Work Session
07-28-15

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING HELD BY MORGAN CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR SCHEDULED OPEN PUBLIC SESSION ON TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE CITY OFFICE LOCATED AT 90 WEST YOUNG STREET

Present: Mayor, Ray W. Little.

Council Members: Tony London, Jeff Wardell, Mike Kendell and Fran Hopkin.

City Staff: none

Others present: none

This meeting was called to order by Mayor, Ray W. Little.

Items for Discussion

Election Item

Julie Bloxham, Recorder stated the County is considering the transportation tax issue on their next agenda. If this is approved to go on the ballot, the County will be doing the election entirely by mail. This is a new option the State Legislature adopted a few years ago. Julie stated the City needs to consider if they want to do their elections by mail, or have the polling place as usual. The members discussed this item and decided they would like more information. This will be placed on the next agenda.

Electric Rate – Review Finalization

Fran stated he has been working with the company regarding the spreadsheet they provided for the rate study. He has been unable to determine how the spreadsheets are structured. He has tried to contact the person who provided the information but was not able to do this before meeting. This item will be put on the next agenda.

Recreation Agreement

The members have the recreation agreement and resolution that is to be considered for approval tonight. Mike reviewed the only change from the last agreement is under item #7 – the sentence under "D" will be moved down and changed to "E", the new language for "D" will be "The director may be an individual or an entity."

Mike stated the reason for this change. The recreation board has advertised for a recreation director. They received three applicants and only one was an individual. The other two were entities. They have decided to enter into negotiations with one of the companies. Mike reviewed some of the items the company would provide that may help participation, one of them being the use of social media. Mayor Little stated he talked with Robert Kilmer, County Council and he stated the company would be willing to try to increase participation for current programs and start new events. They are willing to do this and only take the funds from the proceeds they collect. Carol Brooks, the current director may still remain, with some changes made to her duties.

Mike was impressed with all three applicants and the interest and new ideas that were considered. He feels this is a positive step for the recreation department. He feels the increases in revenues from fees that will come from new activities are much needed. The negotiations have tentatively been for 75% of those fees to go back to the recreation department for items such as maintenance, advertising, etc. The company would take 25% of the revenue as part of their contract. This may change when the final contract is approved. There are a lot of new ideas for programs that could be initiated. Fran asked about the other company and how the fiscal agent portion plays into the decision on who to hire. Mike explained the differences between the parties that applied for the position. Carol Brooks is still the director at the current time. The board wanted to make sure all entities were in agreeance with the suggested change to the agreement before moving forward with the hiring change.

Jeff stated there is a problem with garbage being left behind after an event at the recreation complex. He feels it would be good if someone was in charge that would check the area and do clean-up as needed. Mike stated there are other items that need to be done such as painting and maintenance of the lawn irrigation system.

Council Department Review

Fran stated JUB Engineering has found a possible grant opportunity for the sewer lagoon upgrade. However, this would require the City going with a full mechanical system. He stated there are other avenues the City has been considering. He has told JUB to move forward with applying for the grant, with the understanding the City may not choose to go with a mechanical plant.

Mayor Little stated there was a meeting on the sewer lagoons today. There is a chance the City may be able to obtain some federal grant monies for this project. The State has asked for a portion of federal funding that is available to fund projects within the State. He reviewed the items that need to be committed to in order for the City to apply for these funds. He stated the City would need to meet with the affected landowners if they are going to apply for the funds for an (land apply) irrigation system at the lagoons. He asked Fran to schedule this meeting stating JUB Engineering can meet anytime next week.

Mike stated he is glad that Fran instructed JUB to apply for the grant. Even if the City has to come up with $4 million, that is better than the estimated $12 million needed. There was discussion about what is better – doing an irrigation system that will work for the next 10 or so years and then go to a mechanical system – or going to a mechanical system right up front.

Mayor Little stated if the landowners do not want to enter into a 10-year agreement for an irrigation system, it will not be an option. There is concern about flooding issues with the sewer lagoons that are close to the river.

Mayor Little stated Attorney Crane contacted him today in regards to the IPP agreement. They want to make a change to the agreement that would allow looking into another energy source if the gas option is not available. This change would not change any other items in the agreement, and would not increase costs. He is asking if the members have any concerns with him signing the change to this agreement. The members agreed Mayor Little could sign this document.

Mayor Little stated the City is currently advertising for a school crossing guard. As of today, no one has applied. He has looked at the pay range for this position. This is a job that requires you spend an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, so it ties up most of your day. The current schedule is $8, $9 and $10. It has been suggested to change this rate to a rate of $12 an hour or higher for all persons. If the members are okay with this suggestion, they will advertise again and make the change to the salary schedule. This will be put on the next agenda.

Financial Statement Review

This item was not discussed.

Attorney Crane
Council Training

Attorney Crane was not present, this item was not discussed.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Julie A. Bloxham, Recorder

These minutes were approved at the 08-25-15 meeting.