

Steering Committee

April 05, 2022 - Minutes

Review minutes from March 10, 2022. Motion to approve by R. Harsh 2nd by Ford. All in favor.

Attendance:

The following attended: Dwight Jewell, Terry Gregory, Gary Claridy, Lonnie Taylor, Beverly Atwood, Stephen Chambers, Jerry Ford, Bill Fergusson, Richard Harsh, David Nollner, Landon Gulley

- A. Mayor request to review property on Broadway where old warehouse used to be. Resale Land Committee suggested for county to keep as a public purpose to forward to Commission. Committee thinking if we need to enlarge Ambulance service and move it or even larger Fire Department. Jewell concern is environmental issues.

Ford makes a motion that we retain property for use of the county and 2nd by L. Taylor. Recommend moving full body.

Mayor's interest is a retail property such as a store that has over a million dollars in sales.

Gulley – This is property beside fire department? Yes, it is.

All in favor.

Mayor – nothing further to bring up that are not already with other committees.

B. Other Discussions

1. Nollner – Like impact fee to be increased to slow down growth.

2. Nollner – requested for retired people to not pay taxes on homes.

Jewell – There is a program we have that can assist people with that if they qualify. If your appraisal goes up doesn't mean our taxes, go up. New Appraisal levy to run government appraisal rate. Board of Equalization has a meeting in June that you can go in front of if you feel your property is appraised too high.

3. Think about before end of the year to see if we want to change commissioners pay before the end of the year and before we start with new commissioners. Feel like officers of committees, especially chair and secretary, deserve more pay than ones on the committee. Feel it's an insult to give the chair of commissions to be paid \$50.

Nollner – Most committees when mayor gets a raise the commission gets a raise?

4. Jewell – Repeatedly Wheel tax ends next month. May want to do something before commission changes hands.

The only 2 things that are time sensitive.

Fergusson – Before when we had a wheel tax we discussed and a purpose for that. What committee do we send it to?

Budget and Finance, if tied to building or if tied to law enforcement then it can go to one of these committees. We can act on it, or it can be done by referendum.

Feel to not designate a specific purpose or amount.

5. New Justice Center/Jail

The RFP's that went out are back in.

Professional Services Committee meeting this Thursday April 7th.

5 months to do something with any changes.

Claridy – Could we do a temporary committee to do this then do away after the decision?

Ford – Mayor and I discussed this in the past. The mayor thinks with this body it has the power to do that. As for the jail, can we not use building we got and redo it?
Spoke with sheriff and said we can't due to a gas line. Think we need to look at it from all aspects.

Gulley – Ferguson stated we did it before with a purpose.
Can purpose be to go into capital outlay to whatever we may need.
Maybe not have this all into a jail or to what we may encounter along the way at the needs we may have.

Jewell – Not sure some may understand placing that into a capital outlay as we may understand.

Gulley – Don't get me wrong I understand the jail is coming. When I came on the discussion was over the Justice Center may need to look at property beside the jail. Believe it's difficult that people may have issues with all that going into a jail and maybe not back to education or something else.

Fergusson – This will help us to save up money and go into something that may be needed along the way.

Jewell – We probably will have to add on to the schools – possibly Elementary School roof. Elementary has room to grow as does High School. Middle School is locked in.

Ford – Not sure who all where there in Gatlinburg they said don't depend on state prison boards/funds to build hopes of building a jail. Financial statement if you look at it is down due to covid and prisoner numbers.

Jewell – You are correct don't depend on the state to build you a new jail building. Many things are changing that prisoners may be bonded/released earlier.

Ford – Last time we renovated that jail 20-25 years ago we didn't raise taxes at all. We took prisoners to renovate. I believe the wheel tax sunsets in May. It's not the fact of that we need that jail but it's going to cost more to build a jail that what it cost to build the school. You can't get it by just the \$40-wheel tax.

Fergusson – Are we to the point to send this somewhere else to move forward. Don't want us just kicking it around.

Jewell – My thoughts were to get the discussion going. If you look at the \$40 what was in place years ago you are looking \$80 now.

Mayor – We do have a capital improvement and it has about \$21,000 in it. Impact fee we were able to do so to go to capital projects and debt.

Gulley – What does the impact fee budget bring in?

Mayor – Budget \$130,000? Think all into 101? Will have to check to be 100% sure.

Harsh – From what Ford says people won't go for a wheel tax for a jail therefore we will have to be the one to pass this. Most will not vote/pass the wheel tax if it's out there.

Jewell – We do have choices and feel we need to do before we get the new commission. We can let the people know it affects us too.

6. Fergusson – Update on actions at the park grounds
 - a. Grant Local, TDAC completed environmental review.
 - b. Mulch
 - c. Repairs on playground equipment. PO signed and order is in.

Jewell – Why did TDEC do a review on park?

Mayor – ¼ mile of site and submit review which ours had no findings. PO issue for rubber mulch, over \$10,000.

Fergusson – Timetable on this?

Mayor – Based on feed back tomorrow from TDEC.

Gulley – If fails inspection \$98,000 grant 50/50 grant.
If it fails, we are looking at \$98,000.

Mayor - Yes, a question I will ask TDEC.

Claridy – Thought we had 3 companies with bids, and it was being ordered.

Mayor – Request for proposal and increase of cost may have addition cost.

Fergusson – Anything we are missing with this?

Jewell – Park and Recreation already approved, and commission approved, and we thought this was being done by order. We didn't see wood chips considering they haven't lasted in the past.

Fergusson – Most widely used is Sumner County.

Mayor – RFP is for rubber chips and any additional needs. Hoping to do within the next 30 days.

Park and Rec meeting April 28.

April 14 may not be available due to Water Board special called meeting.

7. Prison Relations Meeting didn't have last quarter as the Warden was not there. We need to have one in April.
8. Nollner – How's the water building going?
Mayor - Delay on drive up window and they have begun framing interior walls.

PUBLIC COMMENT

King: \$40 is not what it used to be in any amount.

Hartsville backpack car show is 1 week prior to county fair. 26 cars last year and it's grown. Extend to all candidates to designate area to talk with public and their Constituents.

Contact me to confirm reservations.

No booth rental can donate to backpack program if you would like too.

Motion by Taylor to adjourn, 2nd by Gregory.

Minutes by Secretary Atwood.