

**LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 9, 2012**

The Local Option Sales Tax Oversight Committee met on January 9, 2012 in the North Conference Room at City Hall.

Members present: Gary Ficken, Lisa Kuzela, Elizabeth Schott, Michael Dawson,

Members absent: Steve Hammes Linda Seger, Doug Wagner

City Staff Present: Ann Poe, Casey Drew, Drew Westberg, Brittany Berger, Joe O'Hern

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Gary Ficken mentioned he updated the bylaws with the changes discussed at last month's LOST meeting.

**Minutes from 12/8/11 Meeting:** The minutes had been previously e-mailed to the members, but copies were handed out for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Residential Rent Protection- Presentation by Joe O'Hern:**

Joe stated this program was approved by Council in August 2011 for up to \$25,000. Landlords were asked to keep rental units vacant post-flood so the City could acquire the vacated property. The program will help acquire up to 10 residential properties by covering the rent between the time a purchase price was agreed upon and the closing of the buyout. No properties have been closed on to-date in this program. Landlords become part of this program as the City works through the process of acquiring the parcels. Joe said there is not yet a program for landlords that lost rent from the time of the flood until buyout. The LOST committee voted and members present agreed that this program meets the ballot language.

**Acquisition Programs & Issues- Presentation by Joe O'Hern:**

Joe stated 1400-1500 residential and commercial properties are involved in acquisition programs. Approximately 200 parcels have yet to be acquired. The largest barrier to closing is loan mediation. It takes about 6-8 months to get through the entire process. In order to close, the property must have a clear title with a purchase price of 107% pre-flood value. If liens and judgments exceed that amount, the property cannot be closed on.

The committee discussed pending gaps and homeowner programs. Lisa previewed a list of gaps and potential programs she has thought of. She will share her list at a future meeting. Gary Ficken welcomed Ann Poe as the new Council Liaison to the LOST committee. The floor was then opened to public comment.

The committee discussed and voted on whether the use of LOST funds for the new animal control facility and the new public works facility met the ballot language. Council approved using LOST funds for animal control but has not yet discussed using LOST funds for public works. The votes were as follows:

	Mike	Elizabeth	Gary	Lisa
<b>Animal Control</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Public Works</b>	Yes	No	No	No

**Next Meeting's Agenda:** Agenda items (in additional to normal agenda items) for the next meeting are as follows:

1. Discussion of potential gaps

The next meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Brittany Berger, City liaison to LOST Committee