

Regular Board Meeting, January 5, 2009

The Parsons City Council met for its regular monthly meeting, Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7:00 p .m. at the City meeting room. Mayor Tim David Boaz called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Present

Mark Davis
Joseph Fisher
Harold Fisher
Dwight Lancaster
Joe Don White
Dale Reynolds
Bobby Rainey

Absent

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve as handed out by Dale Reynolds Second by Mark Davis

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to approve financial statements for November as given out by Joe Don White, Second by Mark Davis Vote: All Ayes

Community Forum: Director of U. T. Martin –Parsons Center, Jason Rushing gave an update on the college. He stated that the enrollment is on going. In the spring we will be offering 49 classes with faculty members in place. Since the new building is ready we are able to offer different classes, and different subjects in the coming semesters. Enrollment is at 205-210 students, and still very strong. We will end up with between 116-120 full time equivalent students from a financial stand-point this is important. Enrollment always increases when a building is finished because it helps to recruit students to an actual facility rather than a high school building. Other facilities have experience a higher volume of enrollment when the facility is finished. Fund raising is still on going. Total cost of this project 4.1 million-funds, 2-million funding from the Ayers Foundation with City of Parsons and Decatur County's funding. We are left with the remaining 2.1 million balance to complete the project. We are right now at \$1,269,725.00 so 61% has been committed. I know of several calls that will be made, and this should change. This week and next we will be moving in, and furniture will be here tomorrow, and Saturday. My staff and I will be moving Friday afternoon. Classes will start Monday. I wish to thank the Mayor for allowing some of the city workers to help us move. Open house should be sometime in February. The date has not been set as of yet. I wanted to make sure everything is fully complete before we to this. You all are welcome to come out and view the building at anytime. The campus here in Parsons should be a help for students financially if they have to leave home there are more cost involved considering traveling, housing and meals. There is a huge cost saving by staying here at home. Mr. Rushing went on to thank the City Council for their support. He stated it would never be possible for this project to be completed if this support had not been given. Mr. Joe Don White stated for the record, that Jason had being doing a fantastic job as director.

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Communications from Mayor: Mayor Boaz stated that the Police and Fire Department have been combined, and that a Police Chief, and Fire Chief are no longer needed. The Safety Director oversees these departments now. The department will now be called The Public Safety Department with Dale King as the director. Mayor Boaz then asked Dale King to speak, and tell the council more about the department. Dale stated that all the police officers would also be firemen when they finish their training. Some of the training will take place at the training facility here. Other training will be taken at Bell Buckle, Tenn. for the Class three. We are also looking into our people becoming first responders which means that Parsons Public Safety officers will be policemen, firemen, medical officers, and we will have people on duty 24 hours a day. Officer will be on call with two officers working. Our volunteer firefighters will be firefighters only. Only the policemen will be both. Policemen will be trained as firefighters, and first responders which will cut our response time down. Attendance has gone from 23 up to 42. We are trying to make things better. We are doing tactical plans to train as police and firemen, and we train as one unit, we have shortened our fire response time considerably. Mayor stated the key to this is that we are building data to lower our ISO rating. We are a 5 now, but we want to get a 3. What this means that it will help with insurance cost for everyone in the City of Parsons. This also helps with industrial recruiting. Mayor also stated that Dale is up to the challenge, and that he appreciates this. Kingston Springs, and other small towns are doing this with success. Dale stated that with the Kolpak drill that we had 64 responders to help with this drill. People should feel that this department could stand up to any emergency situation.

Reports from Committees: none

Old Business:

I: Second Reading on Ordinance No: 297 - An Ordinance authorizing conveyance of real property to Southwest Tennessee Community Development Corporation. Motion to pass this ordinance on second reading by Joseph Fisher for the price of \$4,500.00 since this was the price first mentioned when this property was talked about. Second by Dale Reynolds. Vote: Dwight Lancaster-Aye, Harold Fisher-Aye, Joseph Fisher- Aye, and Dale Reynolds-Aye, Mark Davis-Aye, Bobby Rainey-Aye, and Joe Don White Aye.

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II: Second reading on Ordinance No: 298- An Ordinance authorizing the purchase of a used 2006 Chevrolet Colorado Truck for the City of Parsons' Gas Department.

Motion by Dale Reynolds to pass this ordinance on second reading. Second by Mark Davis

Vote: Dwight Lancaster-Aye, Harold Fisher-Aye, Joseph Fisher- Aye, Dale Reynolds-Aye, Mark Davis-Aye, Bobby Rainey-Aye, and Joe Don White-Aye.

New Business:

I: First Reading on Ordinance N0: -299 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Parsons to enter into an agreement of sale with the State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation for the sum of \$275,550.00 (Roberson Building) (this is for building and not the property).

Motion by Dale Reynolds to pass this on First Reading Second by Mark Davis.

Vote: Dwight Lancaster-Aye, Harold Fisher-Aye, Joseph Fisher- Aye, Dale Reynolds-Aye, Mark Davis-Aye, Bobby Rainey-Aye, and Joe Don White-Aye.

Other options to be considered at next meeting before final reading.

1. Option to sell building back to us at \$28,600.00 we would have to move the building off of the lot within 90 days.

. We would have to give them a certified check for \$15,000.00

to guarantee that we would have the building off within 90 days.

Mayor has talked with Graves to see about moving the building, but he

stated to the council let him know of anyone else who might move building.

This building could be moved to the Kaddis lot if council wants to.

Mayor will get proposals of different options, and have at next

Meeting. Mayor stated he just wanted the council be able to look at all the options before making this decision.

Mayor Boaz asked that the council also decide what they want they wanted to apply for funding for thru the CDBG 2009, and this is to be put on agenda for next board meeting.

Other things discussed: Mr. Joseph Fisher stated that during the Holidays that he had heard several nice comments on how nice the City looked, but they also asked that he bring up the need for a red light in the city. . For example they were having trouble pulling out from 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th streets. That there is more traffic then what used to be Mayor Boaz stated that with phase II of the Downtown Enhancement project that when a hearing is conducted that that was one of the things that will be discussed being worked into this project. Joe Warren stated that before there is any grant money is available a traffic count would have to done. The City could put a traffic light anywhere as long as it is

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certified by the State. Attorney Edwin Townsend, Jr. stated if the City puts up a traffic light that it puts more liability on the city, plus the city has to paid for the light and maintained it. Mayor Boaz stated that the City maintains the current light.

Jennifer Clendenion brought out that she was having trouble pulling out of 4th due to the new trees and pole. Then discussion continues on where a traffic light needs to be. Discussion on where signs need to be along with the turning lanes that the State has done. People seem to be getting in the lane and going straight instead of getting in the turning lane. Mayor stated that there are several things that need to be discussed, and corrected.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Davis. Second by Dale Reynolds Vote: All Ayes

Tim David Boaz, Mayor

Judy Daugherty, City Recorder