

Council Minutes

September 16, 2002

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2002, AT 4:10 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Rogers, Taylor, Bennett, DeTienne and Mayor Harrison.

FINE ARTS COUNCIL

Commissioner Rogers, Jane Adams, Chairman, and the Fine Arts Council presented a proposal for an art center called "Art Alley; Center for Visual and Performing Arts". This center has been incorporated as a 501(c)(3) as the Zion Arts Partnership, Inc, and would have exhibits and interactive activities. A retail art supply facility would be part of this project.

Community partnerships include:

- Midwestern Regional Medical Center & Cancer Treatment Centers of America - assist in interior design and financial support
- Zion Public Library - display area for art work
- Zion Conservatory - partnering in community-based projects
- Lake County Art League - display of art work in museum and a source for instructors
- Chicago Area Puppetry Guild - donation of puppetry materials
- Christmas in April Program - renovation assistance is being requested

Mayor Harrison stated there is a tremendous interest in the arts in this area. Surveys distributed to parents of grade school children indicated 98% agreed that art education and appreciation are important to both children and adults. The goal is to open in the fall of 2003. Mayor Harrison noted the facility is in need of restoration, and much of the work is to be conducted through volunteer labor. A proposed budget indicated the majority of funding would come from corporate/private donations, grants, and the City's participation through the Downtown Façade and TIF grant programs.

The Fine Arts Council is requesting a long-term lease with the City for the facility. The Council is also requesting City assistance through the Downtown Façade Grant Program and TIF funding. Mayor Harrison noted the taxing bodies involved in the Downtown TIF District would be

requested to abate money received for this year and next year to help fund this development. The taxing bodies will be meeting on September 24 to discuss this issue. The next TIF Review Board meeting is scheduled for October 7.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne to authorize the City Attorney to prepare a 5-year lease with Zion Arts Partnership, Inc. in the amount of \$1.00 per year for 2647 Sheridan Road, subject to the condition if the art center ever closes, the facility reverts back to the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Rogers, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

CITIGATE COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Silk, Managing Director, Citigate Communications presented a proposal regarding the City's economic development with the emphasis of the program to secure new sources of jobs and revenue. The following has been accomplished:

- A theme line and logo have already been developed, with the logo utilized on stationery, business cards, banners, decals and buttons
- The Façade Program was created with several participants.
- Downtown reconstruction has been nearly completed, and the Bicket building restoration is almost completed.
- Volunteers have been recruited and a feasibility study has been completed.

Ms. Silk recommended that the next phase of the project include the following:

- Creation of an economic development videotape and CD-ROM
- Development of a web site for potential businesses and employers; as well as updating and promoting current web site
- Creation of marketing materials including brochures, pamphlets, mailers and informational packets
- Work key trade shows; developing a trade show booth and PowerPoint presentation
- Development of an economic development outreach database with appropriate follow-up
- Submittal of grants
- Development of a media database with appropriate follow-up
- Creation of a quarterly newsletter, Mayor's newspaper column, local cable interview program with the Mayor, plus other media relations activities
- Creation of a five year marketing plan

A budget with estimated costs for individual items was also presented. Mayor Harrison stated a budget is already in place for the Business

Development Committee, so money is currently available. Mayor Harrison noted the Zion Cable Commission has informed him that media presentations can be funded through Cable Commission money. Mayor Harrison recommended reviewing this material and proposed budget, and recessing this meeting until September 17.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Rogers to recess the Workshop/Special Meeting of Monday, September 16, 2002 to Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at 7:00 p.m., in order to continue the discussion regarding Citigate Communications' economic development proposal. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Rogers, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to reconvene the Workshop/Special Meeting of September 16, 2002, which was recessed to September 17, 2002 at 7:23 p.m., in order to continue the discussion regarding Citigate Communications' economic development proposal. On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Rogers, Taylor, Bennett, DeTienne and Mayor Harrison.

Susan Silk presented a summary of the economic development proposal. Mayor Harrison stated this is a multi-year plan with immediate funds available, which are non-taxed funds. Commissioner DeTienne stated this proposal is investing in Zion's future. Attorney Rolek recommended approving a contract with a not-to-exceed amount. Mayor Harrison stated the services provided would be based on labor and material and recommended approving an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Ms. Silk stated the first year has the most expensive costs. Mayor Harrison noted the remainder of this fiscal year, covering October through April, is only seven months.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne to approve a contract with Citigate Communications for the City's economic development project in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 through April 30, 2003. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Rogers, aye; Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; DeTienne, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Rogers and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried.