CITY OF CAMERON
MINUTES
June 28, 2018

SPECIAL SESSION

Darlene Breckenridge	P
Dennis M. Clark	P
John R. Feighert	P
L. Corey Sloan	A
Becky Curtis	P

The City Council of the City of Cameron, Missouri met in Special Session on Thursday, the 28th day of June 2018, at 6:38 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Darlene Breckenridge led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Darlene Breckenridge presided with the following Councilmembers present: Dennis M. Clark, John R. Feighert and Becky Curtis. Absent: L. Corey Sloan.

Present were City Manager Mark Gaugh and City Clerk Shellie J. Blades.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Clark and seconded by Councilmember Curtis to approve the item on the consent agenda:

a. Approval of Liquor License for Jagat, LLC d/b/a Cameron Liquor and Smoke at 318 S. Walnut Street (change of management).

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Councilmember Sloan absent.

WORK SESSION WITH PARK BOARD

Motion was made by Councilmember Feighert and seconded by Councilmember Clark to leave Special Session of the City Council and enter into a Work Session with the Cameron Park Board. Motion passed by roll call vote: "Aye": Councilmembers: Breckenridge, Clark, Feighert and Curtis. "Nay" none. Absent: Councilmember Sloan.

Park Board members in attendance were Bill Gimson, Wendy Copple, Jason Jones, Jennifer Helmich, Al Briggs, Richard Whalen and Carrie Sybert.

Mayor Breckenridge advised this work session was requested to discuss the plans for the municipal swimming pool. Jason Jones advised the top priorities identified in the Park Master Plan were ballfields and the pool. The Board does not have a definite plan at the moment but

have discussed multiple types of sales taxes for funding. Council inquired about attendance at the pool this season and questioned, if attendance is low, whether there is a need to scale back plans or augment with splash pads. Councilmember Clark cautioned that whatever direction is decided, the result would be an approximate 30-year decision for Cameron's citizens.

Bill Gimson explained that the Park Board has a design for a new pool that was approximately $3.5 million when it was developed and that cost has undoubtedly risen since then. Mayor Breckenridge advised she had spoken to Tonya Ahrens who is experienced with grant writing and gave her a Park Board member's contact information to possibly have her assist with writing a grant. Richard Whalen answered Council's question about the location of a new pool by stating that plans are for the pool to remain in the same location that it currently resides.

Different sales tax strategies were discussed to include a community development tax, park tax and lodging tax. The discussion favored a possible community development tax with the Cameron Economic Development Corporation (EDOC) as the consensus was that neither a lodging tax nor what is available for a park tax would generate enough revenue to fund a pool project. The possibility of private and business donations was discussed along with incentives such as reduced rates for season pool passes and/or pool memberships for donors. Council encouraged contact with potential donors such as the hospital, banks, and other major employers as quality of life in a community helps bring in a quality work force.

Mayor Breckenridge inquired about the possibility of placing splash pads around the community and if that could be done in advance of a major pool project. Jason Jones advised that splash pads were part of the Park Master Plan.

Bill Gimson advised that some of the feedback he received after the last sales tax initiative failed was that the citizens didn't feel like there was a well-defined plan. He feels that with the Master Plan complete they now have a plan in place. Also, if they could secure funding through a tax or grants, it would build confidence for major donations. Councilmember Clark expressed the belief that the only way to pay for a new pool is through a sales tax and stated that his information is that 2/3 of our sales tax now is paid by non-citizens, out-of-towners. Councilmember Clark believes that if a tax is well presented and explained then the voters will pass it. A new pool will draw customers from other communities. Bill Gimson added that there are Cameron citizens now taking trips to Chillicothe to use their pool.

City Manager Gaugh advised that a lodging tax is a good idea for tourism but would not generate enough revenue for the pool. Councilmember Clark advised that these park improvements are needed and a tax is needed to fund it and feels the question should be put to the citizens. Rich Whalen suggested contacting the school district and YMCA to contribute to the pool and ballfield projects as they are major users for both.

Councilmember Curtis advised she thinks taxes in Cameron are already too high and suggested some creative strategies for utilizing existing sales tax. Councilmember Curtis advised it is possible to repurpose existing sales tax and suggested a 1/2¢ sales tax could be reduced to a 1/4¢ for its intended purpose and the other 1/4¢ could be used for park

improvements if the original taxing entity agreed and if it was approved by a vote of the citizens. This would provide sales tax revenue without increasing the current sales tax rate.

In addition to the pool project, Councilmember Clark invited the Park Board to work with Council on collaborative projects. Projects such as the disc golf in Recreation Park have been a huge success and he would like to see more projects like this. Councilmember Clark suggested projects such as an amphitheater and/ or Sho-Mobile (mobile stage) and indicated the Municipal Band and School District could also be collaborators on projects such as these. Councilmember Clark stated Cameron needs to become a more desirable community, drawing homeowners and businesses, as a solution to the poverty currently experienced within the City.

Councilmember Clark mentioned a time-sensitive grant (Tiger Grant) that is due in mid-July. Councilmember Curtis advised the cut-off for the grant is July and would have to be considered for the next cycle as it is too late to apply for this year.

Motion was made by Councilmember Feighert and seconded by Clark to leave the work session and resume the special council session. Motion passed by roll call vote: "Aye": Councilmembers: Breckenridge, Clark, Feighert and Curtis. "Nay" none. Absent: Councilmember Sloan.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Clerk Blades advised Council she is scheduled to be out of the office off and on over the next week in case anyone needs to reach her. She will return any calls or requests when she returns.

Councilmember Feighert expressed his appreciation to the Park Board for all the work they do and for taking the time to attend the work session. Stated that Council supports them and their Master Plan and request they let the Council know if their suggestions are not in-line with the Master Plan. Regarding the ballfields, would like to discuss making improvements to the fields and/or possibly selling fields to the School District. Also would like to explore partnering with the School District and YMCA for ballfield improvements. Jason Jones asked that Council give the Park Board time to discuss the subject, as they just recently finalized their plans, before moving forward with contacting potential partners for improvements.

Chief Bashor advised the USDA has grants and loans available for a variety of different types of projects.

Mayor Breckenridge thanked the Park Board for attending the work session. Advised all that Council, along with EDOC, are working to redevelop the downtown area. They want to also work with the Park Board to make improvements to the City. Advised that the YMCA is feeding children daily from 11:30 to 12:30 and encouraged/challenged Council, staff and the public to volunteer their time to the YMCA to help with this worthy project.

There being no further business on motion made by Councilmember Clark and seconded by Councilmember Feighert, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. on unanimous voice vote. Absent L. Corey Sloan.

APPROVED:

_____

Mayor Darlene Breckenridge

ATTEST:

_____

City Clerk