

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 21, 2023, 6 p.m., Community Center

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

Others Present: Public Works staff Kerri Garner, Callie White, Beverly Atwood, County Attorney Branden Bellar

Chairman Bubba Gregory called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the August 23, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Taylor, second by Johnson. Motion approved.

Discussion held on 2023 pool season. Sallee provided updated financials on 2023 season, lost of \$12,788.89, on par with previous years, per Cliff. Public Works will begin winterizing pool next week, pool will need liner work in spring (PW had hoped to have that done in fall but couldn't). B.Gregory asked if pool would be operable in 2024. Sallee said it should unless something major occurs. Sallee is getting quotes for cement work, last done in 2011 and is reaching end of useful life.

Discussion turned to playground. Equipment sale brought \$4,433.50 at auction (Sallee provided handout with specifics). Buyers supposed to remove within 30 days, otherwise county will look at contractors to do so. B.Gregory asked timeline of installing new equipment, Sallee was unsure. Presley asked about gazebo, Sallee said there was no way to move it; had to be taken to landfill.

Commissioner Atwood asked if the fence posts could be reused. Committee noted its intent to do so but that no specific idea has been settled upon. Atwood asked if another fundraiser with more boards might be an option. Mayor McCall said he has spoken with Trey Parker family and that they would like some kind of ceremony around May 26, 2024.

Discussion turned to courthouse. C.Gregory noted that he had asked county attorney to attend in case committee needed advice on best way to proceed. Sallee said there is a list of items that still need fixing and that a couple have been done: cleanup and getting electrical permit. A walkthrough has been done and that list may grow. Oscar has not been paid yet and Elmore won't work for them, per Sallee. Others have backed out of doing ceiling work. Sallee was asked if PW has been coordinating with Trane, have done so but less with subcontractors. Taylor noted that Trane is ultimately responsible and that the answers TC has been getting are not good enough. Bellar advised that county allow inspection and get report, Sallee said inspection has been done but he has not received report yet.

Motion by Taylor to recommend that County Commission authorize Bellar to initiate legal action against Trane, second by C.Gregory. Motion approved.

C.Gregory asked if there was anything upstairs preventing Commission from resuming meetings in spite of other damage. Sallee noted that recording and voting system has not been set up for new Commission, tech was supposed to have done so already but hasn't. Taylor said he can put us in touch with guy who installed, also noted that electrical issues make it unsafe to return.

Discussion turned to generators. One behind Administration Building has been down for just over a year, unsure if can be fixed but has been looked at. Some contractors have said parts are obsolete for current one. County has talked to Caterpillar about purchasing cooperative. Estimate would be \$40,000 to replace. Atwood asked how old that generator is. Sallee didn't know but said it was there when the building was Bank of Hartsville.

Discussion turned to Community Center. B.Gregory asked committee to examine hours & rental fees, asked if there was list of rules. Sallee said it is in rental agreement, not on site. Mayor noted that Fifth Quarter post-

football games have been issue on Friday nights, FCA has taken responsibility for cleanup of those events. Mayor also noted that with football ending 9:15-9:30 p.m., having an event end at 10 is probably not reasonable. Mayor also noted that fees are occasionally waived depending on circumstances.

Taylor asked if any changes should come from committee or full Commission. Sallee said he has looked for any ordinances regarding Community Center but has been unable to find one. Atwood noted that park rules state must be out by 10 p.m.; mayor asked if some events occasionally run past that. Atwood said if rental fees are waived, then group renting should be responsible for cleanup instead of county, also advocated putting list of rules in the building.

B.Gregory asked about rental fees. Taylor suggested breaking down into increments instead of all-day rental for one fee. Atwood suggested comparing with other nearby facilities, said \$100 doesn't pay for utilities if rented all day. Sallee noted sometimes one AC unit is heating and other is cooling, asked if they could be operated remotely or locked. C.Gregory asked if there was ordinance just for Community Center, Sallee said was supposed to be one for all county buildings available for public use. Sallee said also getting quotes on laminate flooring for building as carpet has held up well but probably needs replacing.

Motion by Presley to allow Fifth Quarter/FCA to use Community Center after home football games until 11 p.m., with cleanup done by 11:30, second by C.Gregory. Motion approved.

Mayor noted that rental fees are rarely waived, committee noted need for a policy in that regard. Bellar noted that wording in charter puts waiving fees ultimately under mayor's authority as part of overseeing executive departments. Committee will look at all policies/rules at future meeting.

B.Gregory asked about bikes on walking track in park, noting recent questions on social media. Sallee said it is posted and that complainants can call PW or park security to have addressed. Taylor asked if inline skates or skateboards have been issue, rarely according to Sallee.

Discussion turned to school tipping fees for trash pickup. According to Sallee, under Mayor West (2010-2014) the school system stopped paying trash pickup bills once funds in its budget ran out. C.Gregory asked if this means they've been shortchanging county for almost 10 years, yes per Sallee. PW staffer Kerri Garner estimated county is losing \$800 to \$1000 monthly. Sallee said there is not a contract in place, with Kerri noting that schools have trash picked up as many as 48 times per month. Taylor asked how long a negotiated rate had been in place, Sallee was unsure as no contract was ever signed that he could tell. B.Gregory added he had no memory of any agreement between PW and schools on trash rate.

Sallee also noted that school caution light on East McMurry near TCES has been hit by vehicle twice in last month or so. PW has repaired in the past and other small maintenance per deal when county went metro. Taylor asked if it is on municipal property, it is not. Carman asked if schools pay for lights at other schools, they do not. Mayor noted that schools also want to replace computers that control these lights, estimate of \$8,000. Bellar asked if person who hit light was prosecuted, noting that restitution could be part of that. No one was aware of any prosecution. Sallee said schools could wait until next budget year for computers. Mayor noted that schools wanted county to pay for all computers, he and Dr. Satterfield had discussed each paying two but no agreement reached.

Sallee said surplus vehicle sale had brought in \$11,248, all has been received except \$6,850 for Mack truck.

Sallee also mentioned four to five roll-offs at Convenience Center that need replacing, have been patched so much they really can't anymore. They could bring some money on GovDeals, Sallee noted. C.Gregory asked if needed to be declared surplus, Sallee said there are no identifying markers so no.

Motion by C.Gregory to allow PW to sell these, second by Presley. Motion approved.

Floor opened to public comment. Sallee noted that sheriff wants some stuff in storage cleaned out, PW will see if any is repairable or usable. Atwood asked about Christmas lights, Sallee said poinsettias cost around \$1,000 or up to \$600-700 for smaller ones. Mayor noted that Downtown Revitalization Committee has bought a 22-foot Christmas tree. Sallee also said V&C glue factory offered day of labor to mulch downtown area last year, offering two days this year Oct. 17-18. G&L Garden Center also ordering new azaleas. Presley asked about houses w/ code violations, Bellar said send addresses to him and he can refer to codes office for enforcement.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. at Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Taylor, second by Johnson. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory