

Minutes
Recreation Committee
March 4, 2019
3rd committee meeting

Members present were Chairman Dennis Raines, Committee members Carol King and Taft Matney. Recreation Director Joe Lanahan and City Administrator Brandon Madden were also present.

1. Call to Order- Chairman Raines
2. Public Comment

Councilman Merritt read a statement about Pine Forest/ Oak Forest Park paving to allow ADA access. Another item talked about was City Park walking trails. The asphalt is in disrepair with tree roots and poor drainage, resulting in water and dirt washing across the trail. Also, the tie-in of the Swamp Rabbit Trail, it might be expensive, but you want to let the process begin. I would ask tonight on your agenda that you consider a change to current year's hard fought budget process for capital expenditures. Several departments wanted additional vehicles and replacements.

Based upon the challenging budget process, the vehicles were deferred until 2020. I would ask you to consider asking the administrator to determine if the City Park walking trail could be divided into phases. Maybe at least one of these phases would show the possibility to allow the currently approved \$85,000 to get as much work done as possible.

You are being asked to move the City Park budgeted amounts to approve a new vehicle in the 8 month old 2019 budget. This does not seem fair to the other departments who in good faith did defer their requests, nor does it help the walking trail and the Swamp Rabbit Trail tie ins. Let's stay the course and get the walking trail improvements done. Let's ask departments to continue to budget their capital expenditures and CIP requests at least for a year. Let's not 8 months in change it for what could be perceived as a non-emergency purchase. Thank you.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. Recreation Committee Meeting: December 3, 2018
Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Matney seconding. Dennis Raines did not vote because he was not a member of the committee during the meeting. The vote was unanimous (2-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

- a. Budget Review- All three divisions are doing well.
- b. Department Reports

2 of our teams will advance to the state championships in basketball. 10U and 12U boys are both going to state. 12U, 10U and 8 U girls' basketball have all star teams as well.

5. Unfinished Business- None

6. New Business-

- a. Purchase of Mini Lift Bus- There is money set aside for City Park walking trail upgrades. The number was not completely vetted by the new Recreation Director. The walking trail has been improved some, but this is a very large project and the \$75,000 budgeted will not go a long way. In looking at the growth of the other programs, the department needs a multi-use vehicle. The current ADA van cannot be used for youth. This requested vehicle could be used for youth as well as seniors.

Councilman Matney asked what the dollar figure would need to be for the walking trail. Joe said it depends on how much work is done. Some of the work can be done in partnership with Greenville County. They have a repair machine and are really good with asphalt. That would drop the cost 30-40%. He can't give a number until he approaches Greenville County.

The \$75,000 is not enough to do anything with any significance for the walking trail. The parking lot is also going to change, which will change the walking trail. We don't know yet how that will be affected. There are also requests for a new restroom that would also change how the trail would go.

Councilwoman King asked about PARD money. Joe said of the \$75,000 budgeted, about \$20,000 would be PARD money. PARD is a 80/20 match. You have three years to use PARD money and could be used up until 2021. The PARD money would not be used for the bus. Chairman Raines asked what the disposition of the current bus would be. Joe said the seats and lift could be removed and it could be used for other purposes around the City. Brandon said the van would be repurposed to the Community Development Department to help with the Farmer's Market if council should decide to fund this new vehicle.

Councilwoman King said she is worried about being consistent with the other departments and this is not a budgeted item. She does not want to approve this when the other departments were told no on their vehicle requests. She thinks this should be addressed in the new budget.

Councilman Matney agreed. He is happy the summer camp is coming back. It is fantastic and keeps kids out of trouble during the summer, but doesn't want to approve a van at this time.

- b. Half price Youth Programming for City Employees- We have an opportunity to extend a discount on youth programs for families of full time employees. It is limited to people in your household and there must be proof of full-time employment. There were 11 children of employees that were in the summer camp last year and this should increase the number.

Councilman Matney made a motion to move this to council.

Chairman Raines asked if any budget numbers have been run. Joe said the programs would be run anyway, so no money will be lost.

Councilman Matney said he sees this as a good benefit for our employees. Councilwoman King asked about the split between in-city and out of city residents. Joe said full time employees would be considered in city residents and the rate would be half of that number. Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns

Councilman Matney asked if the department has looked at ways to make the check-in at the Sports Center easier. People do not like carrying things on their key rings. Joe said that next month the Recreation committee will consider new software for the department which would include updates to check-in. Councilman Matney asked if it would be compatible with our new City app. Joe wasn't sure about that.

9. Adjourn- Chairman Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk