



Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission
Minutes: August 23, 2022
City Council Chambers

Attending: Jerry Morgan, David McClain, Tom Fielder, Chris Gibson, Bill Hurt and Tracy Owens.
Absent: Dan Das.

Chairman Jerry Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. announcing that an official quorum was present. Mr. Morgan reviewed the minutes of the meeting held July 26, 2022, which were included in the meeting materials. Mr. Gibson moved to approve the minutes and Mr. McClain seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Report:

Chairman Morgan did not present a current overview of financial status of the Jonesboro A&P Commission due to the recent overview given at the July 26 meeting. Morgan did remark that income from the restaurant tax is trending well. Steve Purtee Financial Advisor from the City's Accounting Department announced that businesses have been notified that the option to pay online is now available. It is optional at this time – pay online or through the mail.

New Business:

Chairman Morgan asked for approval to renew the independent contractor's contract with Christy Appleton. Bill Hurt moved to approve and Chris Gibson seconded.

Morgan asked for approval of the RFP for architectural and engineering firms for the Sports Complex. The RFP has been approved by the City Attorney, Jerry Morgan, and Kevin Hodges – Steering Committee Chairman. Morgan asked for approval to proceed by sending these out to eligible firms. Gibson moved and Tracy Owens seconded to ask Morgan to proceed. Jonesboro A&P Commission will make the final decision.

Steve Purtee reported that bids have gone out for consideration to provide financial services to the City. Four entities have responded that will be considered. They gave August 31 as the submission date. A public meeting is planned for September 14 to consider all bids and October 5 as the award date. After the City of Jonesboro hires a company, the A&P Commission will vote whether to use this company for the Sports Complex project.

Steering Committee Chair Hodges presented an update on the site location for the Sports Complex project. Chairman Morgan recused himself from the discussion and vote due to conflict of interest.

Mr. John Wack, CEO, Eastern Sports Management presented an impact report from the Sports Complex Feasibility Study. He reported that the market can support a 200,000 square foot indoor complex, which would contain 10 basketball courts (20 for volleyball); two turf fields for such things as soccer; a 50- meter competitive swimming pool; and an e-sports facility. There could also be 18,500 square feet of outdoor aquatic features. The plan also calls for 1,000 parking spaces.

Hodges reported on factors that were considered in the site location recommendation. Approximately 30+ acres are needed for the facility and parking. This does include room for future growth. The steering committee met July 26 and reviewed four sites. The committee considered size of space, utility, waste water management, ease of access, proximity to lodging and dining, and available for purchase. The committee also conducted hundreds of interviews with citizens. The committee voted to recommend the 32 acre tract of land located east of McClellan Drive, as well as 4 acres belonging to Northeast Arkansas Community Mental Health Center. After discussion, the A&P Commission voted unanimously to approve the pursuit of the purchase of these properties. At that time, the A&P Commission will vote for final approval.

Chairman Morgan called for further questions and there being none, Mr. Gibson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hurt. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by

Christy Appleton
Administrative Officer