

MINUTES

JOINT SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI
September 6, 2008

INTRODUCTORY

The Board of Aldermen, Budget and Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee and the Personnel Committee of the City of Branson, Missouri met for a joint special session in the Conference Room of the Branson RecPlex , 1500 Branson Hills Parkway, Branson, Missouri on September 6, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. The following members were present:

Board of Aldermen

Mayor Presley presiding, Sandra Williams, Stephen Marshall, Cris Bohinc and Bob McDowell present. Absent: Stan Barker and Rick Davis.

Budget and Finance Committee

Stephen Marshall and Sandra Williams present. Absent: Mike Davis and Bob Simmons.

Capital Improvements Committee

Bob McDowell, Cris Bohinc and Dave Edie present. Absent: Chuck Adams.

Personnel Committee

William Stark present. Absent: Stan Barker, Rick Davis and Royce Allen.

Also present from the City were: City Administrator Dean Kruithof, Assistant City Administrator Frank Schoneboom, City Clerk Lisa Westfall, Assistant City Attorney William Duston, Director of Communications Jerry Adams, Police Chief Caroll McCullough, Director of Human Resources Debbie Durler, Director of Planning and Zoning Don Stephens, Director of Public Works Larry VanGilder, Parks Director Cindy Shook and Fire Chief Carl Sparks.

Attendees: John Petty and Janice Larned of District Offices, David Cochran of Cochran Head and Vick, Auditors and Finance Director Lori Halle.

Mayor Presley called the meeting to order and provided an introduction for the meeting and Dean Kruithof introduced the team and provided a presentation on the Branson budget status and the challenges ahead. (Powerpoint)

John Petty of District Office provided a financial report and 2009 Budget Workshop. (Powerpoint)

Mayor Presley asked for questions from the Board. Discussion.

Mayor Presley asked for questions from the audience. John Logan asked why some things were not entered into the computer in the past so there are not accurate figures today and if there was going to

be a strong emphasis on correcting bad debt being entered to the programs. Mr. Petty responded the data information was entered but data base trimming was not performed to remove bad entries from the system. Mr. Logan questioned why the alert system was shut off. Mr. Petty said as the City changed its finances and conditions the time was not taken to adjust the accounting system to match. Discussion. Chip Mason, Herschend Family Entertainment, inquired about ideas to increase the general revenue in the future. Discussion. Chris Lucci stated the revenue column of \$5 million was not talked about. He said it had a 62 percent increase projection and he asked what that came from. Mr. Petty stated that the big jump was due to the convention center going operational for the full first year and also the other fees and revenue sources were raised based on the projection of a better financial year. Steve Presley, 404 Judy Street, Branson, Missouri asked for some information about District Office and how they came to be a part of the process. Mr. Petty stated that District Offices is a small company founded by Janice Larned and him about a year ago, they are out of southern Florida and they have worked with government clients their entire careers. He said Ms. Larned was the Finance Director for Kansas City for eleven years and basically wrote the handbook on handling TIF's. He said after auditor comments stated the City of Branson needed to have some administrative procedures and leadership the Mayor and staff contacted the local Financial Officers group who contacted Ms. Larned. Discussion. Katie Steel Danner, representative of the League of Theater Owners and Show Producers, asked if the proposal of fixes was from this time forward or a one year time period. Mr. Petty stated they were going to ask the Board to consider it as policy going forward but it was up to the Board to decide. Ms. Danner stated what the League has attempted to do is make a business model decision for each member theater and show and what they should or should not be doing going forward with the current environment. She said they want to open up discussion and work with the City's Finance Department to compare actual numbers and she thanked the Board for bringing that business acumen to the community. She asked that a cost benefit analysis be considered for some of the free shows that are being held at Branson Landing because anecdotally their theaters and shows are saying they see a decrease in attendance from their local market when those shows are being held. She stated when the State Auditor was here a previous time there were caution lights issued during a public forum that were not heeded by former management and council. She thanked this administration for doing due diligence. Chris Myer, 517 Country Bluff Drive, Branson, Missouri stated that he was not surprised by what he was hearing but he thinks it is important to move forward with solutions. He suggested taking a very conservative approach and to continue communicating. He challenged City staff and the Board to treat this as they would their own business, their own money, like the decisions they make will affect them into the future and possibly decisions may be made differently. Discussion.

ADJOURN

Mayor Presley asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Bohinc so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams. Voting aye: Williams, Marshall, Bohinc and McDowell. Nays: none. Absent: Barker and Davis. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Raeanne Presley
Mayor

Lisa K. Westfall
City Clerk