

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Archie Jennings, Mayor; Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilman; Edward Moultrie, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Josh Kay, City Manager; Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk and Franz Holscher, City Attorney.

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Administrative Services Director/C.F.O.; Stacy Drakeford, Interim Fire & Police Services Director; Robbie Rose, Fire Chief; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; Keith Hardt, Utilities Director; John Rodman, Community/Cultural Resources Director; Kristi Roberson, Parks and Recreation Manager; Susan Hodges, Human Resource Director; Gloria Moore, Library Director; Lynn Lewis, Tourism Director; and David Carraway, IT Department and Mike Voss, Washington Daily News.

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order and Mayor Pro tem Roberson delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Councilman Pitt requested adding item # 1A – Update – North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Advocacy Goals.

By motion of Councilman Moultrie, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council approved the agenda as amended.

DISCUSSION: OF RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Josh Kay, City Manager explained recreational facilities are being maxed out due to increase in players with demands on facilities. He reviewed the two page document containing the recreation facility needs:

(Begin document):

Background

- 2000 to 2012
 - Baseball & Softball – March to July
 - Soccer – August to October
 - Basketball – November to March
- 2013 – due to increased participation, addition of tournaments, the need to maintain certain games in order to qualify for all-star tournaments, and to essentially increase youth recreation opportunities by the leagues, league seasons are now overlapping more consistently

Concerns

- Staffing – facility management and security
- Facilities – physical space to house the number of participants and the required games
 - Baseball & Softball
 - Anticipated growth will require additional fields in order to maintain the quality and quantity of games offered.
 - Additional fields will be required in order for the City of Washington to better attract tournaments. Tournaments create greater revenue potential for the leagues and City, but more importantly the City's restaurants, hotels, and other businesses.
 - Basketball
 - Current facility is too small for current numbers of participants and guests
 - Scheduling of facility is becoming challenging during league seasons with
 - one facility
 - Soccer
 - Increased growth in participants will require either additional fields, or the installation of lighting to allow for night games
 - Additional fields are essential in order to attract tournaments.

Solutions

- Staffing

- Allowing leagues limited management of facilities during non-peak times, thus maintaining current staffing levels
- Utilizing league volunteers to assist in tournament preparation and management activities, i.e. parking control, trash control, etc....
- Increase in overtime for security will be required

Proposed Facility Solutions

Baseball & Softball

- Repair or Replace bathroom facilities at Todd Maxwell Complex in order to allow constant use, in order to reduce use of the McConnell Complex.
 - Option 1: Repair existing building as is - \$12,500
 - Only includes restroom repairs
 - Does not impact flooding and ADA issues
 - Option 2: Remodel existing structure to meet ADA compliance - \$20,000
 - Does not address flooding issues
 - Will not meet current code requirements for minimum restroom facilities
 - Will not be ready by season opening
 - Option 3: Demolish & Rebuild New Facility - \$61,000
 - Cannot be ready by season opening
 - Option 4: Install Prefabricated Restroom facility - \$80,000
 - Can be located to another facility in future
 - Cannot be ready by season Opening
- Other Todd Maxwell Complex repairs
 - Fencing (safety requirements) \$7,500
 - Light repair - \$5,000
 - Purchase of bleachers - \$6,500
- Long-term – convert current soccer fields into additional baseball/softball fields if soccer complex is constructed in the future.

Basketball

- In conversation with the Beaufort County School System to discuss a possible joint Use Agreement to utilize one of the School Systems gyms for November to March.
 - Costs to the City may include:
 - Bleacher purchase, installation, or refurbishment
 - Flooring improvement
 - Facility attendants and security

Soccer

- McConnell Sports Complex improvements for short-term:
 - Lighting - \$150,000 (Current in 2013 CIP)
 - This will allow current fields to be utilized longer during weekends, and potentially during week nights
 - Lights will be configured to allow for baseball/softball expansion in the future if soccer complex is ever constructed.
- Long-term
 - The location and construction of a soccer complex to include fields, restroom facilities, concession stand, parking, lighting, etc.... (end memo)

Mayor Jennings noted the challenge was laid out very well and the other feature to this is we are not just playing soccer in the fall we are talking about playing soccer in the spring as well and baseball being played in the fall and not just spring and summer. This puts an additional stress on our access to facilities; the manager concurred and stated it puts additional stress on staff as well. Mr. Kay touched on staffing needs when leagues are being used for practice and voiced Council will see some increase cost (salary/overtime) particularly related to basketball and other operations. Also, there will be further recommendations at a later date on some things that will be implemented in the near future dealing with facility management.

Mr. Kay reviewed restroom facilities at Todd Maxwell Complex noting the current restrooms are there but have not been maintained very well. Leadership is in place to be able to maintain the facilities

but the facilities do not meet ADA requirements. Also, we have some flooding issues and staff is seeking direction from Council.

Mr. Kay noted that he and Kristi met with Chip Edwards, President of the Cal Ripken League to review his plans. Mr. Edwards stated his goal will be to take all of his youngest participants and make the Todd Maxwell their facility.

Councilman Mercer commented he heard Mr. Edwards's presentation at the Recreational Advisory Committee and Mr. Edwards indicated that the entire program had approximately 350 participants. Out of the 350 participants that there are three (3) teams from Bath and some from Chocowinity. Mr. Kay stated that's correct and the teams are rotated from Washington to Bath as well. Councilman Mercer voiced if you take out Bath and Chocowinity teams it would reduce the number of participants. Councilman Mercer suggested making the long term plan a part of the CIP and budget and feels this is where we need to be headed. Mr. Kay agreed but requested short term fixes as well. Mayor Jennings expressed some of the safety concerns (different configurations, certain fields to certain age groups, maximum capacity, parking, increasing participants and foul balls/child endangerment).

Councilman Moultrie allocated fixing it. Mayor Pro tem Roberson suggested contacting the families of Todd Maxwell who built the facility to advise we have outrun the facility and need to take it down as a matter of courtesy. Mayor Jennings suggested prioritizing the needs and recommended need fixing the fencing at Todd Maxwell because it is dangerous and to address parking at McConnell. Mr. Kay noted there is \$10,000 in current budget for soccer lighting and suggested redirecting these funds to repair the fencing at Maxwell but reiterated staff is seeking guidance from Council. Councilman Mercer recommended taking the \$10,000 from the current budget for soccer lighting and pulling the remaining \$2,500 from the Recreation budget and Mr. Kay suggested or another general fund budget for the \$2,500.

Councilman Mercer addressed the absence of funding from the County when it comes to the City's recreational programs. Councilman Mercer stated "for many years, we received an annual contribution from the County for our recreational programs of about \$15,000 and that the last two years, we haven't received any contribution". Council reiterated its request that Beaufort County pay its fair share to help run the City's sports programs. Many participants in the aforementioned sports programs live in the County and the ETJ and not in the City.

Mr. Kay recommended long-term 5-10 years from now looking at the possibly of a new soccer complex and take the current soccer fields and turn those into baseball fields and this will give us expansion capabilities. Hopefully, turn McConnell into a baseball/softball complex and have a separate soccer complex. Mr. Kay voiced we are in a good place with basketball but we do have crowding in those facilities. Also, from a long term prospective look at where we would put tennis courts. Mayor Jennings recommended if we construct new tennis courts or if we will be the venue for outdoor tennis for Beaufort County the County needs to be a part of that construction process. Particularly since we gave a certain number of tennis courts to the County via the school system. Mayor Pro tem Roberson agreed with Mayor Jennings. Councilman Moultrie discussed the 7th Street Recreation bleachers stating they are outdated and need to be improved. Councilman Mercer suggested the need for facility inventory in all areas. Discussion followed.

Mayor Jennings thanked the softball league for getting the State Tournament.

Mayor Jennings directed staff to present a short tem recommendation at the February 11th Council meeting. Also, have Tony Hale and Chip Edwards to speak with Cal Ripken about what we can do together to make Todd Maxwell the best facility it can be for the coming season. Mr. Kay voiced Cal Ripken will be looking for a plan of attack and will be fine with that as long as they know where we are going.

UPDATE: NORTH CAROLINA LEGUE OF MUNICIPALITES (NCLM) ADVOCACY GOALS

Councilman Pitt provided an update on the advocacy goals from his meeting with North Carolina League of Municipalities. The governor presented his outlook for the 2013-2014 goals and some of those goals are listed below:

- Electronic legal notice in lieu of public action in newspaper
- Three statues: 1: seek 2: support and 3: protect
- Internet sweepstakes
- Relocation of electric and sewer lines
- Mopeds

Councilman Pitt voiced out of the three committees the league was submitted with 117 goals and 25 were approved.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson suggested notifying representatives Mr. Cook and Mr. Tine through the City Manager's office about the proposal of water and sewer construction. The bill will be introduced and the City has a direct interest in the program. Councilman Mercer inquired where Mr. Kay stood on scheduling local session with local legislators and Mr. Kay stated he is still trying to line up those dates.

CLOSED SESSION – UNDER § NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE – INCLUDING JAMES L. DAVIS VS. CITY OF WASHINGTON, et al 12-CVS-571; (a)(5) POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY – LOCATED AT 150 WEST MAIN STREET OWNED BY TURNAGE THEATER, LLC FOR THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE ARTS; (a)(4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By motion of Councilman Pitt, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council agreed to enter closed session under § NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client Privilege – including James L. Davis vs. City of Washington, et al 12-CVS-571; (a)(5) Potential Acquisition of Property – located at 150 West Main Street owned by Turnage Theater, LLC for the potential use of the Arts; (a)(4) Economic Development at 6:30 PM.

By motion of Councilman Moultrie, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council agreed to come out of Closed Session at 6:50 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

Town Hall Day, scheduled in Raleigh on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

Coffee with Council, scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2013. The meeting was set for 8:00 am at Zaitona.

ADJOURN – UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 5:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

By motion of Councilman Pitt, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm until Monday, February 11, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building.

Cynthia S. Bennett, CMC
City Clerk