

WORKSHOP MEETING

APRIL 6, 2004

A Workshop Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on April 6, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Fazzone, Heine, Johnson and Goodman. Absent: Whitlock. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Attorney Holloman, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the workshop to order and stated the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2004/2005.

Mayor Fazzone then stated that he has worked with Administrator Strube for eighteen (18) years and has never doubted his ability to perform his duties. Mayor Fazzone did say that he would like to see improvement in the area of communication with department heads and less procrastination.

Council Member Heine believes that there are a lot of things that need to be done and the City is short on funds to accomplish everything. Road and sewer repair are at the top of his list.

Administrator Strube noted that Boyle Engineering has suggested that the City improve the water and sewer systems. The City has applied for a \$6,000,000.00 grant however there is no guarantee that we would get the grant. If approved then substantial improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) would be done. Every five (5) years the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires a new permit to operate. The current WWTP was constructed in 1959, modified in 1977 and again in 1990. The City is still working on the reliability of the re-use system to be consistent in order to meet the stringent requirements of DEP.

Council Member Heine then stated that the sidewalks in a five (5) block area in the downtown need to be replaced. In the past the City has worked with business and home owners to help repair or replace sidewalks. Council Member Heine would like for the City to apply for a grant to replace the sidewalks. Administrator Strube reported that the Grants Committee did select Fred Fox who has prepared a booklet with possible grants to apply for and sidewalks are included. Council Member Heine then reported that the parking lot at Wheelers and the old Sliver Spur Lounge are looking great thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Craven having them repaved. He suggested that the City provide the material and then hire the Craven's subcontractor do the labor.

Council Member Goodman stated that her main concern was with the lack of communication and items being in the newspaper before Council was aware of them. This problem has been taken care of. She would now like for better communication between City Departments. Council Member Goodman also said she would like for the City to have a web site and that she had approached County Administrator Chisholm about the City being able to use Channel 56 which the County uses for public announcements.

Workshop Meeting
April 6, 2004
Continued

Council Member Johnson is concerned with the roads and the need for more trash pickup such as bulk items. It appears that people are dumping trash in front of homes where no one lives in order to avoid being billed for the pickup. Mayor Fazzino asked if the prisoners could be used for this and was informed by Administrator Strube that the prisoners are used to clean out the ditches.

Council Member Johnson stated that Administrator Strube's job needs to be re-structured in order for him to delegate more to the various department heads. He would also like to see an organizational chart so that everyone would know who to answer to.

Council Member Heine reported that he witnessed a City employee drive by a trash pile several times without stopping to pick it up. He stated that if there are items in the pile that should not be there then the employee needs to leave a ticket to let the property owner know why the trash was not picked up.

Council Member Johnson stated that the City should inform the public what is and is not acceptable for trash pickup. Administrator Strube noted that the 4' length is a goal, however the truck can pickup a larger piece than that. Administrator Strube then reported that all new water/garbage accounts are given a list of what is acceptable.

Council Member Whitlock was unable to attend the work session although he did submit a list which was read as follows:

1. Publish on our website our meetings and minutes after approved. Get our website updated so it is current. Many people browse the different webpages to see what is going on.
2. Why doesn't the City of Arcadia have a local channel on cable like the County? Most of their customers are city residents --- I would think.
3. The Administrator should have monthly department directors meetings so all would know what the others are doing. Everybody would be on the same page -- so to speak.
4. Publish a list of which roads are planning to be paved and the approximate start time.
5. Fill the planning position.
6. Administrator needs to delegate more of the piddling items of the daily running of the city.

Administrator Strube then stated that the City is a small city and he is currently required to wear several hats. He does not feel that current staff has the depth for him to delegate too far down. He is very concerned with the budget and revenues and expenditures. We have always just been able to pay and provide essential services. The City does not have the resources to hire a public relations officer like the County has in order to keep a web site running and up to date. He stated that his top priorities are police, fire, ambulance service, roads and keeping the City's drinking water safe along with wastewater issues.

Workshop Meeting
April 6, 2004
Continued

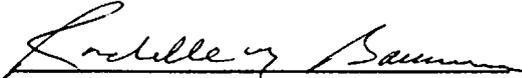
Council Member Johnson then expressed concern with the budget and that the City was getting into reserves.

Administrator Strube replied that health and liability insurance increases are beyond our control; however they still need to be funded. The fireworks in July are becoming more difficult for the City to conduct due to new rules on the purchasing, handling and storing of them.

Council Member Johnson asked if there was a plan in order to be able to keep current staff based on a decrease in revenues and what positions would need to be kept. Administrator Strube reported that the first step would be to have a hiring freeze; then lay off non essential positions. He stated that the City would have to be very careful on how it presented such a plan in order not to alarm employees. We need to figure out how to maintain the current millage rate and still operate.

Administrator Strube discussed the 911 dispatchers situation noting that it appears to be an issue of double taxation as the City pays \$98,000.00 and the County Public Safety also pays \$66,000.00. He believes that all of the operating funds for the dispatchers should come from county wide revenues. He noted that he had attempted to address this issue with the City/County Fire Merger Committee; the committee was not interested in discussing this issue. Administrator Strube stated that Marshal Lee is also dissatisfied with the level of service received from the county operated dispatch center.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT