

Minutes of the August 28, 2019
Regular Meeting of the Citizen's Task Force

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the August 28, 2019 Citizen's Task Force was called to order by Mayor Gary Shaw at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Citizen Members: Ken Copeland, Brandon Davis, Ted Easley, Renita Kitchingham, Dan McCreary, Scott Vorhees. Also, in attendance were City staff, Council members and guests: Leslie Haase, Finance Director; Peter Edwards, City Attorney; Dan Pekarek; Interim City Manager, Lynn Onstot; Public Information Officer, Paula Bone, Mark Cannon, Jeremie Humphrey, Adam Grimes, William Davis, Shelby Howard, Luke Stahl, Matt Stewart; Police Chief, Jim Furgerson; Fire Chief, Sheila Maerz and Mayor Gary Shaw. Absent: Victor Sly.

Leslie stated they will be asking Council to appoint 3 or 4 additional members at the meeting on Tuesday.

Discussion of Proposition "B": Leslie began by asking the question, what is the charge for the Task Force? Council has already voted to put ½-cent sales tax before the voters on November 5 and Council has appointed you, the Task Force to help educate the citizens. The work group will be helping also. Leslie provided booklets for everyone and began talking about how they arrived at a recommendation from the work group; the recommendation was unanimous. She stated some of the work group members began meeting late in 2018 and the work group grew from there. Police and Fire employees are under a standalone pension plan, this has been in place since about 1947; it is the retirement benefit for Public Safety. General employees are under Lagers. Leslie referred to a chart in the booklet that shows a history of the pension plan from 1995-2008. She stated the City recognized the path it was headed down, and around 2006 began working toward a solution regarding the pension plan. In around 2006-2007 a committee was formed to look at options to make some changes; a change went into effect on January 31, 2009. She continued with the booklet and mentioned the pension plan is not continuing on a good path, which became the focus of the current work group. The work group began to look at the option to close the pension plan to new hires and move to Lagers. Leslie stated there are several benefits of moving to Lagers. After a lot of work, the internal work group decided to present the information to Council in May. In August there was another presentation to Council from the work group; this recommendation was to ask for the ½-cent sales tax. Leslie continued with discussion and answered questions. She then discussed briefly the ballot language and asked for questions concerning the ballot. She then turned it over to Lynn Onstot to discuss the blank calendars that were provided in the booklets. Lynn explained her job as PIO and her role as part of the Citizen's Task Force and what the calendars are to be used for. She also passed out a draft Q&A to review and discuss at the next meeting. There was some discussion and comments from the group and some positive points were mentioned to move to Lagers.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Set date of next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

With there being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned at 5:31p.m.

Submitted,


Roschelle Forsythe, Secretary