

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** May 17, 2023, 6 p.m., Community Center

**Present:** Bubba Gregory, Chris Gregory, Landon Gulley, Lonnie Taylor, Mark Presley, Richard Johnson, Public Works Director Cliff Sallee, County Mayor Jack McCall

**Others Present:** Public Works staff Tracy Ausderau, Callie White, Joe Slagle, Tracy Bray, Maggie McBrayer

Chairman Bubba Gregory called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Taylor, second by Gulley.

**Motion approved.**

Discussion opened on park design with LPRF grant. Maggie McBrayer with Cunningham Recreation presented three color schemes for new playground equipment and flooring. Gametime Playground Equipment will provide the new play equipment. Option 1 has green & blue decks with some yellow, Option 2 brown w/ some green, orange, Option 3 orange, more earthy feel.

Chris Gregory asked if there was any cost difference on options; there is not. Taylor asked how shades compare in holding up under UV radiation from sun and temperatures of equipment on hot days. Yellow tends to fade first, per McBrayer, and no reported issues on heat. Taylor also asked if there could be more UV shades over equipment, noting the committee had previously discussed this. Bubba Gregory indicated discussion was held, but nothing ever presented to the company. Taylor asked if sunshades can be larger, yes. Presley asked if shades last as long as equipment and ease of replacement. Per MM, they are easy to replace as parts are standardized.

Motion by Gulley to approve Option 2, second by Taylor.

**Motion approved**

*with Chris Gregory voting no, citing preference for Option 1.*

Sallee said Public Works is still determining what to do with the named fence planks currently at park; looking at building a wall with them. Sallee also noted the new play area will have sidewalks along edges to encourage people to walk, exercise. Project expected to be completed by summer 2024.

Gulley asked if ordering equipment is the holdup. Yes. Also asked when the park will be unavailable to the public, this is TBD. Some current equipment (swings, riders) can be relocated temporarily. Chris Gregory asked if the gazebo was safe to move. Sallee said this has yet to be determined.

Discussion turned to pool season. PW has six lifeguards, with five scheduled for Friday, May 19 training. Sallee noted that the track record for training is not good, that we might only have six or eight. Taylor asked about modifying the pool schedule. Sallee said the county HR director has limited lifeguards to 29 hours per week and that some had overtime last year. Committee members expressed concern over this decision being made without outside input. Sallee also said the pool has a water leak, estimating \$160 a day of water loss. C.Gregory asked if the leak can be patched. Pool would have to be drained possibly, PW is examining options.

Sallee also noted new rules from HR regarding the pool, including signed waivers by parents (first time this has been required). Also noted the pool has not been inspected yet. Mayor Jack McCall said the waiver is to limit county liability as many parents drop their kids off at the pool and leave. Rules changed to require users to be 12yrs or older to be by themselves.

Sallee said if pool days are cut, PW will likely not sell season passes. No pool parties booked yet either because of uncertainty.

C.Gregory asked if opening should be delayed until we know how many lifeguards are available, also for determination on if the 29-hour limit should be in place. Sallee said PW hoped to take four applicants

who failed training and have them work in concessions to free up time for lifeguards. Sallee also said there is no one local to do training.

B.Gregory asked if the leak could be fixed. Sallee said the sewer line has to be jetted every so often and the Water Dept. camera could be used to locate leaks. Taylor asked if pipes are PVC, they are, and indicated repairs could possibly be made underwater. Draining pool would lose 225,000 gallons, per Sallee.

Motion by C.Gregory to delay pool opening for one week to determine how many lifeguards will be available, and to allow County Commission to decide issue at its May 22 meeting, second by Gulley.

**Motion approved.**

Discussion turned to the Solid Waste ordinance on roll-off rentals sent back from Commission in April. Gulley said there are differences between ordinance and rental agreement. C.Gregory pointed out by adding "minimum" and "per ton" to portions of line 5 of rental agreement, that clears up any differences. Roll-off rentals will be \$345 + \$45 per ton (two tons included) for initial run. Run on the same day to be \$150 and \$45 per ton. Motion to recommend to County Commission by C.Gregory, second by Presley.

**Motion approved.**

Discussion turned to courthouse repairs. Mayor McCall said he had been inside that morning, lots of progress was made in cleaning but the building will need professional cleaning. B.Gregory asked if still shooting for June return for meetings, McCall indicated yes. Gulley asked if any electrical permits have been pulled, no one knows. Gulley pointed out if no permits, the county has liability for any work done. McCall said he thought an electrical inspector had gone through the building. Taylor said contractors should pull permits, then have inspected. Sallee said Trane told us they would check to see if permits were pulled, but was never done. Since Trane has been paid, may not be much we can do. Local inspector referred us to someone in Carthage, who said there may be little to do about it. Committee indicated a desire to have the county attorney get involved, and have Trane initiate the process of pulling permits. Mayor agreed this needs to be resolved.

Discussion turned to parking at the Community Center. C.Gregory noted that a constituent reached out to him after having the building rented for a May 10 event but when arrived, all parking was full. Constituent asked if parking could be reserved for those renting the building. Mayor indicated it might be a one-time event because this was the same day as Farmers Market which drew a large crowd to downtown. B.Gregory indicated it would be difficult to enforce such restrictions.

Floor opened to public comment, none made.

No date scheduled for the next meeting. Motion to adjourn by Taylor, second by Gulley.

**Motion approved.**

*Minutes presented by Chris Gregory*