

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**JANUARY 20, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., Board Chambers, City Hall, with Mayor Mike Bush presiding.

The invocation was given by Ms. Jeannette Burroughs, and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Bush.

Mayor Bush called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **1 Roll Call**

Roll call was as follows: Present: Directors Peggy Maruthur, Cynthia Keheley, Carroll Weatherford, Rick Ramick, Tom Daniel, and Mike Bush, total 6. Absent: Director Elaine Jones.

#### **2 Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Ramick, that the agenda be approved.

Upon discussion, City Attorney Brian Albright advised that Item No. 11 (Proposed Resolution No. R-09-11 Removing Nikki P. Schoenfeld from the Animal Control Advisory Committee) will be removed from the agenda since a letter of resignation was received from Ms. Nikki Schoenfeld this afternoon.

Mayor Bush then called for a vote on the motion to approve the agenda, as amended (removal of Item No. 11); and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried.

#### **3 Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2009 Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Director Ramick, duly seconded by Director Keheley, that the minutes of the January 6, 2009 Board Meeting be approved; and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried.

#### **4 Recognition of Guests**

Mr. Adam Roberts, executive director of the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, updated the Board on the plans for the Beautification Commission for 2009. He then introduced the current president and volunteer, Ms. Michelle Sestili.

Ms. Sestili expressed appreciation on behalf of the Commission to previous president Cynthia Keheley for her leadership during 2008 and the legacy she leaves behind. She said one of the goals of the Commission is to improve communication and solicit some of the input from the Board.

Mr. Roberts reported that the Commission's activities are broken into four areas (1) education and awareness; (2) litter abatement and reduction; (3) city initiative support and ongoing outreach; and (4) 2009 continuations and changes. He stated in 2008, they brought into the community over \$711,481.92 in community funding, which excludes city funding. Regarding education, he said approximately 2,000 youths were involved in one of their educational programs. Arbor Day had 850 students from schools, and there were many home-schooled that joined the group, making Arbor Day the largest in Arkansas. He stated the Commission tries to link the theme of the infamous Pirate public service announcements, which have been shown all over the state and in one other state.

Ms. Sestili stated the Commission also does numerous adult education programs and includes the first organized Earth Day, which was held on May 18 in the Convention Center where 1,250 Hot Springs residents met 60 local businesses to learn more about energy efficiency and lifestyle changes. Additionally, the Commission launched an eight-week public outreach program last year; attended the Farmers' Market; went to the Mall and Gallery Walk; and met one-on-one with people to help educate them about the City's recycling programs and several other initiatives around the City.

Mr. Roberts spoke of the cigarette litter prevention program commenting that the roadside litter program last year was the first in the United States to scientifically study the impact of roadside signage on cigarette litter. He said it was successful, and they count the cigarette butts every week within 30 feet of those signs, which has shown an 87 percent reduction in those signed areas. He added that one study came along with \$50,000 worth of tools and equipment given away to environmentally responsible

smokers. Also, Trash Bash and Cash for Trash are big litter clean-up programs which the Commission does in cooperation with Trash Bash that is a separate nonprofit. He stated thousands of pounds of trash have been picked up, and the Commission will have another one on February 21. On the last day of the lake draw-down, he will have youth teams involved and will give them a bounty on the trash they pick up; therefore, they will be able to make money for their youth groups by picking up the trash. He reported that the City's adoption programs are working very well, and there are signs all over the City. Also, they are proud to be a part of Spring Fling with the Sanitation Department, which does a wonderful job. Art in the Park is part of Parks and Recreation, and the Commission is involved in Discarde D'Arte, which is a recycled art competition. Their E-waste program is partly sponsored by Entergy and the Sanitation Department. He mentioned the Commission was involved with the winning of the SHINE Award for Hot Springs and received more points than any other city in Arkansas.

Ms. Sestili reported there were two additional programs the Commission worked on with the City at the request of the previous city manager, which was a Green Initiatives Report; and they collected over 980 surveys, put some recommendations together, as well as some tools to hand over to the City's newly formed Green Initiatives Advisory Committee. The commission placed over 150 storm drain markers for the Public Works Stormwater Department and hopes to do more this year as part of their EPA mandate for public outreach.

Regarding 2009, Mr. Roberts stated they are moving to a new office in the Mid-America Museum and will be saving 50 percent by changing the way they do their communications. He mentioned there will be a voluntary reduction in staff pay for the time being, and they are looking forward to doing more for the City, the community, and the environment.

Mayor Bush extended appreciation to Mr. Roberts and his staff for their efforts.

Ms. Mary Neilson, Sister City Program Coordinator, expressed appreciation to the Board for its contribution to the success of the 2009 student delegation who traveled last week from Hanamaki, Japan, to Hot Springs. There were 19 students and four chaperones who attended four different schools - Jessierville, Fountain Lake, Lakeside High School, and Hot Springs Middle School. She stated they visited several different levels of the schools, different grades within those levels, and had interaction with hundreds of the students. She mentioned ten host families from these schools

opened their homes to host these students, and over 30 volunteers contributed their time and efforts to make the delegation successful. She noted over a dozen businesses leveraged the budget dollars with donations or discounted items so the visitors could experience everything that makes Hot Springs a destination spot for the areas locally, as well as visitors from the other side of the world. She reported they visited Lake Hamilton School District for the first time, and there are a number of faculty members who look forward to a sister school relationship between Lake Hamilton and the school in Hanamaki. She stated they will be able to place students in Lake Hamilton School District next year. Therefore, there will be five area schools participating in the Sister School relationship. They also visited the Lake Hamilton Primary School where one of the past teacher scholarship recipients has transformed the hallway into an exhibit of Japanese art from their studies on Japanese arts. There will also be advanced host family planning and meetings so that host families can plan times to get together and do midnight bowling and tour Mountain Tower and Mid-America Science Museum as a group. She reported this year the students decided to take their environmental study to the next level; and not only did they study maintaining clean water but decided to put it into the action. In the course of their study, they found there is a shortage of clean drinking water in many areas of the world; and as part of their study, they decided to make donations and collect contributions. She stated that tomorrow, she will be visiting the National Park Rotary and making a contribution that these students and host families put together and made donations themselves for the clean water project in Zimbabwe to help put their study into action and help others who are less fortunate. She thanked the Sister City Foundation and the Advertising and Promotion Commission for making this a successful year. She stated through the National Park Community College, there will be a group of students and instructor going to Hanamaki over spring break (in March). In September, a citizen delegation will be going to the Hanamaki festival. She thanked the Board for its support of the program.

## **5 Board of Directors Announcements**

Director Maruthur announced that on Tuesday, February 24, at 7 p.m., the Park Avenue Community Association will have its first meeting of the year, which will be held at the Tower of Strength Ministries, 218 Park Avenue. The guest speaker will be the developers of the Majestic Hotel, Ms. Cynthia Stone and Mr. Stephen Hitt. Also, there will be some reorganizational activities.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

Board of Directors Meeting

4

January 20, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

- 6 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-8** Extending an Agreement with AVFUEL Corporation for the Provision of Aviation Fuels at the Hot Springs Municipal Airport.
- 7 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-9** Awarding a Contract to McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. for Certain Engineering Services (Design and Construction - 2009 Stormwater Drainage Projects).
- 8 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-10** Awarding a Contract to Jacobs Engineering Group (Formerly Carter and Burgess, Inc.) for Certain Engineering Services (Stormwater Outfall Mapping of City's Drainage Systems - Phase II).

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the Consent Agenda be approved; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Keheley, Weatherford, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 6. Absent and not voting: Director Jones; motion unanimously carried.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

- 9 Public Hearing on Request to Vacate All That Portion of Bellview Street from Sellers Street West to Tuggle Street and All That Portion of a Certain Alley Running in an East-West Direction in the Fairdale and Forrest Hill Additions, Garland County, Arkansas**

This being the time and date set for a public hearing on the request to vacate all that portion of Bellview Street from Sellers Street west to Tuggle Street and all that portion of a certain alley running in an east-west direction in the Fairdale and Forrest Hill Additions, Mayor Bush declared the public hearing open.

Attorney Don Schnipper, with Wood, Smith, Schnipper, Clay and Vines, 123 Market Street, stated he represents Polychris Properties, LLC and Oaklawn Jockey Club. He said that tonight's petition is to vacate a portion of Bellview Street from Sellers Street west to Tuggle Street and also to close an alley between Blocks 16 and 17 of Fairdale Addition. He mentioned the first appearance by him before the Board was to request the City sell the railroad right-of-way, and the City granted the right to sell that to Polychris Properties. That sale was approved and has been closed. He

stated Polychris Properties has conveyed, as required by the City, the 12 feet on the west side of Blocks 36 and 37 with the exception of one block. He added there is Lot 4 that they still do not have title to but are working on it. However, everything else has been closed. He stated the second appearance was in December 2008 with the request to vacate a portion of Tuggle Street and Euclid Street, which was approved. On December 11, 2008, he appeared before the Planning Commission and had the entire area rezoned to C-4. Now, he is requesting the Board to help complete this project and is asking to close that portion of Bellview and an alley running in an east-west direction in the Fairdale and Forrest Hill Additions. Assuming this request is approved, he said he can assure the Board they are going to replat that area as required by the Planning Department.

There being no further comments, Mayor Bush declared the public hearing open.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **10 Proposed Ordinance No. O-09-4**

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE VACATING ALL THAT PORTION OF BELLVIEW STREET FROM SELLERS STREET WEST TO TUGGLE STREET AND ALL THAT PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY RUNNING IN AN EAST-WEST DIRECTION IN THE FAIRDALE AND FORREST HILL ADDITIONS, GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS," was taken from the agenda for consideration.

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Ramick, that the rules be suspended and the ordinance be read for the first time by title only; and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried. The ordinance was then read for the first time by title only; and upon the question "Shall the ordinance be passed as read?" and upon motion of Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the ordinance be passed as read; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Keheley, Weatherford, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 6. Absent and not voting: Director Jones; motion unanimously carried. Whereupon the ordinance was declared passed.

#### **11 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-11 Removing Nikki P. Schoenfeld from the Animal Control Advisory Committee. (Removed from Agenda)**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **12 Board of Directors Items for Discussion**

Director Maruthur stated that tonight the City is a part of a historical day in the history of the world; and today, January 20, 2009, marks the day in history of the country and for the world. She commented that today the 44<sup>th</sup> President was inaugurated; and tonight, the Directors and citizens are together as Americans and exercised the freedom to vote.

### **13 City Manager's Report**

City Manager Lance Hudnell gave the following report:

1. He expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing him to attend the Arkansas Municipal League Convention with Directors Ramick, Weatherford, Keheley, and Jones; and City Attorney was also in attendance for the City Attorney session.

2. He received notice today that the application for Phase 2 of the Valley Street Creekwalk on the Greenway was approved in the amount of \$92,287, which will be coming back to the Board for acceptance of the grant at the next Board Meeting.

3. He reported that employees at City Hall wanted to thank Tim Echols and Mark Dickerson, Sanitation employees who pick up the recycling City Hall and do an excellent job. Also, a Ms. Hughes complimented the employees at the Recycling Center noting how nice they treated her and felt that recycling is a great program. Ms. Luba Cook also called to thank the Neighborhood Services because they have been of assistance to her recently and thought the program was going well.

4. The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Legislative Reception on February 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Letterman's Club in War Memorial Stadium. The Directors need to contact Ms. Margaret Parris, executive secretary, if they plan to attend. He added this is another opportunity to meet with the

City's legislative delegation, as well as those from other parts of the state that they do not get to meet very often except at events such as AML convention or this convention. Mr. Tommy Baker, a longtime alderman in the State, is now chairman of the state and local county committee, which is good for Arkansas cities because he was a longtime alderman in the State and understands the plight of cities and how legislation affects cities.

## **14 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Lance Hudnell, City Clerk

Mike Bush, Mayor