

February 10, 2020

Aiken City Council Minutes

February 10, 2020

WORK SESSION

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Brohl, Diggs, Girardeau, Gregory, Price, and Woltz.

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Sara Ridout, Kim Abney, Tim O'Briant, Ryan Bland, Kym Wheat, Lex Kirkland, Charles Barranco, Mike Przybylowicz, Jessica Campbell, Joy Lester, Shiann Sivell of the Aiken Standard, and 15 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the work session of February 10, 2020, to order at 5 P.M. He stated there were four items on the agenda for the work session – parking on Newberry Street, update on Family Promise, the water plant, and prioritizing CPST IV.

STEEPLECHASE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Sauerborn gave an update on the progress of the Steeplechase project. He stated the land is being cleared. About 80 acres worth of timber has been removed, and everything is on schedule, possibly a little ahead. He gave each Councilmember a limited edition poker chip commemorating the Steeplechase. He stated he will continue to update City Council as the project proceeds.

PARKING

Newberry Street NW

Parkway

Richland Avenue

Barnwell Avenue

St. John's Methodist Church

Mayor Osbon stated the first item is parking on the 100 block of Newberry Street NW.

City Manager Stuart Bedenbaugh stated several months ago, he and the Mayor were approached by representatives from St. John's United Methodist Church regarding parking along Newberry Street NW between Richland and Barnwell Avenue. The church has experienced quite a bit of growth over the last 5 years and is requesting City consideration of placing approximately 40 angled parking spaces in the northbound lane of the 100 NW block of Newberry Street. The parking, which would be public-owned and maintained, would assist St. John's with having additional parking near their church for their elderly population. The work would necessitate the removal of approximately 18 trees [mostly pine]. St. John's is willing to provide in-kind landscaping services and \$10,000 for the cost of the project. The cost estimates for the work range from approximately \$142,000 [asphalt parking] to \$490,000 [brick pavers]. Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out that some of the downtown area has center isle parking predominately in the business session. The proposed area is adjacent to our Newberry Street Festival Center. The church wanted to bring the request to Council for consideration. The request would be received as information at this time.

Mr. Tom Farmer, of St. John's United Methodist Church, stated St. John's is respectfully requesting some additional parking on Newberry Street north of Richland Avenue. About 25 years ago, they had two sides of the street with parallel parking. About 20 years ago they were curbed out on the west side of the park. There was curb and gutter installed on both sides of Newberry. That eliminated the western side of Newberry for parking for the church. The church has grown to a little over 2,400 worshippers. The church is open seven days a week. There is always something going on there. There are three services on Sunday. He stated one reason for the request is the purchase of the Regions Bank building by the City. The church has counted for two Sundays at the 11:00 a.m. service about how many parishioners park in the Regions Bank parking lot. The highest count so far has been 34 cars with one or more people in them. He did not count

the ones parking on Chesterfield parking in front of the bank building, just within the bank parking lot. The parking will go away when construction is started on the building. A lot of the parishioners are mobility challenged. They do not need to cross Richland Avenue even at the light. It is not just about Sunday, it's seven days a week that something is going on at the church. They feel it would help with the overflow parking at the Newberry Street Festival Center if there were more parking on Newberry Street north. They would like to have both sides of Newberry Street for parking, but have been told that is not possible because there is not enough room in the middle of the park. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that was correct. With the width of Newberry Street we cannot have angle parking on both sides. Mr. Farmer stated that Senator Young has offered to help with any DOT issues.

Councilwoman Price asked if the parking on Newberry would go down to Barnwell. Mr. Farmer stated yes. Councilwoman Price asked Mr. Bedenbaugh if the width of the parkway was the same as the festival center. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the traffic engineer has looked at it and said there is an issue with trying to do the angle parking on both sides due to the width of the roadway. She said it is not possible despite the fact we have parking on Newberry. He stated he can confirm that, but they have had several discussions about that. Angle parking would only be possible on one side of the parkway. There is parallel parking on the western side where we would look to put the angle parking. Mr. Farmer stated they would appreciate whatever the City can do. He stated almost every church in town has angle parking on both sides of the parks where they are situated. As of right now, St. John's is the largest church in Aiken. They have surpassed the Catholic Church. There is certainly a need for parking.

Councilwoman Diggs asked how long the project would take and if the streets would be closed during the project. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated there would have to be some closure. He stated that Engineering and Utilities Director Mike Przybylowicz had looked at it from the standpoint of the construction work. Mr. Przybylowicz stated most of the construction could be confined. They would probably use the parallel parking as an access to get through until the construction is complete. There would be some delays, and a couple of days where the street might be closed. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated this would be public parking 24/7. St. John's is making the request, but since it is in public right of way, the space cannot be reserved. Mr. Farmer stated they know that and want others to use the parking.

Councilwoman Brohl asked how much would be left in the parkway if this went forward. Mr. Przybylowicz stated it would take about two-thirds of the parkway. Councilwoman Brohl asked how that would impact a parking garage. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that could play into the decision if the City wants to pursue a parking garage. It could be additional parking in addition to a fully built parking garage, or the size of a parking garage could be reduced by that 35-40 spaces, in theory if Council wanted to view a tradeoff of surface parking versus a floor on the parking garage. Councilwoman Brohl asked how many cars have been counted in the Regions Bank parking lot. Mr. Farmer stated the most recent Sunday there were 34 cars in the parking lot with two or more occupants each. He did not count the parking in front of the Regions Bank building. Councilman Woltz asked if that was just the 11:00 service. Mr. Farmer stated it was only the 11 a.m. service. It is the largest service.

Councilwoman Price stated we are talking about a cost of \$142,000 with 35-40 parking spaces. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated it is 44 spaces. Mr. Farmer stated hopefully that would decrease the scope and size if there is a parking garage. Councilwoman Price asked why the other cost was figured regarding the brick pavers. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated if Council wanted the parking to mirror more the Festival Center work, we wanted to give that option. The majority of the downtown parking is traditional asphalt and thermoplastic striping. He stated he is not suggesting the Festival Center grow across Richland, but it is something he wanted to give Council an idea of the cost variety. Councilwoman Price asked if St. John's had any objections as to what Council decides based on the funding. Mr. Farmer stated they did not and were grateful for whatever Council can help them with. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Mr. Farmer had shared there was a potential contribution from the church that may be considered. Mr. Farmer stated that is still to be determined. Councilwoman Brohl asked if \$10,000 was for the landscaping. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated no, that is to the cost of the project. Councilwoman Brohl stated there would be \$10,000 to the cost of the project and an in kind service. Mr. Farmer stated the church would pay

for Ms. Kleinbub's design fee to landscape. Councilman Woltz asked if the \$150,000 includes lighting. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated it does not. Mr. Przybylowicz stated the cost for lighting in the parkways on Park Avenue was about \$7,500 per pole with conduit, and there are to be three poles per parkway. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the cost would be about \$30,000 for lighting. Councilman Woltz asked about the pricing of the pavers. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated they would be looking at half a million dollars if they factored in the lighting with pavers. Mr. Przybylowicz stated the benefit of the pavers is they capture the storm water.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated going forward staff will work on getting a price for lighting and if Council wishes, we can discuss the request further. If we were to take it to a vote, essentially, it would be a budget adjustment if Council wants to pursue the parking on Newberry NW. We could have some additional discussion about this before it comes back to Council formally.

Councilman Woltz asked where the money would come from. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated it could come out of Hospitality Tax for parking because it is public parking. The parking would be available for 24/7, first come, first served. Councilman Woltz stated he feels the numbers need to be tightened up. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he would have some firmer numbers and will share with Council in the next week or so.

Mayor Osbon stated he would like to know what the width of the park will be where the parallel spots are. He said he imagined that the proposed parking would be similar to the parking on Pendleton Street near St. Thaddeus Church. He stated that \$3,500-\$4,000 a spot is much cheaper than \$15,000-\$20,000 it would cost for a parking garage. If that number could be reduced for the parking garage by doing this, it is positive. It also helps a church that is very active in the community.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff would work on getting numbers to Council next week.

FAMILY PROMISE

Homeless

Mayor Osbon stated the next item on the work session agenda is an update from the Family Promise.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Councilwoman Price asked for an update from the Aiken County Homeless Coalition. Late last year, someone gave an update and Ms. Ross, from Family Promise, is present to give an update.

Councilwoman Price stated Family Promise in Aiken is quite active. They have had several retired individuals that are inspired by what Family Promise does, so they want to engage and give their time to the organization.

Ms. Ross stated she is Vice-Chair of the Aiken County Homeless Coalition, but is present at this meeting as President of Family Promise of Aiken County. They are completely unaffiliated except for mission of raising awareness and caring for our more vulnerable people. She stated in attendance with her was Dr. Dory Hammond, Vice President of Family Promise, and John Lowman who is the Parliamentarian. Ms. Ross stated they wanted City Council to be aware of a new project in the County and they hope individually and collectively they can have City Council's support. Aiken County Public Schools track their homeless children under the McKinney-Vento Act. In 2018-2019 academic year, there were 424 students identified as homeless in Aiken County. McKinney-Vento defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. She said all three things have to apply. She pointed out that as of today in the 2019-20 year Aiken County has 267 homeless students. She said the clock starts over each academic year. If a child is identified as homeless the first week of school even if they get stable housing, they are not removed from the list for that academic year. The County Schools track them to make sure they stay in stable housing. She pointed out that is one of the best numbers they can stand behind for homeless children. She said, however, that is an under represented number. She said she knows that because of inadequate housing. Many of the student's families are paying \$500+ a month for rent, and they are not receiving what we would consider adequate housing. Ms. Ross provided pictures of what they call substandard housing. She pointed out the

housing is not adequate and safe. She said what we have in Family Promise is a small way of helping 14 people at a time. Family Promise is a hospitality transitional housing program. It is a national corporation. There are over 200 affiliates in the United States in 43 states. There has been Family Promise in Augusta since 1998, and it has been running strong. Family Promise uses congregations and community resources to provide hospitality for 14 people at a time made up of families only. The families rotate in the evenings from congregation to congregation. Each host provides hospitality for one week at a time. The families leave during the day to go to work or to a day center where they work on finding suitable housing. Children go to school, because it is critical to keep the kids in school. In the evening, they return to the congregation for food and shelter. They get breakfast in the morning and a bag lunch. This is repeated throughout the week. If there are 13 congregations participating, you only have to host once a quarter. Family Promise is working on getting their 13 congregations. They have two so far – Unitarian Universalist and First Baptist Church. They are making presentations to all the local congregations that will allow them to do so. She pointed out the program is a tried and true program, and they stand comfortably behind it because they have best practices. They are looking to make this a success in Aiken.

Councilwoman Brohl stated she had been to some of the organizational meetings and asked if the churches involved set up in classrooms in the churches. Ms. Ross stated it could be set up in the classrooms, gym, activities center, etc. Usually there are no more than four families. The reason they are limited to 14 people is because they have a 15 passenger van so there can be 14 people and the driver. Family Promise provides the beds and the congregations provide the linens.

Councilwoman Brohl stated she was very impressed with the organization, and the Director from Augusta was fantastic. They are doing a lot to address the homeless situation. She stated there are so many other people that are not captured in the count. Councilwoman Diggs stated they see a lot of them in the center where she works; a lot of them don't want you to know they are homeless. She asked how many volunteers are needed for 14 people. Ms. Ross stated for overnight you only need two who have to stay in the congregation overnight. She pointed out you have to feed 14 people. She said the number of volunteers depends on the congregation and how much they want to do. City Council and Family Promise discussed the program at length and what has to be done. It was noted that the homeless can stay in the program as long as they need to and as long as they are meeting their part of the commitment. Nationally for 2018 over 80% of the families stayed in the program for nine weeks.

Councilwoman Price stated Family Promise is looking for a location to establish residency for their Day Center. She asked if the City might have some property Family Promise could look at and establish their Day Center. Ms. Ross stated they would be very interested if the City had any property they might be able to use to establish their Day Center. Councilwoman Price stated it is a wonderful cause to help people and especially children.

Ms. Ross stated that if any Councilmembers had any congregation affiliation she would be happy to present the program to them and as City Councilmembers, she asked that they continue to support this program and the ongoing acknowledgement that this is something that needs to be worked towards. If there is City property they can consider renovating for a day shelter, that would be lovely and something they would eagerly partner with the City to do. They have not presented this to County Council at this time, but plan to.

Councilwoman Price asked Mr. Bedenbaugh if it was possible to take a look at the City inventory. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he will take a look. He does not believe the City has any property with a building on it as we have sold those or transferred them to Second Baptist CDC. Councilwoman Price stated they are looking for grants as well. Ms. Ross stated that was correct. They have a group looking at grants and opportunities for funding.

SHAW'S CREEK WATER PLANT

Mayor Osbon stated the next item on the work session agenda is an update on the Shaw's Creek Water Plant. He noted that Commissioner Laura Bagwell, of the Aiken Soil and Water Conservation District, was present at the meeting.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated last fall Council had a presentation from Goodwyn Mills Cawood regarding the city's Shaws Creek Water Plant. At that time, Council directed them to determine whether rehabilitation of the existing plant or new construction would be studied. The consultants are present to review their study of the Shaws Creek Water Treatment Plant which was built in 1954. The plant is still functioning and producing water, but something needs to be done to be sure we have a good water supply in the future.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated GMC is present to describe to Council what their study showed. Staff worked with GMC, and they traveled to a number of water plants. GMC is present to report on their findings and recommend what they feel should be done for the future.

Mr. Kyle Titus, of Goodwyn Mills Cawood, introduced those present from the firm. Mr. Titus stated on August 12, 2019, GMC was present and reported to Council on the condition of the Shaws Creek Water Treatment Plant and the concerns of staff. Council tasked GMC with developing a preliminary engineering report and study on where the plant is and the options available.

Mr. Titus stated the plant is located on Highway 1 about half way between the city and Exit 22 at I-20. The plant was built in 1954, upgraded in 1960 and 1992. It is currently permitted to withdraw 8 million gallons of water per day (8MGD). Today we are getting about 5.5 MGD. That is due to several reasons, with the biggest reason being the intake structure is dated. The treatment technology at the plant is dated which leads to some energy inefficiencies. There is concern that if the plant were to go offline, because it is so old DHEC may require several upgrades before the plant could be back on line. The existing plant will not meet future regulations, and there are some safety and structural issues and electrical code issues. He noted that the city has another firm looking at some future projections and some growth areas near the Interstate. It is known how important Shaws Creek is not only to the city now, but also in the future for growth areas near the Interstate. He said per the preliminary engineering report, they visited each of the items. He said he would briefly discuss each one.

Mr. Titus stated they looked at different treatment technologies, primarily conventional and membrane. He noted that they had visited various plants and looked at various treatment options to see what would be the best fit for improving the Shaws Creek Plant. They made five site visits across the CSRA and South Carolina. He pointed out that the Water Plant Operators and Engineering and Utilities Director made site visits to the plants to better understand not only the treatment technologies, but also what the operators liked and did not like about the plants so we could get it right when making improvements to the Shaws Creek Plant. This will play a vital role in the next step forward.

Mr. Kevin Laird, of GMC, stated Aiken is a growing community. He showed a chart of population projections and stated they turned those projections into water demand projections which enable them to size the water treatment plant for the next 5, and 20 to 30 years. He showed a chart from the city's audit showing the Shaw's Creek Water Treatment Plant expenses from 2014 to 2018. He noted that the expenses for the plant have been increasing at a significant rate for the last five years. The increase has been 50%. The operators at the water plant have been fixing stuff to make it work. They spend a lot of money trying to keep things working and operating. He noted that the operators have been done a great job at producing quality water so far. A lot of the increase in cost is for maintenance of the plant.

Mr. Kevin Laird stated they looked at several options. He noted that the two major options they looked at and evaluated were rehabilitating the existing plant versus building a new plant. Mr. Laird reviewed Option 1 which is to rehabilitate the existing plant. He said one thing staff highly recommended is that they have raw water storage as a backup if for some reason they could not use water from the creek for a while. He noted that the

creek goes under the Interstate and there is the potential that if there were an accident on the Interstate that it could potentially pollute the stream. He pointed out there was not room for raw water storage, but there is about 25 acres of property across the street that could be used for raw water storage. Some of the proposed cost includes purchase of property for raw water storage. The projected cost for upgrade to the present water treatment plant is \$39,192,000. This would be to retrofit the existing plant and intake, rehab of existing concrete, and purchase of property for raw water storage. He pointed out at this point they have not done any designs for the plant, and they have not done any geo technical work. The plan would be for the existing plant to stay in operation during the rehabilitation. He pointed out that is always a challenge when upgrading an existing plant. It is difficult, but it can be done.

Mr. Laird stated Option 2 would be to build a new plant which could be on the property across the street from the existing plant. The cost for a new plant is estimated to be \$39,299,000. There would be raw water storage. The plant would have the capacity and area to expand if needed in the future. He pointed out they have not done a study of geo technical work for the new site, and they have not done any hard designs.

Mr. Laird then reviewed the advantages versus the disadvantages for Option 1 upgrade the existing plant versus Option 2 constructing a new building. He noted that a new plant would create better efficiency and reliability. He noted that putting new equipment into the old plant would be difficult, but could be done. A new plant would have less unknowns. He said a new plant could be designed around some new treatment technologies as opposed to having treatment technologies to have to sit in the existing plant. A new plant would give the opportunity to increase the production capability on a new site. The disadvantages of upgrading the present plant is that construction must be phased to keep the present plant running.

Mr. Laird then reviewed some funding options, including Economic Development Administration grant, Rural Infrastructure Authority grant, State Revolving Fund, USDA grant, Municipal Bonds, and a rate increase. He noted his figures show that the water treatment plant would roughly be a \$2M debt service yearly. He pointed out that the city currently has an incremental rate increase for water over 5 years based on a rate study done in 2016. He pointed out that the incremental rate increase in effect now yields about \$1.9M in additional water revenue each year which would be about the revenue needed for the water treatment plant.

Councilmembers had several questions. Would construction time be the same time for upgrading the present plant. It was noted that upgrading the present plant and constructing a new plant would take about the same length of time. Construction of a new plant would take about 20 to 24 months. It would take about 10 to 12 months to design and get permits for upgrading or constructing a new plant. It would be about three years before the plant could be upgraded or a new plant constructed.

Councilmembers discussed the options available and noted that it seemed that building a new water treatment plant would be the best option to get something with advanced technology.

Mayor Osbon stated Council would like to have information brought back to them as far as a path forward.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff would go ahead and look at some of the real property options and bring something to Council. He said he would also have the city's financial advisor who does the city's projections for borrowing of funds look at the costs and give us some options. He said the city would have to borrow funds and apply for grants to fund the cost for the water treatment plan. He said staff could bring the financial projection to Council as part of the budget process.

Ms. Laura Bagwell, of the Aiken Soil and Water Conservation District, stated she had taken a trip to the Water Treatment Plant. She said it was eye opening and very educational. She said she would highly recommend a trip to the Water Plant for everyone. She noted that the water quality for Aiken is great. It is naturally great. One of the reasons it stays great is through all the hard work the operators do at the facility.

Councilmembers noted that their high priority is infrastructure, but the work needed on the water plant is a high priority since this is our drinking water and can significantly impact our community.

CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX IV

CPST IV

Mayor Osbon stated the next item on the work session agenda is a discussion of Capital Sales Tax IV prioritization.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the reason for bringing this to Council is two-fold. We have some grant deadlines that we are moving toward to help augment some of the projects. Also, for the previous three rounds of the CPST the way the revenue was transmitted to the City was through a quarterly check from the Aiken County Treasurer. Due to an Appeals Court case about Richland County which has state-wide effect, we can no longer receive our CPST revenue quarterly. Aiken County still receives the money. It is placed in an account for the City that draws interest. In order to receive the funds we have to submit invoices to show that the work is completed in order to get reimbursed. He pointed out that the City has to pay for the projects upfront and then get reimbursed from the County. He noted there is an ordinance on the agenda to enter into an agreement with Aiken County in order to get reimbursed for projects funded on the CPST IV list.

It was noted that the agreement for reimbursement for CPST IV expenditures was not just for the City of Aiken, but all cities in Aiken County that received CPST IV funds. There was a question as to how big of a fund does the City of Aiken have to maintain in order to have funds available for projects before being reimbursed by the County. Mr. Bedenbaugh noted that we won't have \$40 M in projects at one time. There will be several million dollars at a time. He noted that for projects we have draws on the project as the project proceeds. He noted that we plan to apply for reimbursements monthly, if not more often. It was noted that we need a projection as to what we will need. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that is one reason staff wants to talk about some of the priorities with Council so staff can go ahead and begin planning and being able to submit the requests for reimbursement in a timely manner so we can get our funds.

There was a question as to whether any interest that is drawn is split among the municipalities. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he understands that each city will have their own account on deposit with the Aiken County Treasurer. The account draws the interest rate of the Local Government Investment Pool rate.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated on November 6, 2018, Aiken County voters approved the fourth round of the Capital Projects Sales Tax [CPST IV]. Since that time, we have begun working on some of these projects as Council has authorized interfund borrowing of \$6.55 million to complete several infrastructure projects, stormwater improvements in our parkways along Park Avenue, and swimming pool renovations at Smith-Hazel. We expect to begin collecting CPST IV funds in the next several months. We would now like Council to review our list and prioritize projects going forward. We conservatively expect to receive at least \$40 million so we would like to prioritize the next \$33.45 million of projects. Staff is here to begin that discussion as we will have first reading of an ordinance to do this prioritization on the February 10, 2020, agenda. He pointed out that Council has the right to rearrange the order of the projects for CPST IV. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he had asked Ms. Joy Lester, CPST Manager, to discuss the prioritization of the CPST IV projects. He noted that the ballot specifically stated that the order of the projects was to be determined by Aiken City Council.

Ms. Lester stated the projects had been listed the way they were listed on the ballot. She noted that in 2018, the voters of Aiken County approved \$50 million for CPST IV for the City of Aiken projects. City staff asked for borrow ahead of approximately \$6.55 million for projects to get underway so we did not have to wait to get started and because of cost escalation as costs go up while we are waiting for funds to come in. She noted that Council had approved borrow ahead projects, including several infrastructure projects, stormwater improvements in our parkways along Park Avenue, and swimming pool renovations at Smith-Hazel.

Ms. Lester stated based on collections from CPST III, we collected approximately 80% of the total amount that was anticipated. We are anticipating for the CPST IV round to collect about \$40 million not \$51 million. With the borrow ahead subtracted from \$40 million we now have basically \$33.45 million. Now we need to determine the priority of the projects on the list. She pointed out that she had listed the projects straight down the list as they were listed on the ballot. They can be rearranged however Council wishes to accomplish the projects. Ms. Lester reviewed each category and each project under the category. She said we want to try to be fair across the board for all departments and make sure infrastructure is one of the highest priorities for the city but also recognizing that Parks, Recreation & Tourism as well as Public Safety also need the funding as well to continue their programming and the safety of our citizens.

Mr. Lester reviewed each category listed on the ballot and each project in the category, commenting on what had been allocated, what had been used on what projects, and funding left for the projects. She pointed out that she had been working with Cam Scott, of CFS Architects, on some potential upgrades at the Weeks Center. She distributed copies of some potential upgrades to the Weeks Center with a Phase I and Phase II Concept Design.

Councilwoman Gregory stated she would like to make some comments. She said she was very excited about the proposed concept plans for improvements at the Weeks Center. However, she was concerned about the present facilities and keeping them clean. She said the condition of the facilities and the bathrooms was embarrassing. She pointed out that Smith-Hazel is also awful. She said the plans are great for improvements at the Weeks Center, but we need to keep our present facilities clean.

Councilman Girardeau asked if there were any plans for parking at the Smith-Hazel Center. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that was something that would be addressed in the budget for 2020-21. Councilwoman Price also pointed out that the lighting needs to be improved too. Councilman Girardeau also asked about the lighting for the parkways down Park Avenue. It was pointed out that some of the furniture had been delivered. The lights have been ordered and should be in within the next three weeks.

Councilwoman Price stated she felt it was complicated what Ms. Lester described because some of the funds come from different places. She stated in trying to establish priorities she does not know the total amount available and the amount that needs funding. Then there are departments—Public Safety, Recreation and other departments. She wondered how Council can determine priorities in different departments and still try to be fair to all the departments.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated funding is almost 75% infrastructure of the total of \$51 million. It will be weighted just by gross dollars to infrastructure, but we tried to spread it to where we do utilize it for Recreation and Public Safety. He said we are hoping we collect more than \$40 million. He said we are anticipating that we will only collect \$40 million so we are looking at prioritizing about \$33.6 million at this point. We are optimistic we can collect more, but we don't know. He said he did not know what kind of formula the Department of Revenue uses. He said when we discussed the composition of the CPST IV ballot we were surprised that the Department of Revenue said to budget \$50,911,000 when we did not collect but \$35 million of the \$44.6 million for CPST III.

Mayor Osbon noted that there was a change mid-way in CPST III that he felt made a change in the collection of CPST III funds. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated after the ballot was put together, but before we started collecting the funds, the State changed the law that said unprepared foods were exempted from the 1% Capital Projects Sales Tax. He felt the CPST III ballot was put together with the thought that the tax on groceries was a part of it. That accounted for some of the short fall in CPST III.

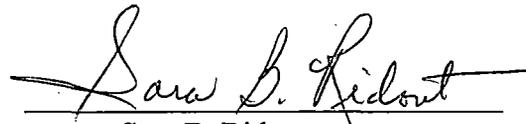
Mayor Osbon pointed out the ordinance for prioritization is on the agenda for first reading. He asked if Council could have a listing of the projects not in the priority listing. He said he would like to have a listing of what is included in the priority listing and what is not on the priority list. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff did want to get Council's input and could provide a listing of the projects not in the priority listing.

Council then briefly discussed various projects. Ms. Lester pointed out that staff is pursuing grants wherever we can and reviewed some of the grants that she is pursuing.

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Councilman Woltz pointed out that we can build all these things, but if we don't have the funds to maintain them, it is stupid to build them. He said it seems to him that when we are talking about buildings, we need to talk about where we are going to get the money to maintain them. There is a caring cost involved. We have been through this with other projects. There is Generations Park. How are we going to cut the grass at Generations Park. When we build something, we need to plan how we are going to maintain it.

The work session ended at 6:45 p.m.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk