

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS, BENTON COUNTY,
ARKANSAS, HELD APRIL 19, 2016

The Board of Directors of the City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, met in regular session at the City of Siloam Springs Administration Building, on April 19, 2016.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner.

Roll Call: Smith, Jones, Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers –Present

Phillip Patterson, City Administrator; Jay Williams, City Attorney; Renea Ellis, City Clerk; James Wilmeth, Police Chief; Todd Colvin, Deputy Fire Chief; Sean Baker, Airport Manager; present.

Opening prayer was led by Bob Coleman.

Mayor John Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A copy of the April 5, 2016 minutes of the regular meeting had previously been given to each Director. A Motion was made by Smiley and seconded by Beers to accept the minutes. Mayor called for a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

The first agenda item was the Open Hearing for Citizens Present.
No one came forward.

The next item on the agenda: Economic Development Agreement / John Brown University / Walton Lifetime Health Complex.

Discussion: Beers recused from the vote, and stepped out during discussion. Phillip Patterson, City Administrator, briefed the item. Chip Pollard, 2000 Villa View, expressed his excitement to partner with the City, and then gave an overview of progress on projects. Don Cundiff, 601 W. Tahlequah, said he believed that this agreement goes against state law. He then reminded JBU that people go to bed hungry because of decisions that they have to make; \$500,000 would go a long way to help feed people. Johnson stated he is proud of JBU and their progress, and how they make him feel welcome. Coleman stated this agreement is completely different than the one with Pulaski County; it's much more specific. He then referred back to the Board meeting in September 2014, and how he solicited statistics from a JBU staff member that showed the number of residents that use the health center. He stated he believes this addition will benefit the City. He then wanted to make note that the funds for this are not coming out of tax payer funds, but from the sale of the old hospital. He stated he is in favor of the agreement. Burns stated these funds are not only hospital funds which are going back to the community, but it's also continuing the quality of life. He stated they have a great retiree program, and a mountain bike trail that's also going in; overall the facility is a win/win. Smiley expressed her excitement about this project and has wanted a health/wellness center for City. She then asked if there is an estimate on fees and on day-passes. Pollard stated the fees will stay basically the same; and a \$5 fee for day a

pass with a member. Jones asked if a cash payment has ever been done with an economic development agreement. Patterson stated he doesn't know before 2014, but believes this is the first one. Jones agrees with Cundiff whether taxpayer money should be going towards a project like this. He stated the key is it's coming from the hospital funds; and doesn't want to set precedent with giving money. Smith asked what the use is by citizens. Pollard answered there are about 1300 membership cards, and of that there are 938 community members, and the other 400 would include people like the Silver Sneakers and the Silver and Fit, and also JBU employees. He stated membership falls in Spring/Summer while weather is nice. Smith asked what is the value of labor that the City will be providing. Patterson answered roughly \$132,500. Smith expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership with the City and JBU. Mayor stated the relationship with JBU and the City goes back a long way; and that students get engaged with the City. A Motion to approve the economic development agreement with John Brown University for the renovation of the Walton Lifetime Health Complex was made by Coleman and seconded by Smiley.

Pollard expressed thanks and stated they are very privileged to be in the City.

Roll Call:

Jones, Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Smith –Aye.

Beers - Abstain

6 Ayes. 1 Nay. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Arkansas Department of Aeronautics / Grant Application / Airport. Discussion: Sean Baker, Airport Manager, briefed the item. Smiley asked where the funds required from the City are coming from. Phillip Patterson, City Administrator, stated the funds would come from the general fund. Smiley then asked if there are no lights working at the end of the runway. Baker answered there are some, but not all. Smith asked what the likelihood of obtaining this grant is. Adam White of Garver Engineering stated safety grants are first priority. Smith asked when the City would pay their part. Patterson explained the City paid up front and the City would be reimbursed. White stated the City will have to go out and get bids for this project. He stated the City would receive half of the grant half way through, and the other half at the completion. Smiley asked if a grant denial has ever been received by the Airport. White stated not in the past 10 years. Smiley clarified that this is a safety feature and is no longer functioning. She then asked if this is mandatory. White answered it is not, but is typical with the size of this airport. Beers asked if expanding the lighting in the future is a possibility. White stated LEDs will be put in, and if expanding, it would only be one end. Patterson stated they looked at opportunities to expand, but the City does not see any expansion in the near future. A Motion to approve the submission of grant application to the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics was made by Smiley and seconded by Coleman.

Roll Call:

Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

Administrator's Report: Phillip Patterson, City Administrator, reported an expenditure in the amount of \$6,000 out of pocket for the purchase of a new tractor for the airport. He stated last year we approved a swap of hangars for Simmons Food with the intent to allow Simmons a bigger hangar for their jet. He stated through the 1st quarter of 2016, the airport has sold almost 36,000 gallons in aviation fuel compared to almost 16,000 gallons in the 1st quarter of 2015. He

then stated the City has saved over \$6,000 by having the vehicle fuel farm for the City; which comes out to about \$87,000 in savings since late 2013. He stated city sales tax receipts are up 4.6%, and that county receipts are slightly down for the City by 2%, over the 1st quarter of 2015. He included a copy of the 2015-2016 Board Goals and then pointed out that there are a few goals that have and been pushed from the 1st quarter to the 2nd. He asked Deputy Fire Chief Colvin to give an update on the Fire Department Banquet that occurred on April 8th. Todd Colvin, Deputy Fire Chief, gave an overview of the banquet as well as the awards and recognitions that were given. Patterson congratulated Nathan Reed, Utility Billing Supervisor, for being voted as the friendliest employee in the City. He announced the filing period for the Board of Director candidates and Mayor's position is May 11-26, and that packets are available for individuals to pick up at the Clerk's Office.

Open Hearing of Directors: Mayor reminded everyone that the Dogwood Festival is this weekend, April 22-24. He stated he had attended the grand opening for the County Satellite facility at our Transfer Station, and that this will help with receiving large items, electronics, paint, etc. He then stated his thoughts and prayers are with Don Tennison for the loss of their home due to a fire. He then gave his condolences to Renea Ellis for her losses, and stated everyone seems to have a "Carl Hill" story. He stated Joann McDougal passed away, and that her husband asked him to thank the hospital and staff. Beers expressed thoughts and prayers for Renea Ellis and family. He said he was excited for the Dogwood Festival and the visit from both Congressman Womack and the Governor. Burns reminded everyone that if anyone is in need, there are several food banks in the City. He stated there was a block party just north of his residence, and went into detail of the people he met while attending. He mentioned a compliment from the citizen that thanked the Fire Department and he said believes with the growth in the area, he believed we'd be seeing more specialists in the area. Smiley gave her condolences to Renea Ellis and family. She then congratulated the Fire Department as well as Nathan Reed. She stated she is looking forward to the Dogwood Festival and then reminded everyone that the high school is having their plant sale going on for the rest of the week. She then stated she is going to run for re-election. Coleman stated he would like citizens to know more about items such as what was on the Administrator's report. He stated he would like to see a report on the once a week trash pickup. He then stated he has changed his mind about running and will seek re-election due to not moving out of the City.

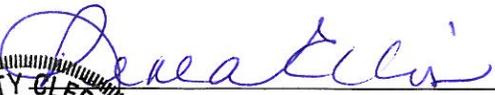
Coleman then made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Burns. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


John Mark Turner, Mayor

ATTEST:


Renea Ellis, City Clerk

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