfathered into a situation with CWEP with the old code. The meter cannot go back up on a light pole. We will need new wiring a new meter in the proper location and a new breaker box. This brings up the subject of lighting. We have had

problems with the lighting with Adult Softball. The solution last year was for the softball teams to move out to Fair Acres and use the southeast field with lights. After the baseball season was done. At Hallam Field, the lighting that was put up is spotlights rather than field lighting. These spotlights do not have the field coverage needed to provide safe light coverage for play. In the masterplan process, everything including the adult softball field will be analyzed. A rough estimate of total repairs would be \$30,000.

Carthage Library- Central Park wants to provide a program called "Story Walk." They will be using signage similar to election signs. Carthage Library would put book pages on the signs around the park to encourage citizens to come out and walk the park and read pages from books. The signs come with QR codes that will tell them how many people are viewing the signs. We will work with the Library to promote this event. Library said they would move signs to help with mowing.

Kellogg Lake- The fountain is currently down. During one of the storms, the fountain was struck by lightning. The fountain needs a new GFI (Ground Fault Indicator) unit that will cost about \$1,000. The fountain will be up in going in about a week.

Kids Fishing Day- Cancelled for 2020. Talked with David Lawhon about canceling the event. Reason for cancellation is not being able to provide the same amenities as in the past. We would rather give kids the same experience as they have had in years past next year. Juan Topete said they would do the 20th year anniversary next year even though it would have been this year. They will stock the lake with more fish next year and have more prizes for the kids. They are also considering giving funds to the Assistant Professor of Biology from Missouri Southern who has found 3 rare species at Kellogg Lake. A turtle and 2 types of snakes that have not been documented in Jasper County for over 100 years. These funds would help to provide a herpetological survey through the Professors class and they would present the findings to the city. The professor and 10-12 students would come out to the lake for 3 weekends approximately 8-10 hrs. per day and do the survey work.

Pools- Mr. Peterson spoke about the pools and what is going on with them. Municipal pool is ready to go. Municipal Pool will open Saturday and Central will open on Monday. Everything is prepared for the opening. The staff will be given PPE to wear. Continuous cleaning will happen often with high touch areas. Spacing of the lounge chairs will be placed 6 ft. apart from each other. Juan Topete noted if the chairs will be chained down so people don't pull them or try to steal them Mr. Peterson said no the chairs will not be locked down. The water leak was found at Central Park pool. The leak was a water line with a simple fix. James Harrison was happy they found the leak. The leak was found about a foot outside the concrete and only 8-12 inches down. CWEP came out and helped find the leak. At Central park pool related to a capital item, \$14,000 which was going to be for resurfacing base of the pool. We have run into a code issue that was not forecasted. They would need to bring a drain issue up to code by taking out the whole base of the pool and replacing the drain and base.

Master Plan updates- Mr. Peterson noted that he has been communicating with key

stakeholders to them know there is a delay of the second reading of the contract. It is scheduled for 6/23 and meetings should be arranged in early July. Ed Barlow asked what role our community holds. Mr. Peterson said there is a plan to put a steering committee together which will include many representatives.

Paddle Battle- Mr. Peterson spoke with Kip Smith regarding paddle battle requesting the use for Kellogg Lake. Paddle Battle was a huge success last year. Mr. Smith had concerns for this year with the current situation going on. The committee gave an informal approval. Mr. Peterson said he would tell Mr. Smith to process as normal unless told otherwise. Mr. Topete asked if they are required any insurance for this type of event. They are required to have a two million dollar liability policy for Paddle Battle. Same resources will be provided such as tables, trashcans, and access to the river for rafts. Mr. Topete asked if we are looking for any way to recoup some of the money for man hours. For the City of Carthage, there is nothing in place to recoup some of the money. Mike Daugherty said he does not agree with the idea of fees. Until now, we have always allowed people to use the parks and we have not ever charged for it. Mr. Short asked if the event was a fundraiser to raise money for a certain project. The money was for the Kellogg Lake Board. Mr. Topete noted that some of the Paddle Battle money is donated to the board and some is taken out for the advertisement. Mr. Daugherty noted that one of the perks for living in Carthage is the use of the parks. Mr. Topete said he thinks we should start charging for certain things. Mr. Peterson agreed with Mr. Daugherty, but also noting it is a gray area and we plan to analyze our fee structure related to the events. Memorial Hall charges a fair amount and people still reserve for events. Looking into later on to see what could happen and see if we could add more into the parks department to help with costs. Mr. Peterson noted that it has not been that way before and the questioning has come up several times. We should not put it in place until we have a good direction on some data. Ed Barlow noted that there could be some validity with charging for someone who advertises for his or her business while using our services. Mike Daugherty liked what Mr. Barlow noted.

Golf Course and revenues- Mr. Peterson filled us in with the April revenue for the Golf course. The revenue was down with being closed for two weeks. Our challenge is making estimates on revenues and moving forward for this year and next year. There is a lot of unknowns right now. Mr. Peterson has been visiting with MR. Short added with Covid, it has had a big impact on the budget citywide. We have been running behind on the budgeted revenues which will impact this fiscal year. Mr. Peterson said there has been many event cancellations which have gone all the way through June. Some of the events have been rescheduled to later in the year.

Baseball/Softball- Mr. Peterson noted that everyone is working very well on handling our guidelines there have been no complaints.

Civil War Museum- Mr. Peterson said that we built and installed a Plexiglas barrier for the attendant.

Parks in General- Mr. Peterson mentioned there has not been a significant amount of

issues with social distancing. There have been some instances that many raise some questions as to whether the guidelines are being followed. Soccer at Fair Acres, basketball and some others. Mr. Peterson said he believes they are doing a good job and there should be some level of personal responsibility with following the rules. Some communities have decided to not partake in baseball and softball. We have seen some migration of folks coming to play in our leagues from different cities such as Sarcoxie and Diamond. Joplin guidelines are set looser than others. Ed Barlow asked for an update with the pickle ball courts. Mr. Peterson noted our first priority was to get the pools ready and the second is to get the concrete work started for the Pickle Ball courts. Another high priority is the new shelter going up at Municipal Park. We need help from the Street Department, CWEP to build the structure and get that set up.

Memorial Hall events- Mr. Peterson said as we move into June with the bigger events. We are still trying to find out with some things. Mr. Peterson is telling people to move forward. There are 2 events at Memorial Hall on June 13th and June 27th that estimate up to 400 people by the event planners. Looking at a capacity of 125 people for the main auditorium. Mr. Short added that the guidelines we have now are subject to change at any time by the end of the month. Mr., Peterson has spoken with Melanie Blizzard and she will be getting into contact with the people.

Golf events- Mr. Peterson said that the situation with the events at the Golf Course are similar. An event could hold up to 125 people. They have set it up were in the club house only has 14 people inside at any time. They have put X's on the floor showing people were to stand. They will keep this up until further notice. Mr. Peterson continued saying that they have recommended box lunch set up instead of a catering set up. They have also recommended that at the finish of the event the send out emails with the results and the follow up events to prevent the big gatherings.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.