

TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 12, 2016

Mayor Billie Jo Smith called the Toledo City Council work session to order at 6:15pm. Councilors present: Julie Rockwell, Jackie Kauffman, Terri Strom, Alma Baxter and Council President (CP) Jill Lyon. Councilors excused: Michele Johnson and Alma Baxter.

City Staff present: City Manager (CM) Jay Baughman, City Attorney/Planner (CA) Michael Adams, Police Chief (PC) Dave Enyeart, Finance Director (FD) Polly Chavarria, Public Works Director (PWD) Lee Ritzman, and City Recorder (CR) Nancy Bryant.

Visitors present: Calley Hair.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments

Discussion and Information Items

Committee Updates

CP Lyon reported that the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County board recently discussed progress of the Regional Significant Industrial Area (RSIA) application. The State conditionally approved the application on March 31st. There are five Lincoln County geographical areas included in the application including the Toledo Industrial Park (TIP). She noted that the conditional approval for the TIP property is based on zoning issues and Toledo may need to define the uses on that particular property to better fit the RSIA designation.

CM Baughman reported that the Toledo Public Utility Commission (PUC) met on March 30th to discuss the city's electric franchise fee. He noted that staff and Council previously discussed a potential increase in franchise rates to match what other jurisdictions are charging. The PUC members discussed how the city will balance the budget including the potential of closing the public swimming pool. The PUC members recommended approval of the franchise fee increase with the condition that the City also look at cutting non-essential services for budget balancing measures as opposed to just seeking additional revenue. Staff has developed an ordinance to increase the current electric franchise fee from 4.25% to 5%. He noted that he will be recommending that the franchise revenue that goes into the General Fund be used as seed money in the capital improvement projects that the City will be facing in the near future.

Swimming Pool Discussion

CM Baughman provided Council with a spreadsheet which identified the public swimming pool's operating budget expense history. He noted that, in this fiscal year, half of the funding budgeted for all of the city facilities has been spent on the swimming pool for unexpected repairs as well as 1/3 of the Facility Manager's time. He said it is an aging facility and a large investment in time and funding. The operating budget for the swimming pool this fiscal year is \$250,000 but the estimated actuals will be less because of savings in personnel costs. The Property Maintenance Fund for FY 2015/16 is budgeted at \$15,000, \$5,000 has been expended from the Building Reserve Fund, and insurance costs is at \$2,000. The total 2015/16 pool cost (capital costs excluded) equals 272,050 and anticipated revenue from pool programs is \$40,000.

CM Baughman stated that it is his duty to provide his budget analysis and his recommendation is to remove the public swimming pool from the City's budget by either letting it go to a special district or demolishing it. He stated that he wants Council to be aware of the pool facility issues and costs so that the decision is not done in a vacuum. He then added that the City will be facing a \$350,000 deficit within the next five years if the operation expenses are not aligned with the funding.

Council and staff discussed the consideration of essential and non-essential services provided by the City. They also discussed other recreational services that could be funded by the City if the swimming pool is removed from the budget.

CM Baughman noted that Councilor Baxter has stated that she does not want to close the swimming pool and if there is support for keeping the facility operational, the City should set a deadline by which the community can show a massive outpouring of support and a solution to some of the problems associated with the pool or it is closed down.

CP Lyon stated that she is concerned about safety. She said it is absurd that the City is in the hole just to spend money to keep the facility at its current level when it is becoming more and more unsafe. She noted that, in spite of the very legitimate reason to keep it open, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the City can't afford to fix it properly.

Mayor Smith stated that she does not want to close the pool but she can see that it is going to self destruct. She noted that she would like to see some of the funding for the pool go to a recreational youth program since there is no current program provided in Toledo. She said that there are people in the community that are interested in the pool and she will offer her assistance in coming up with a solution. She said that she does not see how the City can possibly continue to fund the swimming pool.

Councilor Kauffman noted that she believes the swimming pool patrons are willing to pay more for the use of the pool if it would keep it open. Mayor Smith noted that even if the user fees were doubled it wouldn't be enough to save the pool. FD Chavarria noted that the fees have been raised in the past and the City lost funding because less people use the facility. CM Baughman stated that as the pool continues to operate the costs continue to expand and without continuing revenues those services will be effected.

CM Baughman asked if Council is in support of setting a deadline for the pool closure. He noted that the proposed budget for FY 2016/17 includes operation of the swimming pool for that fiscal year.

Councilor Lyon stated that she is interested in receiving data regarding the operating expense per user.

After some discussion Council agreed that the City will set a closure date of June 30, 2017 unless a community committee can come up with a viable plan by December 31, 2016 to take over the facility by which City Council can then decide if the closure date should be extended to December 31, 2017. Council also expressed a desire to raise the swimming pool user fees.

Annexation Update

CA Adams reported that he is working on a data survey to be placed on the City website. The survey will consist of a series of questions with a deadline for completion of July 1, 2017. He noted that the data received from the survey will indicate how many property owners are interested in annexation. He also noted that there will be some costs associated with the initial advertising and public hearings regarding annexation. CM Baughman stated that he will be recommending funding the annexation project from Council's Strategic Reserve Fund in the 2016/17 proposed budget.

Toledo Municipal Code-Tree Plan Review

CA Adams reviewed the current Toledo Municipal Code (TMC) 2.16 City Tree Board. He said the responsibility of the City Planning Commission is to develop and administer a tree plan and that hasn't happened in a number of years. He then noted that there is a process for dealing with dead, diseased, dangerous trees, and decayed limbs which constitutes a hazard to public safety.

Council discussed its desire to refer the language in TMC 2.16.080 (D) Tree Maintenance to the Code Enforcement Officer for administration of any violation in this section.

Boards and Commissions Manual

CM Baughman reported that staff has emailed all city committee members to inquire about an interest in serving on the Boards and Commissions Manual development committee. He has proposed that two council members, two city staff, and two committee member volunteers will serve on this committee. He will report back next month with names of interested committee members and staff who will serve on the committee and Council can then decide who its representatives will be.

H2O Program Agreement

CA Adams reported that he has been in contact with the Director of Housing and Energy Services at Community Services Consortium (CSC) regarding any updates on the proposed contract. He is still waiting to hear from the Director.

CA Adams noted that the Director stated that the notarized trust deeds from CSC should be completed next week.

Municipal Court Policy and Procedures Update

CA Adams provided Council with a packet of draft documents including; Municipal Court Rules, Rule 23 Supplemental Local Rule, Request for Testimony by Affidavit, Juvenile Offender Traffic Diversion Program, Traffic Offender Diversion Program, Rights in Violation/Traffic Arraignment, Suggested Foundation Questions to Qualify an Interpreter, and a Contract to Provide Pro Tem Municipal Court Judge Services. CP Lyon suggested that Rule 23 Judicial Ethics should be a document and possibly attached to the Municipal Judge job description or left as a separate document. She agreed to review and revise that document.

Council agreed that staff will provide the Contract for Municipal Judge Services to City Council at the April 20th City Council meeting for final consideration.

Mayor Smith thanked the committee for the work that has been done on the packet as presented.

Additional Council Comments

Councilor Strom stated that she is disappointed in the talk of closing the swimming pool. She said that she was going to fight it tooth and nail but she is encouraged by the talk this evening.

Mayor Smith provided information regarding the Environment Oregon campaign to provide solar energy in Lincoln County.

City Manager Comments

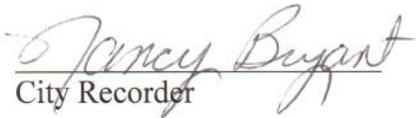
CM Baughman had nothing to report.

Adjournment:

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:53pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVE:


City Recorder


Mayor