

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING

April 5, 2021

4:30 pm

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application to respect the social distancing guidelines.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3 (Entered the meeting at 4:32 p.m.)

Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Karla Owens, Development Services Director

Wesley Beauchamp, Facilities & Events Specialist

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant (Not Present)

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

Mayor Bryant opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

1. CELEBRATION CENTER DISCUSSION (K. Owens)

Mrs. Owens, Development Services Director, presented the options for the disposition of the Celebration Center at Lamb Park and reported that \$100,000 is budgeted for the task. The options consisted of repairing Lamb Park where it stands, demolishing the structure, relocating the structure to Hidden Lake Park or Estuary Park, and demolishing and rebuilding a new structure. After explaining the proposed option cost and provisions, Mrs. Owens welcomed the Board's comments and recommendations.

Commissioner Varnadore expressed that she was not in favor of investing \$100,000 into the Celebration Center where it stands and selected option 5, Demolish and Rebuild New Structure. Then, she asked if there were any other available sites for the people to use while the new structure is being built. Mr. Burton, CRA Director, suggested the VFW and stated that this structure improvements will take about 1 year to complete, or the Women's Club since it is used mostly on weekends and not the week days. He added that rent for the Women's Club is \$1300 per day, but could be lowered on the days least used for smaller events. Then, Mrs. Owens questioned if the \$100,000 could be transferred to the CRA to expedite the VFW improvements instead of waiting for the grant. Mr. Freeman, City Clerk, replied that the \$100,000 budgeted generated from the 1/2 cent sales tax.

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And, if the City provides the funding and based on the Board's option, it will have to be determined if the option is eligible where the funding is budgeted.

Commissioner Smith suggested that if the Celebration Center is rebuilt, it should be a block structure and not relocated to another park since the people are familiar to the present location. Then, he selected option #1, Repair in Place. Mr. Burton agreed that it is a good location, and the rebuilt can be a block structure.

Commissioner Cornwell commented that the Celebration Center was used frequently, and Mr. Freeman acknowledged that the center was used more than the other facilities when it was available. Commissioner Cornwell inquired why the structure was raised. Mr. Freeman answered that the underlining structure had degraded over time due to the environment.

Commissioner Jones stated that he is in favor of tearing the building down because the structure is unstable and out dated. And, he chose option 5, Demolish and Rebuild New Structure, but to relocate the structure to the MLK Park. Mrs. Owens declared that the request can be discussed, and the Commission would make the decision.

Commissioner Williams favored option 5, Demolish and Rebuild New Structure, and expressed that an enclosed structure is not necessary, and a pavilion could be built. He also suggested a modular unit with a kitchen and 2 restrooms.

Mayor Bryant reminded the Board to review the previous proposal before making a decision.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the cost to build restrooms for the new structure. Mr. Rayan answered that a survey of the parks needs to be conducted and the information will be brought back to the Board. Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Jones on the relocation to MLK Park because new restrooms are being installed, which will help with the expense.

Commissioner Williams requested clarification on the MLK Park's restrooms project cost. Mr. Freeman commented that about \$200,000 was allocated from the 1/2 cent sales tax, and when the bids are returned, we will know if that amount is sufficient.

Mayor Bryant asked if the Board's choice is to have the Celebration Center item placed on the 7:00 p.m. agenda tonight for demolition, and Mr. Burton recommended to use the word remove instead of demolish because someone could buy it and move it. The Board chose the structure to be removed. Mayor Bryant communicated that a survey of the parks will be provided to the Board to assist in selecting the location of the new structure.

Discussion ensued among the Board on the usage at the park locations. A list of the parks amenities was requested and will be provided to the Commissioners.

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Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: MAY 3, 2021

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK