

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Meeting Date:** February 21, 2024, 6 p.m., Community Center

**Present:** Bubba Gregory, Chris Gregory, Alan Carman, Lesley Overman, Landon Gulley, Mark Presley, County Mayor Jack McCall, Public Works Director Cliff Sallee

**Others Present:** Amy Thomas, Kerri Garner, Jerod Mitchell

Chairman Bubba Gregory called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Overman, second by Presley. Motion approved.

Discussion held on park projects. Sallee said pre-construction meeting is supposed to take place within next two weeks, no date set but will have much more information afterward.

Playground equipment is in production now. PW did find local contractor to perform concrete work, expects to save \$2700 to \$2800, just waiting on TDEC to approve contractor. New conduit purchased, selecting camera wire for new internet lines.

Presley asked about ETA on completion of Trey Park, Sallee said now looking at September or October. C.Gregory noted that at January meeting, timeline was April-May, asked what changed? Sallee noted equipment had not been ordered until recently.

B.Gregory asked about basketball courts. They are being repainted and restriped, changing some lights to LED. Mayor McCall noted that was part of BCBS grant to be discussed later in meeting agenda, along with tennis/pickleball/volleyball courts.

B.Gregory noted work done on Little League fields and benches, Sallee said PW crew has helped. Gulley asked if fence could be placed around light pole on Field 1 to protect kids from running into it. Sallee will check on this.

B.Gregory asked about vandalism, has been next to nothing since new cameras added. Gulley asked if license plate readers have been installed, not yet. Some cameras are not transmitting to phone app for remote viewing, system also logs out randomly. Gulley asked if this camera setup is different from one used at pool, it is.

Discussion turned to 2024 pool season. Garner presented copies of 2023 prices/hours to committee members. Gulley pointed out that document had a price for a 3-hour pool party but there was no 3-hour option listed. Sallee said lack of available help limited ability to have 3-hour parties as 15-year-olds cannot work past 9 p.m. C.Gregory asked how many 3-hour parties vs. 2-hours, vast majority are 2. Motion by C.Gregory to remove 3-hour parties and only have 2-hours, second by Presley. Motion approved.

Garner asked about number of lifeguards for pool party - less than 50 attendees requires two, more than 50 requires three. Gulley said help is always a problem, noted that summer sports practices will be in mornings and that might help. C.Gregory raised concern about whether family pass was too expensive as sales dropped in 2023. Gulley said he felt they were reasonable compared to nearby facilities. Motion by Gulley to leave hours and prices as they were in 2023 but remove 3-hour party listing, second by Presley. Motion approved.

Pool opening and closing dates will be discussed at March meeting.

Gulley asked about training times for lifeguards, Sallee said we have to have people to send and county tries to send 4-5 at a time. Garner noted weather plays a role as well. PW will schedule training for ones we already have lined up.

B.Gregory asked if flyers were out. They are, copies presented to committee. C.Gregory noted black font was hard to read, asked to change. Gulley asked to include that county will pay for lifeguard certification. B.Gregory asked about concessions. Sallee said will probably phase some items out, he will compare prices before buying.

Discussion turned to BlueCross BlueShield park grant. Application window opens in August, county just missed that in 2023. Amy Thomas said she had talked to Crystal Justice (spoke to committee about grant at August 2023 meeting), recommends we decide on project now.

Committee members brought up youth football, basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis/pickleball courts. Sallee said basketball is in good shape but tennis courts has cracks 3-5 inches wide, poles leaning, has not been resurfaced since at least 2006.

Presley asked if one project or two could be applied for with this grant. Gulley noted that park master plan has various courts on it, said adding LED lights for hoops would be good.

C.Gregory suggested we apply for all courts. Mayor McCall said he felt a comprehensive application would be good and might have appeal to BCBS, also noted Enbridge has donated \$25,000 toward project. Motion by Gulley to apply for BCBS grant to cover tennis, basketball, volleyball courts and multi-use field and include lights if possible, second by C.Gregory. Motion approved.

Discussion turned to Solid Waste. Sallee presented committee with prices to buy new truck vs. lease. Lease prices do not include service, 3-year lease costs more than buying outright.

Carman said leasing not worth it at those costs. Presley asked about warranties, typically one year per Sallee. Gulley asked if Smith County currently leases trucks, Sallee said they have rolloff service only and not door to door like Trousdale. Current truck is 2013 model and would be used as backup. Needs O-rings around injectors, front main seal, few other items that would require shutting it down for a while. Current backup is walk-behind that requires three employees, Cliff has been joining those crews as needed. Gulley asked how long to obtain truck if we buy, Sallee said hopefully six months, by end of year at the latest.

Gulley asked about Urban Services fund balance, Amy Thomas estimated \$1.8 million. Sallee noted last truck bout was around \$327,000, price hasn't gone up drastically. B.Gregory asked to let Finance Committee review before making a decision. Sallee also said new trash cans are bigger and are more difficult to lift without a truck. PW could look at higher worker compensation costs for injuries, already pays for hepatitis shots for employees.

Motion by Gulley to recommend to Finance Committee to purchase new trash truck from Urban fund balance during 2023-24 fiscal year, second by Overman. Motion approved.

Presley asked about new rollback truck, it has arrived.

C.Gregory asked about streetlight addition on Front Street per request from constituent. Sallee said have that person call him and determine where light should go, PW will get it done. Other requests in future should be referred to mayor's office.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m. at Community Center. Motion to adjourn by C.Gregory, second by Presley. Motion approved.

*Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.*