

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

March 12, 2019 12:00 PM

Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson
Commissioner Larry Maglinger
Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright
Commissioner Larry Conder
Commissioner Jeff Sanford

2. SWEAR IN POLICE OFFICERS

Mayor Watson swore in the following police officers:

- Donovan I. Aders
- Shawn A. Cucci
- Haydon A. Humphreys
- Logan W. Nevitt
- Charles L. Whittaker

3. FISHER PARK RENOVATIONS

Amanda Rogers, Parks Director and Chad McCormick, LD&D (Land Design & Development, Inc.) from Louisville, KY, presented a proposal to renovate the Fisher Park Softball Complex (presentation attached). The important economic asset which was originally built in 1986-87, has been heavily used without significant work. The overuse of fields has led to poor soil composition, uneven turf, outfield lips and non-draining infields which has led to increased game cancellations. The competition market has increased in nearby cities. The three (3) phase proposal at a total cost of \$2,951,100 was presented as such: Phase 1 (\$2,084,300) - renovate fields – natural, full synthetic or a hybrid - recommended (outfield natural/infield synthetic); rebrand the main entrance; and add 68 spaces to the current front parking lot; Phase 2 (\$443,500) - upgrade ticketing entrance; add 52 spaces to back parking lot; and renovate the fifth field; Phase 3 (\$423,300) – install playground; add warm up area / batting cages; and service gate. Placemaking throughout would make the complex a unique, fun, welcoming attraction. Owensboro would be one of the first complexes to have a hybrid surface, thus extending the playing season. Mrs. Rogers added that a fifteen (15%) contingency has been worked into the numbers. Commissioner Conder asked where the funds would come from since the City does not have a direct revenue source to be applied for this type of project. City Manager Pagan explained that staff is currently working on the budget; however, Your Community Vision (YCV)

funds could primarily be used to pay for the project. Mayor Watson suggested adding the batting cages to Phase 1. He asked if there was money left over from the prior year's budget. Mrs. Rogers said there was \$550,000 leftover in YCV to go toward the project. Mayor Watson asked if the project was bonded to accomplish the true wants for the complex, could the revenue from the play of the complex pay a percentage of the bond note. City Manager Pagan said approximate payment on a \$3 million bond would be \$180,000 to \$190,000. Mrs. Rogers does not believe that revenue to cover the note could be generated, however, City Manager Pagan said staff would run some analyses. Mayor Watson would like to see a stipend from the hotels and Owensboro Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

4. CITY PROJECT LIST

Mayor Watson requested the "Blue Bridge" be referred to its official name as the "Glover Cary Bridge". Commissioner Smith-Wright requested the relighting of the bridge stand as its own special event. Mr. Lelan Hancock, Assistant City Manager explained the completion of the lights would be around the same time of the lighting of the Christmas tree downtown, therefore the two events were planned together. A meeting is scheduled to address the issues at the new parking garage. Mayor Watson stated that he has been in contact with the Governor Bevin's office and the Governor has not taken a real stance on local taxing options. However, if a special session is called, it could be addressed as an overall tax reform. Therefore, the City cannot count on it anytime soon, potentially the year 2021. Registration for the Wendell Foster Half-Marathon is going very well, there are approximately 800 runners thus far.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:05 p.m.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Cecil, City Clerk