

**Service & Recreation Committee Meeting of Council
City of Richmond Heights
March 1, 2022**

Chairperson Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:50pm

Roll Call: Alexander, Nelson, Lewis, Lentine

Council also present: Jordan, Bell, Ursu

Acceptance of Minutes of February 1, 2022- Motion by Alexander to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Lentine; passed 4-0.

REPORTS:

Mayor Thomas:

- Going out for bids for City Engineer. Courtney & Co did submit their proposal for the city and will be on the list for possible engineers.
- Ordinance needs updated on city engineer.
- Have a strong candidate for both Finance and Recreation depts. We had 9 candidates for Finance Director and it was a challenge.

Building Commissioner, Jim Urankar: No report.

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser:

- CDBG grants hope to hear from them this month on their decisions.
- Lodge- architect going over final punch list next week. Working hard to get the contractor finished.
- Desan Park- will be delivering playground equipment next Monday.

Service Director, Don Kerniskey:

- Cold patching in the city every day.
- Tree trimming in the city.
- Fire dept in the weight room working on. Painted it today.
- Police Dept- shingled roof has leaks and 2 remaining units on roof, quotes coming in.
- Sprinkler systems at the lodge working on.
- Security systems at Service Dept updating. Getting quotes.
- Pickup ordered last year is at dealership and hope to get soon.
- Truck coming soon and will check on. 2 larger trucks on assembly line as well. Locked in on prices as we are getting them via grants from the EPA.
- Lentine commented on the potholes. Please look at Richmond Park East and West.
- Wheel Loader is 18 yrs old and need a new one. Will bring to Council for purchase.
- Ursu brought up issue of Trebisky curbs and may cause an accident. Kerniskey said it is a water dept issue.
- Mayor Thomas

City Engineer, Chris Courtney: No report.

Recreation Dept: Position is posted. Mayor Thomas said they are waiting on candidates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Security Cameras: Mayor Thomas said that is something she is discussing with the Chiefs. But need to update systems first.

Desan Park: Alexander asked if we could close the park for now while the equipment is being installed. Would be the safest option.

Update on old or new grants: Gleisser update

Proposal for Engineering: Mayor reported on this.

Ad Hoc Recreation pool/meeting: No update

CPA Seniors Meeting: Nelson commented on the CPA recommendations per the Rec Board. Some of their recommendations were:

- Recommend to cancel the CPA Contract for 2022. Contract will remain effective for 6 months after cancellation. During 6 mos prior to cancellation a Rec Board member will partner with Wendy from CPA to improve RH usage and establish baseline data and document usage.
- That the Program Director of Community Partnership complete and conduct a survey of RH seniors to understand their concerns. Schedule programs in the city for all Hillcrest seniors in things like computer training, Bingo, phone training, retirement planning and monthly usages.
- That RH liaison oversees these programs for seniors.
- Rec Dept add staff to oversee this program and other additional duties associated with seniors, as a Senior Coordinator.

At \$81K/year there seem to be very few people using this. Not being marketed correctly so more seniors can participate. Rate is being quoted for the whole population and not just senior population.

Mayor Thomas said if it is only serving 23% of seniors, that is what we should pay. Our whole population is 10,800 and we are paying the same amount as larger cities. Need to base our number off senior demographics. Looking for a way to renegotiate the contract on this. Worth having a conversation with them on this.

Jordan said he would hate to lose a service but may not be worth having one that is being underused and overpaid for.

Mayor said Wendy, president of CPA, agreed to partner with them and get the information out there. Need to change the way they market this and get the information out to the apartments. Recommends to all the Council people to make sure residents are familiar with the CPA. For 2 years, no one has asked for a list of seniors being serviced in the city.

Nelson said she received a list of names and addresses from Wendy. There are about 400 names on the list. Mayor recommended sharing the list with all of Council.

Mayor Thomas said Wendy had come to the food pantry and she was sharing the information on the CPA at the food pantry, although she has not been there for about 6 months.

Lentine asked about the city budget. This is the first time we have not seen a city budget ahead of time and Council is expected to pass this by end of March. There is no discussion on this as well. He said he does not know what is happening with the budget. There have been no Special Finance Committee meetings like there have in the past on learning about the department heads request. He has not seen anything on this. He asked how can he be expected to vote on this soon as he has not seen the budget recommendations at all yet.

Mayor Thomas said they have all the budgets together now. She said she first discussed this today and the budget is complete and is in Tom DiLellio's hands and being put together. She said the budget looks amazing and she has been in discussion with this with Finance Committee Chairman Dan Ursu and Council President Bobby Jordan. Ursu said a special meeting will be needed to have the 3 readings on this. Mayor said they are willing to give presentations on this.

Jordan said this year is a little different with this budget approval and will just be for this year.

Mayor said dept heads will come in to do a presentation on this.

Lewis said normally Council sees this ahead of time and goes through this before voting on it during the Council meeting with 3 readings.

Nelson asked if Council can review the budget soon and if it can be sent to Council members prior to seeing it on the agenda. Needs to be shared with Council.

Mayor Thomas said Tom DiLellio needs to make sure the health care is on there for the employees. Ursu said there will be a reading next week and we can make changes as we go along before passage.

Discussion ensued on the budget, timeliness and the 3 readings needed before passage. Ursu called for a Special Finance Committee Meeting next Tuesday, March 8th at 6pm before the Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: -none-

AUDIENCE:

Eugene Smith, 24624 Rushmore Drive

At CPA meeting last night and he said he went through everything and from his perspective the only 2 programs to keep---food programs and social services program. Information was not clear. There were 7 programs listed, but most participation was for those 2 listed.

Chairwoman Lewis adjourned this meeting at 9:37p.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben