

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

The invocation was given by Ms. Sue Hall, 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, Elaine Jones, Cynthia Keheley, Pat McCabe, Rick Ramick, Tom Daniel, and Mike Bush, total 7.

2 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the agenda be approved; and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried.

3 Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2009 and October 6, 2009 Board Meetings

A motion was made by Director Jones, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the minutes of the August 25, 2009 and October 6, 2009 Board Meetings be approved; and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried.

4 Recognition of Guests

Ms. Cheryl Batts, chairperson for the Community Development Advisory Committee, was recognized stating she serves on the committee with Terri Holstine, Willie McCoy and Charles Smith. She explained the function of the committee is to provide recommendations to the Directors in awarding grants to subrecipients, applying rules, recommendations and policies and procedures for developing criteria for

awarding the federal funds provided. She noted that Hot Springs became a CDBG entitlement city in 2004, and the funds to-date are \$2.3 million. She said their first priority is housing rehabilitation, owner-occupied homes, following low-to-middle income federal guidelines; and an example of that is one family member making \$26,800 a year, which would be an income limit for that. She mentioned some of the accomplishments of CDAC are rehabilitating homes, spending about \$1.3 million and working on sidewalks in Districts 1 and 2. She showed photos of the Whittington sidewalk project where monies were used to take the project to one point, and then the Whittington Neighborhood Association applied for \$25,000. She said with that CDBG money, they took the sidewalk down to the Whittington National Park. She stated their future objectives are to plan for more public participation, incorporate other organizations within the community to expand the list of needs, and to seek grants for education for the CDAC members so they can operate more effectively in its advisory capacity to the Board.

Director Keheley mentioned that she and Director Ramick visited one of Hot Springs' newest housing communities during a recent Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at the Forest Lakes Subdivision. She recognized Mr. Robert Malt and his wife, Julie, for their vision and contribution to Hot Springs.

Mr. Robert Malt stated that he and his wife live in Hot Springs full-time and build in five states, but the people in Hot Springs are the friendliest. He commended the Building Department, Planning Department, and Ms. Kathy Sellman, Planning and Development Director, for their assistance. He said the community is extraordinary to work with, and he is passing that on in their marketing and advertising. He added there are a number of people who are looking to relocate, particularly from states where they have an insolvency in their economics. He stated there are people who have moved from California and were concerned about staying in California. He pointed out that Arkansas is one of six states that has a balanced budget; and Hot Springs has the necessary means to sustain itself, which is something people need to know. He said that he had a request about six months ago from a publication "*Where to Retire*" wanting to do a story with some positive information, which developed into the Travel Channel coming to Hot Springs two weeks ago and doing a story on Hot Springs. He noted they were in Hot Springs for two days and had assistance from Mr. Steve Arrison, executive director of the Advertising and Promotion Commission. He said this will probably be aired the first quarter of next year.

Director Ramick expressed appreciation for what he is doing for the City, as far as the tax base and employment.

Director Keheley pointed out that Mr. Malt has been here only 2 ½ years and has done a lot for the community.

5 Board of Directors Announcements

Director Maruthur acknowledged the loss of an employee who passed away the last few days, Mr. Wiley Tuggle; and the family is in the Board's thoughts and prayers.

Director McCabe reported he has been in contact with the Department of Health today regarding the HINI virus; and as of 10:33 this morning, there have been 768 cases of confirmed HINI in the State of Arkansas. He stated those are just reported cases that have been actually tested and confirmed. He reported there have been ten deaths in the State of Arkansas and seven pregnant women on ventilators in the State of Arkansas. As this vaccine becomes available, he said it is important for those in the age group that is identified at risk to confer with their physician and make a decision whether that is something they need to follow through with. To a degree that he can get updated information, he will provide those at a later date.

Mayor Bush stated that four-year old granddaughter in Little Rock had the virus, and a couple of weeks ago she was isolated for three or four days but is okay now.

Director Maruthur mentioned that the flu vaccine will be available at the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center on October 30, and HINI vaccine will be available in November; but the exact date is still pending. She stressed it is recommended that people wash their hands and not shake hands.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

6 Public Safety Report (October 6, 2009).

7 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-228 Approving Certain Bid Awards (a) Top Soil - Public Works [annual supply contract awarded to Tommy Mitchell, Inc.]; (b) Continental Blower - Utility Administration (reject and rebid**); and (c) Lot**

Clearing and Cutting - Code Compliance [annual supply contract awarded to Tru-Cutt Lawn and Maintenance].

- 8 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-229** Accepting a Grant from the U. S. Department of Justice Pursuant to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.
- 9 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-230** Appointing Carole Katchen, Davis Tillman, Carolyn Taylor and Shea Childs to the Arts Advisory Committee.
- 10 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-231** Appointing Byron Cole Rhodes and Dieter Daniel Lewin to the Community Development Advisory Committee.
- 11 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-232** Appointing Kenneth Schildgen to the Towing Service Advisory Committee.
- 12 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-233** Appointing Sandy Hatch to the Animal Services Advisory Committee.
- 13 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-234** Confirming the Appointments of David Longinotti, Dianna Bratton, and Charles Moore to the Advertising and Promotion Commission.
- 14 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-235** Approving a Street Name Change from Westridge Lane to Discovery Bay Lane.
- 15 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-236** Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application with the United States General Service Administration (USGSA) "Good Neighbor" Grant Program.
- 16 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-237** Awarding a Contract for Engineering Services to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for Traffic Signal Coordination, Phase II.

A motion was made by Director Jones, duly seconded by Director Daniel, that the Consent Agenda be approved; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, McCabe, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 7; motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

17 Request from Tom Talsma Regarding Stimulus Package for Hot Springs Businesses

Mr. Tom Talsma, 111 Brenda Street, said he has a drive-thru barbeque business on the corner of Albert Pike and Airport Road; and there are problems he has had with ordinances that he did not know he was violating at the time. He stated every time somebody complained, he came into compliance; but the manner by which he was notified was a letter in the mail threatening a \$250 fine and other proceedings against him if he did not take care of it. He mentioned that he has come in contact with several other people who have had similar experiences with the Code Department on the Sign Ordinance. He commented he has tried radio and advertising in the newspaper, but nothing has been quite as effective as a person going out on the side of his parking lot waving at people and holding up a special sign. He stated the Pizza Hut claims that it brings in more business holding up a sign than any other advertising. He requested that certain sections of the Sign Ordinance be suspended for a while, which would help him, Pizza Hut, J's Italian Villa, and Stoddard Pets. He pointed out that he has been told it has been someone from the City who has complained; and if the average citizen does complain, he does not understand why there would be a problem to suspend the ordinance for a certain time period. He said they have to pay \$25 for a 30-day permit to hold a sign up and can only do it three times a year. He mentioned that J&S Italian Villa had a van parked down by the road with the business name on it and arrow pointing up because he is out-of-sight on the hill, and he received a letter saying the City is going to fine him if he does not move his vehicle.

Mayor Bush asked action did he want the Board to take, and Mr. Talsma said the City can still control it by requiring him to get a permit each month; but it does not cost

anything to suspend it for a while. He urged the Board to suspend the enforcement of the Sign Ordinance for a certain period of time.

Director McCabe said he spoke with Mr. Talsma earlier today, and he believes there is something the City might be able to do; however, he cannot promise anything. He stated that he would like to talk with Ms. Kathy Sellman, Planning and Development Director, and the staff.

Mr. Jamal Askhami, owner of J&S Italian Villa, mentioned he has two signs in his parking lot and does not advertise. He stated the only thing the sign says is "Cautious, Two-Way Drive," which is for the safety of his clients. He commented the City would not allow him to replace those signs without the permit, and no one wants to hang it up for him until he gets a permit and has a sign company to hang it up.

City Manager Lance Hudnell suggested that he call Ms. Sellman or him tomorrow, and he will explain the special provision for directional signs set out in the Code Book.

Director Maruthur said that both of these issues are quite different, and one is a matter of total visibility. She stated she has always been in favor of directional signs, especially when it came to medical, veterinary, or church signs. She expressed concern about distracted driving and anyone waving a sign and causing an accident. She pointed out this could be an insurance issue and suggested that this be referred to the Planning Commission for review. She noted that both of them need to be considered since they are very different.

18 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-238

A resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING OF WASTEWATER REVENUE BONDS TO FINANCE WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS," was taken from the agenda and read by title only.

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Ramick, that the resolution be adopted as read; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, McCabe, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 7; motion unanimously carried. Whereupon the resolution was declared adopted.

City Manager Lance Hudnell pointed out there were representatives from the Friday Firm and Stephens, Inc. present and appreciated their attendance.

19 Proposed Resolution No. R-09-239

A resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT REGARDING HOT SPRINGS PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS," was taken from the agenda and read by title only.

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the resolution be adopted as read.

Upon discussion, Fire Chief Ed Davis said the issues of future capital purchases for the Fire Department have been a major concern to him and the fact that there has been a lot of the City's capital going out in support of the closed pension plans. He pointed out the City is facing a large debt in that area that has to be met. He noted the Fire Department's role in the community is to protect the lives and property of its citizens, and the only way they can do that and ensure that is to have the equipment and facilities to be able to carry on their mission. He submitted a proposal for the Fire Department to provide capital purchases over the long-term to be able to replace some fire stations and also replace some fire apparatus and be able to man a fire station near the Hot Springs Mall. Working in conjunction with the Police Chief, they have coupled the needs of the two departments. He noted the Police Department's need for a voice in data communications is acute and will begin to cause severe problems as far as public safety; and the Fire Department's communications system at some point in time in the future, around 2015, will also be in similar shape. He said they are asking the Board to approve a resolution that would support the Fire Chief and Police Chief forming a task force or committee to explore the process of bringing about a proposal to the public that would fund these capital improvements for Police and Fire. He recommended they do the largest amount of it, which in three years, a 5/8 cent tax that would sunset and then a 1/8 cent tax that would be retained over a long period of time, possibly 20 years, to be able to fund the needs of the Fire Department. He stated if they sunset this in three years, that money will be available for other projects, whether it be a project for the County that they might want to pursue the jail or a project for the City if it had something else it would want to pursue. He then gave a slide presentation on the fire stations in question (Station No. 3 at 758 Park Avenue, Station No. 4 at 523 Airport Road and Station No. 7 at 1311 Golf Links Road, which were all built in 1967). He explained these stations were built in response to the replacement of existing fire stations that were built in the early part of the 20th century. These stations were two-story, masonry construction. In 1967, the City undertook a program to replace them and replaced

them with woodframe structures, similar to the one located on Golf Links Road. This station has had numerous problems associated with the foundation, also with the roof and some plumbing problems. The station is very small, and the design of this station incorporates features that were not really intended to go together from an engineering standpoint. It incorporates a flat roof and a pitched roof. The flat roof drains onto the pitched roof, and there is a problem with water stagnation on top of a flat roof. Also, there are foundation issues. The City has taken rudimentary measures to try and stabilize the foundation. The problem with the footing and the foundation are two separate things on this building; and as the foundation begins to give way from the footings, it is pulling the electrical and also the electrical wires that are in conduit in the foundation, that begins to pull on the light fixtures. The bay size was built for a 1934 Mack Fire Truck, which was in service in the 1960's when the station was built. It does not work well with today's modern apparatus. The exhaust systems at Station 3 - Park Avenue Station and also at Station 7 - Golf Links Station are bad. They cannot meet the NFTA 1500 specifications for clean air within the fire stations. The way this station is built, the exhaust from the diesel fumes are expelled directly into the bedroom. The walls have a dingy color which are due to diesel soot that builds up on the walls and is bad for the firefighters' health. Regarding the fuse boxes, this is 1967 technology; and today, there would be a breaker and would not be able to use two large fuses for electrical service. Regarding Station No. 3 at 758 Park Avenue, the problems are not as acute as the problems with the Golf Links Fire Station. There are some roof problems, and it is a mansard roof and is probably not the best style of roof for a fire station. However, they do not have the same type of leaks at this station as they do at the Golf Links Fire Station. The ventilation is inadequate, and there is a problem with the electrical system on the fuse box. Regarding interior issues, there is sagging in the back bedroom because there is too much of a span that runs across the station from one end to the other. There are exhaust fan issues here that do not meet NFTA 1500 specifications. The engine bay site is cramped, and this station was built for a 1957 American LaFrance Century Series Pumper. That pumper is about one-half the size of a modern day fire apparatus. Living quarters are combination kitchen, day room and dining room, which are very cramped. Sleeping quarters are mostly cramped, and the lack of proper support on the span when this building was built in 1967 has caused the ceiling to sag. Regarding Airport Road Fire Station, they have had the most luck keeping this station operational with fewer maintenance problems; but they do have some problems that go back to poor concrete, lack of reinforcement, and lack of piers being poured. There are also some interior issues, such as walls cracked. The living quarters are combination kitchen, dining room, and day room. Sleeping quarters are much better than the day room but are still small compared to what they should be. There are two stations that were built in 1996, Central Station and Station No. 6

(Lakeshore Drive Fire Station). There are some maintenance problems with them associated with poor roof design; and at some point in time, they will have to be replaced. The roof issues are the internal gutter system at Central Fire Station and will have to replace this roof in the near future. Architecturally, this was a poor design; and there have been numerous leaks that come from this and all along the western wall of Central Fire Station, leaking along the gutter system. Regarding the Lakeshore Fire Station, there was a bad roof design on it and will have to take care of it. There is a lot of water damage and some mold problems. The money has to be in the budget to replace the roof, but the money is not there. He stated the Golf Links Road Station will be 20 years old in January 2011; and at 20 years of age, fire apparatus tends to become problematic and unsafe to operate on the roads.

Director Maruthur asked if he would say right now with what he has presented, it is placing the firefighters at risk with their health and citizens at risk with their ability to respond to a fire. Fire Chief Ed Davis responded this is probably exposing the firefighters to health risks. However, at this time, he does not think this is causing the citizens to be threatened but believes in the future they will be. He pointed out in the very near future, they will begin to see a degradation in delivery of fire service because when there is a fire apparatus responding to a fire, the firefighters on that piece of equipment have to have a high level of confidence in that piece of equipment and can take it to a fire in a timely manner. They also have to have a great level of confidence that the equipment is always going to work when they are going into a house to search for someone or to try to find the fire and put it out. He pointed out a 20-year old piece of apparatus does not offer very much comfort, and it does make a big difference. He said they are asking the City to keep the fire trucks under 20 years of age and provide the firemen with equipment they need to do their job.

Director Jones asked who will comprise the task force committee, and Fire Chief Ed Davis said he would like for it to consist of some Board Members, some people in the audience, such as Mr. Wayne Roberts, who is intelligent and involved in the City, some Fifty for the Future members, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and some of the citizens in the community.

Police Chief Bobby Southard stated the main concern for the future for the Police Department is the communications system. He said they built an analog communications system in 1990 when they moved into their building. He added it is now 12 to 13 years old, and no upgrades have been made to that analog system since it was built. He mentioned the issues they are concerned with at the present time are interoperability, which is becoming a requirement for systems throughout the United

States. He added the communications system is also obsolete; and at the present time, when they are on a scene with the State Police, Garland County, or operating exercises with OES or ADEM, they cannot talk to each other. He said they go back to using runners from one location to another other to get their message across. He mentioned the only way they can develop communication is for the shift to hand a radio over and for him to hand the radio over, which means they have two people in different locations that at least can hear what the other one is doing. He stressed it makes it very difficult when they cannot negotiate and give directions to their people on the scene. The other problem they have is their system is obsolete. He said they have a 13-year old system that is no longer going to be supportive by parts. Once the supply line runs out, they will have to go to places such as AP&L for their supplies and find somebody else who has that similar radio system and see if they have that part. For example, they needed a backup system in case their radio failed, and they were able to purchase a backup system that handles one radio frequency. They can talk one radio at a time, place it on a tower that is owned by Motorola, and when their radio system dies, they switch over to a single backup channel and live off of that until they can get theirs replaced and repaired. He stated they bought that because someone no longer needed it, and they got a good deal; but that is how they have to get parts. He said repair parts are getting very difficult to purchase or find, and they cannot predict when their system is going to cause them problems. He noted they are still using and have no reason to change the Motorola Model Radio and have used that radio for 13 years, but they have to replace it periodically with batteries, etc. He stated it has been a very good radio; however, when the radio dies, they cannot replace it because it is no longer made. He added 85 percent of their portables at the present time are 13 years old, and they have been able recently to find a radio they can replace it with. He commented it has just been manufactured and is a hybrid. He added it is analog on one side and flip the button, and it is a digital and is their radio of choice. However, it is very expensive. He said they are in the 800 MHz band range, and they have yet to be approached by the sale companies in trying to purchase this out from under the FCC. However, everything he has read is that the 700 frequencies they have purchased have just about been used up; and now they are looking at 800. Therefore, there are a few years before the Police Department can start having trouble maintaining their 800 frequencies. He stated as the Police Department gets to the point where these frequencies are becoming more and more critical, they are going to ask the Department to start shrinking its radio system and shrinking the frequencies on its radios. At the present time, the Department is working on 25 MHz band. What the Department will have to do when it gets into 800 frequency; and they want a spectrum of it, the Department will have to figure out a way to shrink its bandwidth down to 12.5, which is what happened to the radio frequencies below 500 MHz right now. What will happen there is that the

Department will start having more and more interference, causing it to miss its frequencies and communications and will cause the Department to have bleed-overs from other agencies. He pointed out it will just make an unsafe situation for the officers. He added the Department is connected from the radio tower to the police station by an AT&T, T-1 communications line. In the last month, there have been three failures in that line, which means when that line fails, the Department's radio system goes down; and it goes to backup station and operates on backup until AT&T can come in and fix that T-1 line. By virtue of discussions with problems with the communications system and what the Department is going to do with it, the Department has looked at AWIN (Arkansas Wireless Information Network), which is the state system that is the project statewide and would be looking at it if the Department were to get a compatible system, combining it with AWIN so there would be a statewide communications and the ability to go on AWIN's frequencies when there is an emergency. He stated the Department's goal would be to make this system interoperable statewide, both data and voice. If the Department has to start replacing all of its radios with a dual mode, which is what it is doing now, those radios average about \$4,000 each, which is very expensive. With the dual-mode radio, the Police Department is able, during emergencies, to talk to Garland County; but they are restricted with those dual-mode radios only to command staff. He said that he and the sheriff can talk, but they still have to get that information out to the people who are doing the job on the ground. He explained a new system, if approved by the voters, will be able to provide digital communications for daily operations, provide local, federal and statewide interoperability in an emergency with AWIN, provide data for their MDT application, and to eliminate their dead spots which they have primarily in the downtown area; and then they would be able to allow improvements as they go along. He pointed out they are not going to be able to maintain everything that is coming in the future, but they are hoping with the P25 platform, which is what is being mandated nationwide, that if things change, at least they will be able to flow into that P25 format. He advised the cost of such a system, depending on whom to believe, can be as much as \$8 million. Therefore, the only way he can see that they can possibly afford that is through some means other than general budget appropriations.

Director Ramick pointed out this has been discussed over a year, and last year the citizens voted to provide both of these issues. However, they did not vote to fund it. He said that he did not think the City could wait any longer on this; and his big concern to the City and Garland County is for the safety of the citizens. He stated that he believes both issues, fire and police, need to be seriously considered; and some action needs to be taken.

Director Daniel stated that he agrees 100 percent, but he cautioned the Police Chief and Fire Chief to make sure that the 5/8 cents will be adequate. He mentioned the worst thing the City can do is work hard and show what is needed, and then three years from now say it did not do enough. He stressed being honest with the people so they know what is going to happen. He pointed out it has been proven in years past that the City can built something and come in on time and under budget with \$30 million plus, and all it has to do is to tell the citizens the truth. He said they are going to tell them the truth but do not want them to shortchange the needs. He urged the Police Chief and Fire Chief to make sure that 5/8 cents is going to be enough to fund it and that will sunset then but do not come back at the end of three years and say they missed it.

Police Chief Bobby Southard said he would hope the task force that is going to be formed will have some expertise to help calculate these things and help project, and they would also be able to provide guidance on some of the technical issues.

Director Keheley commended the Fire Chief Ed Davis and Police Chief Bobby Southard on their presentation and said the City needs to take care of these needs for the firemen and fire safety and all want a good communications system. She commented when she suggested the task force, she is glad to see that now included. She pointed out her first reservation came out because of the wording of the resolution because there were no specifics in the resolution. She noted there was just the Chief's plan in a small paragraph with a brief description, and there was a sentence that says the City is going to prepare a ballot measure seeking the imposition of a sales tax.

She stressed if the City is going to ask the citizens to take the Chief's plan to the citizens and the voters, it has to weigh the timing, book, chapter and verse on where and how the citizens will benefit. She said she believes that can be done, but how much each and every improvement is going to cost is paramount. Her second concern was the prioritization. She said it is going to be difficult for her and everyone on the Board and City staff to explain to the citizens the replacement of stations and how each is going to improve the fire service without full detail. She questioned why the new station on Highway 7 South is being scheduled for last at the end of 11 years. She said it is her understanding that the new South Central station will provide the protection and service to an area that is now being poorly served. She asked what if in their plan, the money runs out, before this station is built and they cannot get the staffing, equipment, and apparatus for it due to some problem like inflation. Her third reservation is the timing. She stressed that times are getting worse economically for everyone; and for the first time in a number of years, the City's sales tax revenues are in a steep decline. She asked why in the midst of a severe recession, with high unemployment, low personal

income, and failing financial institutions, would the City want to raise taxes in Hot Springs this coming year. She pointed out this is the question citizens are going to be asking, and she hopes they have the answers. She mentioned in the down economy, a sales tax rate may even deter shopping and buying in Hot Springs. She stressed that she is not opposed to their list of needs and the improvements put forth, but she believes they need a detailed strategy involving a carefully spelled out plan open to the public for participation and comment. She said the public safety task force would provide that, and that is why she presented that to the City Attorney to be included. She added that Fire Chief Ed Davis has demonstrated the value of strong citizen participation in his negotiations with LifeNet, and she trusts that he will be on equally firm ground with this plan. She emphasized that the Board needs plenty of discussion, and most of all it needs public confidence in whatever the Board attempts to do as a Board. She requested that the Board consider an amended alternative resolution.

Fire Chief Ed Davis stated that he has read Director Keheley's resolution that she is proposing, and the problem he has with it is the way it is worded. He pointed out there is no ending place, and there is no benchmark for the committee to submit its findings back to the Board of Directors.

Director Keheley said that she placed a date on it, but the City Attorney advised her that should be left to the City Manager.

Director Maruthur commented this whole issue is close to her heart; and the fact that the Police Department is working with a system that is obsolete and has to scavenge around really disturbs her. She stressed it is really a matter of life and death. She noted that during the ice storm they were without communications for four days. As far as the Fire Department is concerned, the City depends on the Fire Department to protect its citizens. She mentioned that her stepfather died on a run to fight a fire because their capital improvements were not complete, and the actual hook and ladder truck did not have seatbelt in the back; and he was thrown off it. She stressed that public safety, in her opinion, is the Number One obligation to serving the people who are paying. She mentioned the Board just approved a fee, not the voters; but she did not vote for it. She said a request is being made for an exploratory committee to find out what the public wants, what they feel, and is going to lay everything out for the public to make the decision; and then the Board is going to make a decision on whether to put this up for a vote. She said she has heard this could get in the way of what is being planned in the County. She noted she was elected by the people of the City and also lives in Garland County and concerned about the people who live in the City and the ability to deliver services to save lives and property. She commended the Fire

Chief and Police Chief for everything they have been through and is aware they have been through another campaign. She said anything she can do to help, she will and believes citizens will support what will save their lives. She mentioned that she supported an exploratory committee and believes there should be an ending date for the committee. She noted that she heard the City Attorney say the City Manager would be doing that, but she would like that done in public so that the public knows that they will be protected and what the plan is, where the money would be applied, and what is adequate. She said that she would support something that has a date, and possibly the City Manager has a date.

Director Jones commended the Chiefs on their presentations and said she is hearing comments from the citizens, which is the jail. She stated that she heard the Fire Chief mention one time about the jail and asked if that would come after. Fire Chief Ed Davis advised if they can pass this tax, after the tax sunsets, the largest amount of it, that would be a great time for the County to come in on the "coattails" of the City and vote a jail tax in because the citizens have already been committed to a public safety issue.

Director Keheley pointed out that the original resolution does not include any task force, but the alternative resolution does appoint a task force to look into this. She said it does ask for a comprehensive plan and to include city officials and citizens, and the City Manager will bring back the recommendations along with the task force. She mentioned the date was left out of the resolution, but she is agreeable to place a date on the alternative resolution.

Mayor Bush commented that the City is going to give the Police Chief and Fire Chief all the support it can. He said he believes they are smart enough to know that they have to have a task force to help them do this; and he believes it is their decision. He stated he is looking to them, who are the professionals. He noted they know what they need and are the ones who came up with this resolution. He added that he did not believe the Board should interfere with that, which is his personal opinion. Therefore, he is not going to support any amended resolution.

Director Maruthur said regardless if they are a firefighter or a police officer, when they go to work, they do not know if they are going to return home. She stated this is their show, but the Board is responsible for how it treats them in their effort to execute this and for them to get the information out to the public. She stated she did not particularly care which resolution is used but would like to have a date so that it could be presented and would not go on forever. She stressed that is very important, and

she believes they will do an excellent job in getting the information to the public. She mentioned this is nothing more than a "go ahead" from the Board so they can proceed to help the community.

Director Jones stated if they have enough town hall meetings, they will be able to tell from all of the meetings when they need to set that date. She suggested that they hold town hall meetings.

Director Ramick commented that he believes the Board needs to get on this right away; and he believes early 2010 (January 2) might be too late and should do it right away. He asked when they could come back with a date, and Chief Davis said they have 15 names right now that they came up with. He said if the Chiefs get the Board's permission tonight, they can start visiting tomorrow. Hopefully by the next Board Meeting, they can have a list of six or seven people who would be willing to work on the committee. He added that he is in agreement they need to do this in a timely manner and also need to do it in a manner that will guarantee the voters will vote for it.

Director Ramick pointed out the longer the City waits, the more it risks the safety of its citizens; and it needs to do something as soon as possible.

Director McCabe stated that public safety is the number one priority; and if the City does not have a strong Police and Fire, it really does not have a community. He said that he was surprised about the police communications pointing out that it sounds as if Levi Hospital has better communication than the Police Department. He added the hospital is part of the AWIN system for its disaster plan, and they can talk to any hospital in the state when that is activated through the Department of Health. He pointed out the Chief can talk to the Sheriff, but they are the only two who can talk; and the people on the scene have to use runners. With regard to the funding source, he said he likes Director Keheley's amendment because it looks at all opportunities for funding. He pointed out a few years ago, the City approved a ½ cent sales tax for public safety. The proposal now is a 5/8 cent sales tax for three years and 1/8 cent tax thereafter, and the City is still dealing with the pension issue, which will be a third separate funding for the support of Police and Fire. He added the City could end up with three different funding sources for public safety and has yet to delete any expenses to the degree it can out of the budget. He said that he has an opinion that the tax revenues will be down next year, and there is no way the City can support the activities of the capital improvements through General Fund. However, the City has to show the voters that it is willing to lessen its spending. He added the public is asking the City to do that but do not want to give up the quality of police and fire. From a timing standpoint, he agrees the City needs to do this as soon as possible; but at the same time, the Board has to

work this into the budget process from the standpoint of getting rid of excess costs and see what the City has. He said that he was in support of what their goal is, and their goal and what he views for the City are in concert. He stressed it is just going to end up with how to fund it and how to present issues to the public and demonstrate to the public that the City is going to be fiscally responsible in all areas of the city budget.

City Manager Lance Hudnell said he did not believe it was of particular concern to staff the form of the resolution, which was not the issue. He stated the issue was that for several years, the Fire Chief and his senior staff have been working on the details of what the station sizes need to be, where they need to be located, what equipment needs to be in them, what that equipment costs, etc. He said the first the Board heard about that was at the public safety work session that was held in the spring when they went over some of those details. He noted the Police Chief and his staff have been working on the radio system and the details with regard to that, and everyday that technology changes. He added he has advised them that staff needs to meet with the Board Members, which they have done, with the exception of Director McCabe. He explained before they start having public discussions and asking people to assist with committees and putting together a citizen group to help understand the problems, staff wanted the Board's permission to go forward in a public manner. He pointed out that is basically the purpose of this resolution. He said he did not have that much concern about the form of the resolution but would like to have a public acknowledgment from the Board that it wants staff to move forward. He stated that staff knows the details, but now staff needs the political side which is whether to move forward or not with this issue at this time. He said they need input from the public and from everyone who is involved to help understand whether this is doable at this time, and that is basically what staff is asking for with regard to the resolution. He added the resolution is the Board's prerogative and whatever it feels comfortable with. He stated that staff would like to return to the Board in early 2010 (the second meeting in January or the first meeting in February) with some firm recommendations. If staff hears that it is proper to go forward with an election, when to have that and if there were to be an election, he advised the Board has to call that in accordance with state law and then explore which funding avenue is the best. He reiterated that staff wanted the Board to give a public acknowledgment before staff starts talking to civic groups and citizens.

Director Maruthur expressed appreciation to City Manager Lance Hudnell for his comments.

Mayor Bush recognized Mr. Chris Reimers, 111 Squawvalley Trail, who stated that people are constantly being taxed. He said he is not against an exploratory

committee and believes it is a good idea; however, he is against the special election. He pointed out there is no rush to fund a tax this large, and he agrees with Director Keheley that the timing of this is bad because the City is going to spend \$117 million on water improvements and is going to try to spend another \$100 million more; but there is a jail that needs to be built. He said that he appreciates the work the public servants do and knows they are protecting the citizens. However, he is looking at priorities; and he thinks the jail is a priority. He added they can buy 2,000 hybrid radios with \$8 million.

Mr. Bob Driggers, #3 Stonegate, said he has no issue with the needs that the Chiefs have recommended. However, he believes the public will have a major problem with another major tax increase. He stated that he has no issue with their needs but does have an issue with one of their needs, which is the radio systems. He posed a hypothetical situation where a city that is promoting a tax increase and this city has already tried to tax its citizens without allowing them to vote so they could build a new city hall. This city already taxes its citizens double or triple what most cities impose. For example, Little Rock has a budget of \$171 million spread over 171,000 people, which is \$1,000 per person; but this particular city taxes at the rate of about \$2,600 for every man, woman and child to reach a \$92 million budget. This city already has 10½ percent tax on food and drink, and the state has already approved another one percent to add to that. This city has already passed a ½ cent sales tax specifically for public safety only to see the City siphon off a large percentage of that tax by calling it an allocation. This city has a utility department that it cannot account for about 40 percent of their water and the sewer department that is consistently been in violation of EPA regulations and state laws. Also, there are some maintenance issues. This particular city just voted to double everyone's sewer rates and announced higher increases in the future for water rates. This city continues to spend a budgeted \$3.2 million on planning and design for a \$100 million water treatment plant in a location that the State Health Department has emphatically said repeated times, they will not approve. This City plans to buy several million dollars in Motorola digital radios to match the AWIN's system, but that does not work. Mr. Driggers reported that multiple cities across the country have already sued Motorola because these Motorola digital radios do not work right. He said this city apparently does not have a realistic plan, but there is a difference in public input and a task force. He stated that he would agree this is the worst time in the middle of a recession to ask for a tax, especially a tax that never ends. He added the biggest, single concern is asking for a new tax that will totally "kill" any possibility of getting a new jail.

Mr. Brian White, 512 Clark Street, stated he wanted to relate to the Board a couple of first-hand experiences to illustrate how important these needs are, especially

the communications needs. At 9:01 a.m., April 19, 1995, he mentioned a bomb went off in the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City; and it collapsed. On May 3, 1999, the strongest tornado in history hit the Oklahoma City area. During those two occasions, he said saw first-hand how interagency communications save lives. He stressed that the City needs to get this done and get it done quickly. He pointed out the funding can be debated later and explore different options.

Mr. George Pritchett, 125 Carl Drive, said that he sent an e-mail to the Directors yesterday, and this is not the time to begin this activity. He stressed that the citizens cannot continue to be taxed, and there is a budget crisis as Director McCabe pointed out that is serious. He questioned when the City is going to start making severe cuts. He noted that the citizens have tightened their belts, reduced their discretionary spending, and spend less for luxuries; but the City has to do it also. He stated the City cannot continue using up the infrastructure with no plan in the existing budgets to replace fire trucks, fire stations, and police radios. He added every time the City wants something, it just wants to add another tax. He said that as Director Maruthur pointed out a few weeks ago, the water issue was not dealt with for five or six years. He commented if the problems are not solved that exist in 5, 10 or 15 years, the City cannot build three new fire stations, buy 2,000 radios, buy police cars, and then run out of resources and have to do this again. He stressed that citizens cannot keep on paying it. He mentioned the State is cutting severely, and the Board needs to be looking at the City's budget. He noted there are 623 people on the payroll; and if 60 of them are still there at the end of the year, it is too many. He said the Board needs to support the Police and Fire; but if the City puts it on the ballot next year and unless the economy gets better, it is going to be soundly defeated.

Director Maruthur pointed out that he appeared before the Board at the last meeting and urged the Directors to increase the fee for the water/wastewater. Mr. Pritchett replied that he did. Director Maruthur asked that he read the completion of his e-mail that he sent to the Directors, and Mr. Pritchett then read the following: "This is not the time to begin this activity. If you proceed with action at this time, you will be attacked unmercifully by the activists groups and general public. The public will soundly defeat any proposal placed on a ballot that will increase costs to the citizens of Hot Springs." He commented it was a fight when a new City Hall was going to be built; and there was a lot of indifference, severe criticism, and harsh words. He said if the Board puts this issue on the ballot today, it will be the same thing only it will be multiplied because of the severe problems the public is experiencing. He stated that he would be happy to serve on this committee; and if diesel is being pumped into the sleeping

quarters, there are actions that can be taken to solve that without a lot of expense. However, he objected to going to the citizens and asking for more taxes.

Director Maruthur pointed out that he agreed to a fee for the citizens of the city without a vote, and Mr. Pritchett said he agreed to an increase in the water rates at the last meeting because he was convinced there was no other way to do it. However, in this situation, the City needs to provide the Police and Fire with the funds; but the Board needs to tighten up on its budget.

Director Keheley said she wants to support the Fire and Police and would like to submit an amended resolution to include a public safety capital improvement task force. A motion was made by Director Keheley, duly seconded by Director McCabe, to amend the resolution to include a public safety capital improvement task force.

Upon discussion, Director Maruthur questioned if there was a date to be included for the task force committee.

A motion was made by Director Keheley, duly seconded by Director McCabe, that the resolution also include the second meeting in January for the City Manager to bring back recommendations and a proposed plan of action to the Board.

Mayor Bush then called for a vote on the amendments; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, and McCabe, total 4. Voting "no": Directors Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 3; motion carried to amend the resolution.

Mayor Bush then called for a vote on the resolution, as amended; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Daniel, Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, McCabe, Ramick, and Bush, total 7; motion unanimously carried. Whereupon the resolution was declared passed, as amended.

20 Proposed Ordinance No. O-09-35

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CABINETS AND ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT FROM TEMPLE, INC. FOR CENTRAL AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION, PHASE II; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," was taken from the agenda for consideration.

A motion was made by Director Daniel, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, 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 Ramick, that the ordinance be passed as read.

Upon discussion, Mr. Steve Mallett, Deputy City Manager for Public Works and Utilities, stated this is for equipment for the signal coordination of Phase II of Central Avenue; and this contract will be for Eagle brand equipment with Temple, Inc. He advised this is a continuation of the first phase of Central Avenue coordination, which is basically the south half; and this will install the same equipment on the northern half and will be from the very northern to the southern edges of Central Avenue. He added this will be funded through a grant in the amount of \$120,600.

Mayor Bush then called for a vote on the motion to adopt; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, McCabe, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 7; motion unanimously carried. Whereupon the ordinance was declared passed.

21 Proposed Ordinance No. O-09-36

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOT SPRINGS SIGN CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 5086) BY REVISING THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING ELECTRONIC SIGNS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," was taken from the agenda for consideration.

A motion was made by Director Jones, duly seconded by Director Keheley, that the rules be suspended; and the ordinance be read by title only; and upon voice vote, the motion unanimously carried. The ordinance was then read for the first time by title only. Mayor Bush called for a motion to adopt. There being no motion, the ordinance died for lack of a motion.

22 Proposed Ordinance No. O-09-37

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADOPTION SECTION OF THE HOT SPRINGS ANIMAL CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 4940); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," was taken from the agenda for consideration.

A motion was made by Director Jones, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, 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 Jones, duly seconded by Director Maruthur, that the ordinance be passed as read.

Upon discussion, Mr. Dan Bugg, Animal Services Director, explained the amendments pointing out that the Adoption Section provides that funds collected are called adoption fees; and the amount of each type of adoption fee is to include \$50 for dogs and \$30 for cats. Amendment No. 2 to the ordinance provides that animals considered to be of purebred status will not be placed into the new owner's custody until it has been spayed/neutered. Amendment No. 3 provides that pets available for adoption must be available to the public for 24 hours before rescue or other placement group may adopt the pet.

Mr. Irving Duke, 204 Westbrook, said on August 15, 2009, as he was walking home, he was knocked face down on the ground and bitten on his leg by a pit bull. He stated he was three hours on the operating table at St. Joseph's Hospital. He commented that many times most owners of pit bulls have never seen any destructive action from that animal, but this does not mean the animal is not capable of that. He mentioned in the four block area of Westbrook, there have been four pit bulls; but two of them have moved away because of complaints to Animal Services. He said there is one in the 400 block of Westbrook that is tied up with a very large chain and not inside a fence; and in the 200 block, there are six children under the age of 12 years. He said he has also noticed pit bulls on Bower Street; and a young man about 12 years old was walking his dog on a leash and would be totally unable to control that animal if it decided to do something else. He mentioned there were two white pit bulls on Central Avenue being walked on leashes, but he did not know if individuals can control these dogs if they decide to do something else. He added he believes this is a hidden danger that should be taken care of but also is aware that all pit bulls do not act in this manner.

Mayor Bush pointed out that Mr. Duke was speaking to Item No. 23, but his comments will be taken into consideration.

Director Maruthur asked what happened to Animal Control and the Police Department when they arrived at the scene. Mr. Duke replied there were two officers who arrived promptly, and the police officers cleared the block of the children who had

come out to see what was going on. He added that he was bleeding from the bite, and there was a nurse on the corner who had come out to see how serious it was. Also, the Animal Control Officer arrived promptly thereafter; and there was an hour long standoff with the dog before Animal Control and the Police Department gained control of the dog.

Director Maruthur asked if the animal went after the police officers and the animal control officers, and Mr. Duke said there was a standoff with the animal confronting the animal control officer and police officers. He stated that another nurse that he saw told him that a member of her church was killed by a pit bull.

Mayor Bush then called for a vote on the motion to adopt; and upon roll call, the following voted "aye": Directors Maruthur, Jones, Keheley, McCabe, Ramick, Daniel, and Bush, total 7; motion unanimously carried. Whereupon the ordinance was declared passed.

23 Report from Animal Services Regarding Dangerous Dogs

Mr. Dan Bugg, Animal Services Director, said that he compiled a report concerning three Arkansas municipalities that have taken on different approaches to controlling dangerous dogs. He then introduced Mr. Billy Grace, Animal Control Director from North Little Rock.

Mr. Billy Grace, director of Animal Control for North Little Rock, stated the city had a severe pit bull problem, but their dog bites are down; and the severe bites are way down. He said they had several maulings similar to what Mr. Duke described, but unfortunately it was on a child; and that is basically nonexistent now. Also, the animal-to-animal attacks are way down. He explained they banned them from the city.

Mayor Bush asked what they do if they find a pit bull, and Mr. Grace advised the owner has to pay to have the animal spayed or neutered and tattooed and then sign an affidavit to move it out of the city. He said since it is so expensive, the owner usually just signs them over; and the City puts them down.

Director Maruthur said the City banned someone from getting a pit bull but grandfathered them in, and there is the responsibility of the owner to comply with identification and other things.

Mr. Grace said the city gave them 30 days to come into compliance to have the animals spayed or neutered and tattooed on the abdominal area inside the right rear leg, which is more difficult to remove. He stated the city ended up extending that for several months because it did not want to take people's good pets away from them and kill them. He commented they had to do something and eventually arrived at the point where they said there would be no more. He added there are about 250 that are grandfathered in. He pointed out that one thing he regrets is that they meant to include if a pit bull is declared vicious, it was banned from the city and forgot to do that. He noted even though there are 250 legal ones in the city, some of those are aggressive dogs and he wishes they had included that in there and got them out of the city too.

Director Ramick asked who pays for the spay, neutering, and tattooing; and Mr. Grace replied that the owner does.

Director McCabe asked if there are any other breeds that have been a problem for him, and Mr. Grace said nothing like a pit bull. Director McCabe asked if they are still getting bites, and Mr. Grace replied there are not as many, not near as severe. He added it has been several years since they have had a severe mauling. Director McCabe asked if it was from a pit bull, and Mr. Grace said that it was. He commented that he does not ever remember ever having a mauling where flesh is actually torn away from the body by anything but a pit bull.

Mr. Steve Crites, 307 Rector Heights Drive, said he has been a member of the Hot Springs National Park Kennel Club since 1990, and currently serving his third term as the president of the club. He then read the following position statement from the National American Kennel Club and the support of the local Hot Springs National Park Kennel Club: "The American Kennel Club supports reasonable, enforceable and nondiscriminatory laws to govern ownership of laws. The Club believes that dog owners should be responsible for their dogs. We support laws that establish a fair process by which specific dogs are identified as dangerous based on stated measurable actions and the laws impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners and establish a well-defined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous. We believe that, if necessary, dogs proven to be dangerous may need to be humanely destroyed. The American Kennel Club strongly opposes any legislation that determines a dog to be dangerous based on specific breeds or phenotypic classes of dogs. To provide communities with the most effective dangerous dog control possible, laws must not be breed-specific. Instead of holding all dog owners accountable for their behavior, breed-specific laws place restrictions only on the owners of certain breeds of dogs. If specific breeds are banned, owners of these dogs intent on using their dogs for

malicious purposes or for being neglectful or mean to their dogs, will simply change to another breed of dog and continue to jeopardize public safety. Strongly enforced dog control laws, such as leash laws, generic guidelines for dealing with dangerous dogs, and increased public education efforts to promote responsible dog ownership are all positive ways to protect communities from dangerous dogs. Increasing public education efforts and enforcing the current laws that we have now for dangerous dogs is the way to address the root cause of the problem – irresponsible dog owners.” He said he believes they should punish the deed, not the breed.

Mayor Bush asked if he is saying the City should wait until some pit bull attacks or mauls a child and then go after that dog. Mr. Crites said there are dangerous dog laws in effect now; and as far as the pit bulls, they are frightening animals. However, there are other dogs besides pit bulls. He stressed that it gets back to the element of irresponsible people. He commented they spend a lot of time and offer classes trying to teach people responsible ownership and teach their dogs to become good citizens. He pointed out they need to go after the owner, not the breed.

Director Maruthur asked if he expects people who are in the drug business to be responsible owners, and Mr. Crites said he does not; but he also expects them to use anything within their means to continue carrying out their trade. He pointed out that any dog can and will bite.

Mr. Bugg said he was asked to do some research and provide a report, and it is at the Board’s discretion as to what direction it wants him to take.

City Attorney Brian Albright asked if he had any plans to present this to his advisory committee again and have them study this. Mr. Bugg advised that it was presented to them a week ago, and the committee said it needed more time. He added the committee is in the process of studying it now and has broken it down, and each member has been assigned different aspects to look at. City Attorney Brian Albright asked if he thinks his committee is given the opportunity to review it that they can bring a recommendation back to the Board. Mr. Bugg replied they plan to and have a deadline set for November 5 for that final meeting. He stated at their meeting this Thursday night, they will go over their notes together.

Director McCabe spoke of an occasion when his son was 12 years old, and they were with a group of guys cold weather fishing; and one of the guys brought his female Labrador. He said for whatever reason that dog, unprovoked, went after his son. He noted the owner kenneled the dog in his vehicle and never brought it out again. He also mentioned another incident last summer at the Farmers’ Market involving a large male

German Shepherd, which could not be controlled by his owner, and a smaller dog. He said there was a couple with a small child in a stroller in the area also; and the mother and baby went one way trying to get away from the dogs. However, there was someone from the local kennel club that was able to settle down the situation. Mr. Bugg said that in the City of Arlington, Texas, there was a five-year study done on animal bites, and the breed that bit the most was a cocker spaniel. He stated the age groups they bite first was boys between 7 and 11, and the next group was girls that same age. He pointed out the issue with pit bulls is that they do so much damage when they do bite.

Director Keheley questioned the procedures when a person gets bit, and Mr. Bugg advised that the dog is impounded and has to be quarantined for ten days for observation under state law called the Rabies Control Act. He said the victim goes to the hospital and has several remedies to sue the person who owns the dog for their medical bills. He noted there are a lot of cases in town with pit bulls killing other small dogs.

Director Keheley questioned what happens if a person is bitten and they have no proof of licensing and the shots. Mr. Bugg explained if his department did not capture the animal and could not identify it or find it, then he recommends they talk to a physician and go through the post exposure rabies vaccinations, which is now given in the shoulders based on body weight. He explained that the cost for the vaccine for a person his weight and size would be around \$1,300 or \$1,400. Then they have to pay a doctor to administer the shot.

Director Maruthur pointed out that what Mr. Grace described is no longer happening, but it does not mean there are not going to be dog bites. She noted that Mr. Bugg said that people have done this to this breed, and it is acting the way it does because of breeding traits.

Mayor Bush said the Board will look forward to the Animal Services Committee Report on this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

24 Board of Directors Items for Discussion

Director Maruthur said if citizens want to sign up for CodeRed, they may call Paula Brown at 321-6861. She announced there is an account set up at Regions Bank downtown for the family of deceased firefighter Gene Yabrough.

25 City Manager's Report

City Manager Lance Hudnell gave the following report:

1. The SeaPort open house will be held on Tuesday, October 27, from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Airport.

2. A Day at the Farm will be held on Saturday, October 31, at the Transportation Plaza.

3. The Bill Edwards Building dedication is scheduled for Thursday, November 12.

4. Mr. Steve Arrison, executive director of the Advertising and Promotion Commission, expressed appreciation to the Airport staff for the balloon festivities.

5. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Taylor Gates and his staff and Mr. Ron Wacaster regarding all of the rain events, which caused the water to back up from a local creek to the treatment facility. He said they had to work very hard to keep the water treatable and to work with water coming out of the dam. He stated they did a tremendous job in keeping the City in water the last few days.

6. There were letters of appreciation to Ms. Paula Brown, Public Works Administrative Assistant; Ms. Lisa Vargo, Water/Wastewater Customer Service Manager, and others who have helped the citizens.

26 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____

Lance Hudnell, City Clerk

Mayor

Mike Bush,