

## **Regular Board Meeting, April 7, 2008**

The Parsons City Council met for its regular monthly meeting, Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:00 p .m. at the City meeting room. Mayor Tim David Boaz called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Present

Absent

Harold Fisher

Mark Davis

Dwight Lancaster

Dale Reynolds

Joe Don White

Joseph Fisher

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve as handed out by Dale Reynolds. Second Reading by Joseph Fisher

Vote: All Ayes

Motion to approve financial statements February 2008 by, Dwight Lancaster, Second by Dale Reynolds Vote: All Ayes.

**Presentations:** none

**Community Forum:**

**Communications from Mayor:**

**Old Business:**

**I: Second Reading on Ordinance No: 280 Entitled an ordinance amending Section 8-111 of title 8 of the code of the City of Parsons. Motion by Dale Reynolds to pass this ordinance on second reading. Second by Harold Fisher Vote All Ayes Motion passed.**

**New Business:**

**I: First Reading On Ordinance No: 281 An Ordinance Entitled An Ordinance authorizing a lease of the old City Hall to the Decatur County Emergency Management Agency. Motion to past this ordinance on first reading by Joe Don White. Second by Dale Reynolds Vote: All Aye**

### **Recreational Complex proposal-Teresa Taylor**

Some of the people in the audience tonight are presenting the Decatur County Baseball, Softball, and Soccer Associations support the vision of construction on an outdoor recreation complex. Ms Taylor states that for two years parents and citizens have had a vision on completing an outdoor recreation complex. There have been several newspaper articles concerning this. Some of you were at the presentation at a JECD Board meeting. We have had several in-pup meetings, and this is also in our five-year plan for the County. Most recent the LPRF Grant was applied for by the county, but came to a halt when the

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county commissioners did not see the ability to match the grant funds that were applied for.

Since then this committee has been talking to the public, and they want to see this become a reality. Presently the City of Parsons with the grant application had pledged twenty five acres of the old airport land to this grant for the complex. It was to be used to begin Phase I .

Ms Taylor also stated that they realize that it can't be done unless the City and County governments stand behind such a plan. This is where the association representing the community asks that the City of Parsons support us in such a task. Just to mention we have over 500 kids that participate in baseball, softball, soccer teams, over 1500 people are over at the ball fields any one given night; so a facility would definitely be used. First of all we cannot build something if we don't have a place to put it. That is why we are here tonight to ask the City of Parsons for agreement for some of the airport land to construct this complex on, and to complete the project in certain phases. Along with the land we have some resources that come along with anything you do. We would propose a monetary gift or in-kind acts to begin the complex. If this project gets off the ground the city and county would vote on this. In the next two years we would like for city or county to apply for further recreation grants. In conclusion; I would like for you to understand this is with the stipulation that we will present this plan at the County's next meeting and that they are in agreement to support this funding.

A sample:

Phase I: Two Ball fields, three soccer fields, and a concessions stand

Phase II: Three more ball field, walking track, and other miscellaneous (that can come from public in-put-something they want to see)

Phase III: Finish the ball fields, a pavilion, and other miscellaneous

Cost: Projected total if you go by this plan comes to be 1. 2 million dollars over a 10-year plan.

City of Parsons agrees to \$25, 000.00 per year over the next 10 years

1. Decatur County Commission agrees \$25, 000.00 per year over the next 10 years.  
Agrees to 25% per month of the Tennessee District Act over 10 years.  
This does not include grants that may be recieved.

Lighting and utilities are not figured in, but could be worked out later.

As an association we have a goal to work with our City and Count governments to see this project thru.

Volunteers do maintenance now. The concession funds and recreation fees helps with funding at the existing fields.

Community service workers also could work on the grounds. City and County would help to work out who would control this project. Ms. Taylor stated that would be worked out between governments. This is only with the contingency that the county agrees to help fund this project.

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Motion by Joe Don White to fund the project make the property available with the contingency that the County agrees, and that final plans be worked out and brought back to the council, and I do not know if the dollar amount maybe should not be put in tonight. Attorney stated that this has to be done by ordinance, and have everything in writing before time. You can do a show of hands. Nothing done tonight is binding After discussion:

**Motion was made again by Joe Don White that the city fund this project up to the \$25, 000.00, and make the property available contingent that the County fund this project, and that final plans be brought back to the council, because of several unanswered questions such as: who will be the entity to oversee the project, and who will maintain the project, and what the final cost will be. Second by Joseph Fisher Vote: All Ayes except Dale Reynolds who voted no.**

Next a presentation from Jason Rushing, Director of the UT Martin Parsons Center to give an up-date on the center. Mr. Rushing talked about registration and faculty members. Numbers have increased to show that we are where we need to be at this time. We have our first three graduates this year from our center. Credit hours are good. We are the youngest center, and we are producing the same credit hours that Ripley is, and they have been in operation over a year. Tom Leitch, Parsons representative, stated that Jason has done a lot of good work to achieve these figures. First center that is made up of public and private partnership in funding. We are asking the City of Parsons to help us with a bridge loan until all the pledges come in not to exceed the amount of pledges that have been pledged over the next five years. Everything is positive, and there is no reason to see why the project won't be completed on time. The City of Parsons taxpayers will not be out any tax money.

**Motion by Joseph Fisher to authorize the Mayor to take out a bridge loan. Second by Dwight Lancaster Vote: All Ayes (This will have to be done by an ordinance)**

Mark Tubbs came before the council to present a plan to do a historical farm site for educational purpose. We plan to use this site for educational field trips for children, historical events, and have a tie to the peavine festival. We are asking to lease a portion of the airport property at the south end of the runway facing Hwy 69. According to T-Dot approximately a daily average of 8, 000 cars that pass this site. Several structures have been given to the Historical Society after this was discussed. We will maintain this site by volunteers, and grants that the Historical Society can apply for. Joe Don White said he would like to make a motion to support this, but he knows that it has to be done by an ordinance and be brought back to the council later. All the council were in agreement to precede with a lease agreement similar to the one made on the old City Hall Building.

Bruce Mottern with TDS asked to be put on the agenda. He came before the council to do a power point to summarize that TDS is committed to Parsons. He talked about the relocating the facilities for downtown project and costs. He stated that they would

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continue to work with Parsons Officials, and look for a cost effect solution. He felt that Parsons should pay for re-locations, and not TDS.

Attorney Edwin Townsend stated that this matter could not be discussed in public. The issues are disputed , and are a bases for litigations. The Mayor stated that Charter Communications and Lexington Electric representatives were here, and would they like to say something Charter and Lexington Electric Representatives said that felt the same way as TDS that Parsons should pay for the cost of all relocations of utility lines.

Motion to adjourn by Dale Reynolds Second by Joseph Fisher Vote: All Ayes.

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Tim David Boaz, Mayor

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Judy Daugherty