

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY MAYOR VOORHIS

OPEN MEETING

Roll Call taken by Mayor Thomas Voorhis
Mark Stewart PRESENT, Kelly Petty PRESENT, Ben Lord ABSENT, Dennis Roe PRESENT,
Sherry Veach PRESENT, Richard Icenhower PRESENT

Call to order at: 6:30 p.m.

Approve Agenda. Motion by Icenhower to amend agenda to include park board at the end of meeting and approve agenda. Seconded by Veach
Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE

Public Forum

Stephen Short – Statement attached.

Icenhower – I agree with you 100%. I'm hard of hearing and Ben over there, part of the time I can't even hear him.

Short – I wasn't going to say Ben's name.

Icenhower – I have to poke her every once in a while and tell her to speak up so I can hear her.

Petty – Not for a while. I've been yelling over here for a couple of months.

Icenhower – I think that would definitely be something personally for us to look at in the future.

Voorhis – We have the budget coming up.

Leon Beaty 189 N. Arrowhead St. – I just want to agree with Steve on the problem with hearing. When I sat on the council sometimes I could not hear the other side of the aisle, so it's something we definitely need to be looking at because I'm sure there are other people here that have the same problem.

Old Business

New Business

STEPHEN SHORT TO ADDRESS ALDERMEN (Agenda Request)

Addressed in Public Forum.

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PERMIT APPLICATION FEES FOR THE HERITAGE REUNION (Agenda Request)

Mary Terry – I am with the Fair Grove Historical Society and I would like to address the letter I submitted to you all and it's regarding our application fees for the festival and this is for the increase of the 2026 vendor fees. I know I came before you several years ago and asked for an

increase. We are looking at \$20 per booth so it would be \$130 for a 10 foot space and \$195 for an inspected food booth.

Voorhis – Miss Mary, just to confirm, we're talking 2025, this year?

Terry – Actually 2026. We've already done this year.

Icenhower – I don't have a problem with it.

Petty – Is there a justification or driver behind the increased booth fees?

Terry – Insurance.

Petty – Got it.

Motion by Roe to approve permit application for Heritage Reunion dated March 11, 2025 and update our ordinance for 2026. Seconded by Veach

Terry – I have a question about your ordinance because my Board members have asked. Why do we have to come forward to you to ask about our booth fees?

Roe – It's in the ordinance.

Terry – It's just an ordinance but why was that ever put in there?

Icenhower – It's back before my time.

Terry – The person I could ask has passed so.

Icenhower – I don't have no idea.

Terry – I would like to make another comment regarding the...

Voorhis – Miss Mary, if you don't mind, we did have a motion on the floor and a second that we need to get to.

Roe – Is this the appropriate time?

Voorhis – Yeah.

Roe – Mary Terry, you can talk now.

Davis – He's got to take the vote.

Roe – This is under discussion though.

Voorhis – Yeah, we're under discussion.

Petty – When we update this ordinance, do we have to go to a public hearing because of the increase in price?

Veatch – No.

Terry – I just want to comment from looking back at your minutes from October 22, 2024. I guess it was asked how many people were at the reunion that weekend and the response was 7,000. I'm going to totally disagree with that. I would say it was a very successful weekend. The weather was beautiful. Yes it was crappy the first part of the weekend and that was a big worry but I would say it was closer to 37,000 that weekend. And I also want to pass around, because there's new faces here and you weren't even born when we started this. Just a little information about the Historical Society and also the names and phone numbers so if you have questions, please contact our Board members because we would like to visit with you.

Veatch – Mary, don't you count how many people by how many cars actually come in?

Terry – Well it's kind of hard to do that because students do all of the parking and rentals. I know this last year they were full. They have never been full. And people commented also about people walking back from the park area and they said they had never seen them do that before so our trolleys are not always busy all the time.

Petty – I recall when the 7,000 number was said, it was immediately just like, oh no, that's can't be right. I think everybody disagreed.

Terry – I hope so cause I figured that was 23 people that went to each booth and I'm going no way. We are looking for another successful year. In fact, our booths are full.

Icenhower – The insurance is a big factor. I remember several years ago, back when I was President of the Lions Club, you didn't have any and the Lion's Club wrote it.

Terry – That weekend alone, I think it's a little over \$7,000 just for those two days.

Roe – Thank you for your volunteer work.

Terry – Thank you.

Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veatch AYE, Icenhower AYE

FIRST READING OF BILL NO 25-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE III: TRAFFIC CODE; CHAPTER 355 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON NORTH MAIN STREET. (Posted 3/4/2025)

Motion by Roe to have the first reading of Bill No. 25-03 by title only. Seconded by Veatch Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veatch AYE, Icenhower NO

MAYOR READ BILL NO. 25-03 BY TITLE ONLY.

Motion by Roe to approve the first reading of Bill No. 25-03 by title only. Seconded by Veach Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower NO

FIRST READING OF BILL NO. 25-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 405. ZONING REGULATIONS; SECTION 405.320 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING REGULATIONS RELATED TO OUTDOOR STORAGE FACILITIES. (Posted 3/4/2025)

Motion by Roe to have the first reading of Bill No. 25-05 by title only. Seconded by Veach Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE

MAYOR READ BILL NO. 25-05 BY TITLE ONLY.

Motion by Roe to approve the first reading of Bill No. 25-05 by title only. Seconded by Veach Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE BIDS FOR SIDEWALK

Mayor open bids.

Voorhis - One bid by ARC Construction. I'll pass this around but they have given us a bid of \$25,450. That's to install 500' by 5' wide sidewalk along South Orchard Blvd. Includes installation.

Roe – The sidewalk on South Orchard ends at the driveway for the park. The bids on the MoDot grant came in too high and that section was cut off of the bid, so we went out for bids on that to get it to City Hall. The city can do the signs. We are saving \$10,000 doing it this way. He is supposed to do a driveway on the landing side and that's not mentioned in here.

Petty – How much of that original Phase One total was that section?

Roe – That section was going to be \$35,000, that's what we saved. I had the bid written up so it's just the concrete. The City can do the signs. We can have Springfield Striping paint the crosswalk. What I would like to do is talk to Allen about the landing before we make a motion to accept this.

Stewart – Is this the one that's going to be paid for by a grant or something?

Roe – Yes.

Stewart – So we have \$5,000 there that we can still play with?

Roe – Yes. It will probably take \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the signs and the painting of the crosswalk, something like that.

Petty – Do you think the landing is going to increase their bid?

Roe – That's what I would like to talk to him about.

Icenhower – I think the engineers estimate was \$30,000, wasn't it?

Roe – I think it was \$30,000 and Morgan from OWN Engineering told me that the bid from Emery Sapp was \$35,000 and Allen with ARC Construction, they're the ones that did the sidewalk by the school up there.

Icenhower – And they're a local company.

Roe – Yeah, he lives right outside of Fair Grove.

Motion by Petty to table until we get clarification on the landing. Seconded by Veach.
Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE SWITCHING COMPANIES FOR BULLET PROOF VESTS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT (Mayor)

Voorhis – I put this on there. I bring this up. Sgt. Deckard contacted me a while ago. We had ordered vests through First Responders Outfitters when Roy was here for our police officers. They have still not come in. She's been on them, I've been on them. She got in contact with me and asked about switching companies. I asked her to get some quotes and then after digging into more and talking to Mr. Roe and Miss Sara, we actually never approved, because it was supposed to be on a grant. The City of Fair Grove never actually got approved for that grant for our police department. So we had these vests ordered and unfortunately they never came in but lucky they didn't come in because we would have been stuck holding the bill without ever discussing it but we never received that grant money Roy said we were going to receive.

Petty – Do we have documentation that it was actually submitted for?

Voorhis – Not that I am aware of.

Sgt. Deckard – Not to my knowledge.

Voorhis – You guys should have in your packet the May 28th notes where we talked about that. We talked about Federal Government for vests. They were right around \$1,000 not counting \$400. They were right around \$1,400 that we should have got reimbursement for. We never got reimbursement but we never received the vests either. All three of our officers right now currently don't have vests properly fitted for them, correct?

Sgt. Deckard – Correct.

Voorhis – Sgt. Deckard had reached out to Greene County. They use Carthage, right, it's a place in Carthage.

Roe – Carthage Missouri?

Voorhis – Carthage Outfitters, what are they called, Southern Outfitters?

Stewart – Southern Outfitters.

Sgt. Deckard – They are in the same family as First Responders in Springfield but there are two locations ran by different people. The one in Carthage I've heard good things about. I know that's who Greene County goes through. They have someone come in that does all of their fittings and they even offered that once that person comes in if we want to go and get fitted at the same time, that we could.

Voorhis – I got the chance to talk to Mr. Stewart, that is who the City of Springfield uses and he had good things to say about. The big question is, are we prepared to spend for three officers now, by talking with Mr. Roe, we were kind of in a tough situation as this council is looking to hire a new police chief.

Roe – My recommendation to the Mayor was this has gone on for months. This is dated May 28, 2024. We might wait another month, we hope to have a new police chief by then and let the new police chief work with the police department and get this problem resolved.

Stewart – Is the thought that he might change the uniform? Is that the thought process?

Roe – I hope that doesn't happen. It's terrible if every time we get a police chief we change uniforms.

Stewart – I agree.

Roe – But this money hasn't been spent yet is my point.

Stewart – Do you guys have adequate vests to hold you over until then?

Icenhower – The money hasn't been spent but we didn't have it to spend because it was supposed to be a grant.

Voorhis – It was supposed to be a grant reimbursement that we never got.

Sgt. Deckard – I have a vest that's sufficient at this time. Officer Walters has a vest that fits her, Officer Long doesn't have one that fits him adequately.

Petty – Do we still have the Greene County loaners?

Voorhis – No. Sgt. Deckard was able to find some that we're able to get by with. I'm sure Sgt. Deckard can get in contact with Greene County if we need to get some loaners still?

Sgt. Deckard – Yes and that's only if they have something available. A lot of the times, if people leave there, they have the option to buy their vest because they can't really issue those to someone else.

Icenhower – Didn't we buy new vests whenever Enderle was here?

Veatch – I thought so.

Petty – It's the fit.

Voorhis – This is a big topic right and Mark can speak to this. Law enforcements vest are meant for each specific individual. Buying a whole bunch of vests and approving them for people really isn't adequate to do anymore, especially on the liability side and Mark can talk about that as he's been in law enforcement for many years but each vest is supposed to be specific to each officer. For liability reasons to properly protect them if something was to happen, God forbid if that did happen, but they're meant for each individual so yes, we've been getting away with not having properly fit vests for our officers but I would hate for something bad to happen and put the council and the city in jeopardy because we didn't have properly fitted vests.

Veatch – Okay, let's go back to what Richard said. Didn't we buy vests when Enderle was here?

Voorhis – Yes.

Veatch – Okay, do we have any of those here that could work until we got some more?

Voorhis – Those are the ones that we found out...

Veatch – Those are the ones that we're using now?

Sgt. Deckard – I don't know if they're the ones that were bought when Enderle was here but we do have some vests. Most of them are female vests...

Veatch – Yes, they are.

Sgt. Deckard – Officer Long needs something different.

Stewart – Are they expired?

Sgt. Deckard – Not at this time.

Stewart – That's the other thing. Vests have a 5 year shelf life on average. Just to clarify what Tommy was saying, each vest is kind of like a pair of pants, it has to be tailored to each individual, their size, their height, whatever. So if a vest is too big, it doesn't protect you properly. A bullet could still protrude and if it's too small then you have areas exposed. So if you have it sitting too low and a shot goes over the top it could be a heart shot. And when you sit down, you've got your duty belt. See how she's got mags in the front there, if your vest hits that

then it can choke you and makes it uncomfortable to sit so that's why there's a specific tailoring for each officer.

Petty – I think that the thing that helped me the most to understand that was looking at Ben Lord next to Mark Stewart and thinking about how if they swapped vest, how that would look on each other and may not be a good fit if they were to do that.

Veatch – And I was just looking at having something to get by with until we get...

Stewart – I think she said we have something to hold them over until we get a Chief in, so I'm okay with that as long as they have something that keeps the officers safe.

Sgt. Deckard – Even if we did order something as of right now we most likely wouldn't get it with, return time is about 4 to 6 weeks. Hopefully, like you guys said, we'll probably have a Chief in by then to be able to make that decision.

Petty – But you'll reach out to Greene County to see if we can get one for Officer Long?

Sgt. Deckard – Yes. Hopefully they have one.

Voorhis – I was fine with talking to Mark and Dennis about that so we can wait and move forward with that.

**JAMES GILLET TO ADDRESS ALDERMEN REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
(Agenda Request)**

Stewart – While he's doing that, I would like to back up a second and ask, do we need to do something to cancel this order or has that already been done?

Voorhis – No, it's already been canceled.

Sgt. Deckard – Would you like for me to hand those packets out for you?

Gillet – Yes, I would. But first, Ladies and Gentlemen of the galley and Mr. Mayor and Council, this is the 2017 plan and we've all read them. This is for anyone else who wants to read them, here they are. This is the update, the 2024 plan. It contains a lot of data, a lot of specific data in terms of surveys but this one plan is the same size as the 3 of the 2017 plans, so a lot of work. You've seen it, I've read it so there it is. Pass it around to who you want. Now, I'm going to sit down. My name is James Gillet. My address is 11505 North Farm Road 221, just outside of town. I live in the northeast section, I can almost see Webster County from where I live and I can certainly see Dallas County from where I live by the water treatment plant.

Icenhower – Out by the sewer treatment plant.

Gillet – Sergeant, will you pass these out? I'm going to make three observations. Just one to everybody and then what's left, anybody who wants them can get them. True to my word, that's going to keep me on track. Like I said, I'm going to make 3 observations. First I'm going to tell

you what I'm not. I don't want anything, I'm not asking for anything. I'm just a guy who made a career from looking at data, looking at facts and making an observation and conclusions. Something happened recently that caused me to want to look at things and that led me to the 2017 plan and that led me to the 2024 plan. What I want to do is make some personal comparisons about the two. I've lived in a lot of places because of my father's occupation. I've lived in 9 different states, four east of the Mississippi, four west. I've lived in big cities that you've heard of, some you've never heard of. Towns that are on the upswing, towns that are in trouble. Towns that have a future and towns that have the future in their hands. And that last category is where Fair Grove sits. I moved here in 2009. We moved from out of state. We looked around for a long time and settled here because; 1) the school system; 2) because it's small and I like the people. There's a member of this Board that I didn't know was a member of this Board but I came to know him as somebody who is conscientious, astute and humble. He never told me he was on the Board. That's the kind of people who live here and I like being here. We live in a transitional period, everyone lives in a transitional period, our town is in a transitional period. Like I said, our future is in our hands. We don't want to wind up like Strafford, it's a railroad town. We don't want to wind up like Marshfield. Anybody that's gone from 44 to downtown Marshfield knows what that looks like knows we don't want that here. We're the only city within 75 miles, I included Springfield in this, until you get to Branson West, that has the situation that we have because we have the potential to become an economic powerhouse. Nobody around us has the kind of things that we have here. In the 2017 plan, there were 48 total objectives. In the 2024 update they changed the terms, changed the definitions slightly and they subdivided the objectives for 2024. They're similar enough so that we can equate what we are getting and how we are getting it. So instead of calling them objectives or calling them strategies I'm just going to call them action items. It's difficult to see how with 110 strategies you can make any organized sense out of all of this. I had trouble reading the 2024 because it was so detailed. Can you figure it out, yes, but it takes some time and you have only strategies and what you don't see, I didn't see on the city website and I didn't see it in the comprehensive plan, not to say it should be in a comprehensive plan but it should be somewhere, of the 2017 action items, what happened to them? Why were you able to complete only 80%, which is what you said in the 2024 comprehensive plan. Why weren't you able to, for whatever reason, to complete the other 20%. Nobody knows and I think you should know and we should know and it would be very helpful if that is something you could show us that's here are the 48 plans for 2017, here are the ones we accomplished, here are the ones we didn't accomplish and here's why. There could be any number of reasons. The primary reason, and I bet I'm going to get you all to do this with me, budget. It's expensive. The city and the people in the city want things done. Everybody wants services and when you give them the services they want more services. But how are you going to pay for that? I understand that in your position, you're behind the 8-ball, you're getting calls all the time. People don't necessarily tell you what went right, they tell you what went wrong and they want to know why. I get it, but think about this, and this is something I learned. If you can't measure it then you don't understand it. If I can't see how it happened, if you can't see how it happened, you can't make any progress. You can't change it because you don't know where it went wrong. Maybe you do but there is nothing to tell the citizens why it didn't. I read some of Sara's transcripts of the meetings and you need to be congratulated for the things you did right. You don't take credit for the things you did right. Nowhere could I find anything that says here's what we did and you're selling yourselves short. It's not fair to you. There needs to be something that says here's what we've been able to accomplish, here's what we did with your money.

Now maybe that's there but I didn't see it and I think it should be visible for those of us who vote for you.

Roe – May I interject?

Gillet – If you have to, yes.

Roe – It is there. It's in the second meeting of the month, the business meeting. It's in the committee reports. I provide a written report, street and sewer to include sidewalks of what's been completed and I think there may have been a few instances where that report missed getting put on the website but Sara is trying to make sure that the committee reports are on that website.

Gillet – Thank you. Here's an observation on that. On the website there should be a link to get to it. Just say treasurer report or more to the point, which is more what I'm talking about, here's what we did for 2017.

Roe – I'm just on one committee. Everybody here is on a committee and everybody gives a verbal report and it's there. It may get missed but it's there. Not every meeting, just the second one.

Gillet – Not a complaint, just an observation. Now, here's the conundrum that municipalities run into. People want services but you've got to pay for them. Where's the money going to come from? The plan for 2024 talks about, and I realized as I read it, there was a survey and the people who answered the survey was basically younger people. It says they want moderated growth, they want better services and they want to retain the charm of Fair Grove. Grants, and both packages talked about grants. Grants are not going to get it done. How are you going to increase your taxable base? Two basic areas, commerce and home ownership. Not rental properties with absentee landlords and no pride of ownership but subdivisions of some significance, discretionary income who can pay taxes. Now, how do you get those people here. By services themselves and you've got a chicken and egg situation. We want the people to come but they're not going to come unless they have the services. Where do you start, how do you do that? My observation is, and I didn't see but maybe it's there in the plan, I didn't see any of the 110 strategies prioritized. Where are you going to start first and why or why not? What's going to get you the most bang for the buck or if I don't do this, what's going to hurt the most or if I do do this, what's going to help the most? Use that balancing act to set some priorities so that your focus is to increase the taxable base, to bring in the people with the discretionary income, to have a commercial district or a business district. I'm just going to jump to that. I didn't see anywhere in the plan, and I saw the zoning plan, I didn't see any details regarding a commercial district. What about light industry not in the city? Maybe outside of the city limits. In the 2024 it said a couple of things. One thing they are concerned with and I think this is probably more of the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments and not us, they said "not very diverse". So what, with diversity, you get some apartments you're going to get all of the diversity you want and the trouble that comes with it. Others said, we don't want subdivisions with cul-de-sacs, what? Why not? People with discretionary income like cul-de-sacs. Think about developers and what part of town a higher tax base is going to go. I don't know, the plan didn't say anything about that. It probably shouldn't but it was too vague for me to understand on where you're going to build

your tax base. I couldn't tell and again you guys didn't do that, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments did that. I'm going to hand you now, this came out of the 2017 plan, page 11 and what it shows here is a population pyramid and the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments gets credit for misspelling population and also for showing negative numbers and clearly that was not the intent. Now, take a look at that and now take a look at this. This one is a population pyramid and unfortunately, I did not find one in the 2024 plan. I pulled this off of US Census records. Take a look at both of those. Although the numbers have changed, what we see in both pyramids is a shrinking of the pyramids between the ages of 30 and 54. That's remained essentially stagnant. Why is that important? Because that's where your income general population comes from. The people who are getting the income aren't here, they're somewhere else. There's a big base and then it shrinks, so what are we doing or not doing that results in us losing the population base where a majority of the income comes from? Before you say anything about this, I use this to make a point. It talks about poverty. Take a look at the 2017 population page. This is on page 14. In Fair Grove, the ages of the income producers between 18 and 64 is only 8.9%. That's in your plan, that's where I got the data from. That's almost half of the State of Missouri. In 2023, which was not in the 2024 plan, and you can see at the bottom, I gave you the link where I pulled this data from. The population of poverty in Fair Grove is 16% over 65 and under 65 is 11%. That means 1 out of 10 people in Fair Grove live in poverty. That can be balanced out if you have a taxable base. Now I want to bounce back up to the 2023 data which is in the upper right corner. The poverty level is \$25,000 per household. 28% of people who live in Fair Grove make less than \$25,000. The Missouri percentage is less than that. So taxable base, people who are working here, if we can't get it from taxable base, let's talk about light industry. These are the words that were in the Fair Grove 2017 comprehensive plan, it said Fair Grove has a housing shortage, it said that. This data was not in 2024 but if you take a look at the number of units, the units went up. 39% of people in Fair Grove has post high school degrees. We've got to educate a bunch of people here so where are they, what are they doing, what do they need? They might have disposable income. What you have in the 2024 is a bunch of high school students. There's a really good option staring us in the face. It's the Fair Grove historic district downtown. It hasn't changed much in 18 years. Why? Why isn't there a retail center, entertainment center, something other than casual dining experiences. Downtown, we used to have a pizza place and we used to have a hamburger place and now we have two restaurants in direct competition with each other. Why? What if we went to Cox medical and asked if they would be interested in a spot here. I bet they would be. If you take a look at handout number one, you'll see environment and I said something happened that made me want to look at this. That category has to do with floodplains and sewers but it doesn't talk about toxicity. Nothing talking about air quality. We cannot necessarily limit ourselves to what's inside limits. I know you don't have authority outside of the city but if we are going to be an economic powerhouse, we have to think about that. We need to think ahead. We need to think about the next 20 years, the population is going to go up and we decide what we want here. Here's the thing that happened. In the cold of the winter last year I'm sitting in my home and I smelled something so strong that it got my attention. There's a feed lot outside of city limits. I live 5.5 miles outside of the city and we don't have anything out there that smells like that. The issue I put to you is this, what do we do when the realtor comes to sell a house and the perspective buyer asks what is that? What do we do about that? Is it affecting our air or water? I called the County Commissioner Bob Dixon wrote me back. He said it's the Department of Natural Resources. I stopped because they are bound by rules. I don't know what they can do but we need to find out. Is it affecting the air, water, our

children? It's something the city needs to look at, the city attorney needs to look at it. We don't want to be known as the stinky town. My observations are that the comprehensive plans need to contain a supplement that shows the achievements accomplished. Every Alderman needs to write a report on those goals. Number 2, we have a Planning and Zoning Board and it's inadequate if you want to contain control of your future. You need a professional city planner. I don't know how you afford that, maybe you can get a grant. A professional planner has no vested interest on what happens in the city. Responsible directly to the Mayor. Finally, thinking for the future involves understanding land outside of city limits. Those are my 3 observations and a quote made by some non famous guy that happens to be me, if we can't do everything that we want for our city, let's be assured that we have no left a roadblock for those that follow us. I will leave it there. Thank you very much for your time.

Voorhis – James, thank you, sir.

Icenhower- Thank you, Jim.

Voorhis – We greatly appreciate it and this council will take it seriously.

Icenhower – You made some good points Jim, but like you stated, the problem is money. I know some property around town that I'm involved with and we have looked at subdividing but by the time you put the infrastructure, you would have \$30,000 in a lot and you have to be a pretty good salesman to sell a \$30,000 lot.

Petty – I do appreciate and think it's a great idea to be able to speak to our progress of our plan that we say we've adopted as a city and to provide that visibility to the public. As far as here's the way we are working to accomplish the things we said we would over the next 5 years and I know that Dennis talked about how we report out every month on the things we do as a Board but maybe we could put together a end of the year summary that highlights the accomplishments of the Board, the Mayor, the City and things that we've done and changed and improved on. The final thing I wrote down was prioritization of the strategies. We have 110, that's too many to do at once so I think it's worth looking at saying what do we want to focus on year one, year three and year five. What's short term and long term? Pulling all of that together and presenting it to the public so I do appreciate your recommendations for those.

PARK BOARD

Kailey Newbrough – Hello, I'm Kailey, President of the Park Board which is new in December. I took over for Jerra and we are working through it. I'm not going to do a full park board report but just to hit a few things we discussed last night. We have multiple fundraising events, April 5th we are planning one. 4:30 to 6:30 event and then movie at sun down. We will have vendors with a vendor fee of \$50. We are inviting Alderman candidates, schoolboard candidates, and local non-profits to set up booths for the community. We will have concessions open and then the free movie and games. We also hired Tyler Cooke for seasonal support position. He is getting starting. We did vote on purchasing a utility vehicle that will allow the sports setup to go a little smoother for Brittany and her assistant Keeley. That is a \$3,000 price limit, gas powered and we plan to have somebody go with her to look at mechanics but she does plan to buy used off of marketplace. So the whole point of this is we need a blank check or a check order to where we

can purchase it and deposit the rest. We don't know the final amount yet and we don't know the name of the person we will be purchasing from so I don't know how we would do that.

Stewart – Here's an idea that Sara and I discussed. Is it possible for you guys to find a vehicle, you decide it's the one, tell us this is the amount it's going to be and it's going to Bob Smith, tell Sara, Sara writes the check and we sign it. Does that work? Is that fast enough as long as it's there the next day?

Newbrough – Because of the last thing that happened, not giving y'all enough time, there's this good deal, we need two signatures and now we can't get it because it's a time crunch for everybody.

Petty – We can make a motion to approve up to a certain amount and then authorize...

Icenhower – I'll voice my opinion, I'm not going to sign a blank check. In my opinion, what you need to do is if you find something, talk them into holding it, come to Sara, it's not our money to spend. It's the park board, it's your money. Bring a request to Sara and then she can write the check and get it signed. She should be able to get that done in a day without a problem.

Stewart – Sara told me she could get it done pretty quick if it wasn't in the mix of all of the other stuff. So she could get it pushed to the front and get it done pretty quick is what Sara was saying.

Veatch – When we bought the tractor and so on for the city, it wasn't a blank check, we approved up to a certain amount.

Icenhower – Of course that was the city's money but this is the park board's money.

Veatch – True but I'm using that as an example.

Icenhower – Like I said, I don't have a problem with you buying it at all but I'm not going to sign a blank check. That would be poor business as far as I'm concerned.

Voorhis – When it comes to buying stuff, to get a check signed is fairly easy with the check signers we've got here. As long as it's during business hours there's usually somebody that can come here and sign checks. I mean within hours of Sara being notified, it's the park boards money. As long as Sara is here to do it.

Davis – Kim already wrote the payment voucher out so I have it in my office. I just need a name and an amount.

Tim Cooke – We're going through marketplace for the sake of saving money on buying new. If we're buying from a dealership, we can go any time we want to. We're looking on marketplace because there are cheaper options. When you're buying on marketplace they don't always take checks so is there an option to where we can have cash to go make this deal?

Voorhis – My personal opinion, we're a city government, a city check. If you can't tell them that it's for the park board as part of the City of Fair Grove and they won't take it then that would raise red flags for myself because is the city going to have two check signers sign a check over to, you can't say the funds aren't there, we're a government organization. That's my own personal opinion. It may not be the opinion of the council.

Icenhower – I agree.

Cooke – If we found a vehicle, let's say Monday at 9:00 and they won't hold it, we would have means to, by the end of that day, have that check in hand and go make the purchase the same day?

Davis – If you called me at 9:00 in the morning and said hey, here's the name and the amount, you'll have the check by noon.

Voorhis – I think there's been a little bit of miscommunication when I told the park board members that they need to come address council. The money is the park board money. What you need to address the council for is if you are asking the city to take on funding. That's something that the council would have to approve.

Newbrough – I was just told that we needed two signatures so I wanted to make sure it fit into everyone's schedule.

Voorhis – There are two people around here. As long as Sara knows, we can get two people here to sign a check in a reasonable amount of time.

Newbrough – Perfect. Thank you.

Roe – It's simpler than I think you expected with the exception of not having the cash up front. That's not good business.

Cooke – I was asked about that and I was just relaying for confirmation.

Icenhower – Have y'all got anything done with your master plan?

Newbrough – I got word of that today so no, we haven't.

Stewart – Kailey and I touched base on that today.

Icenhower – Oh, okay.

Stewart – We're starting on that.

Roe – One hiccup on the master plan. Andy did that when he was working for OWN. Andy may tell you that you've got to get it from Morgan. Morgan has taken over a lot of Andy's work. I didn't think of that when we first talked, Mark.

Stewart – We'll figure it out.

Mayor Report

Voorhis – The only thing I have to touch on is I went and I got to visit with the Park Board last night. I'll address it to this council and with the people here. I addressed it to the Park Board last night. There's been some rumors that the Mayor does not support the Park Board and I want to handle that up front. When I receive emails from members from either the park board or this council, not saying it's happened with this council, but when I receive emails for the city to go for a loan of over \$1 million dollars without a financial plan to pay for that and explain it, I cannot back that and I can reasonably say that this council would not back that would be my opinion. I explained to the Park Board president and them many times, the park board members, this council is not against them, I am not against them but they need to have a reasonable plan when wanting to go for over \$1 million dollar loan. They can't just say the park board wants \$1 million dollar loan in an email and think that the Mayor is going to say yes, we're going to agree to it. They have to come up with a drafted plan on how it's going to be paid back and I got to talk with Mr. Dennis, it's not just paying of a building loan. It's the insurance, how are we going to pay to staff it, is it going to be open? What is the whole plan entirely? I fully believe this council will support building a recreational center for the city of Fair Grove, for the community of Fair Grove. We know it's a need and I am in support of that. I felt that I made that clear last night Miss Kailey but I want to address that here because there has been talk that I do not support them and that is not the case. I just can't get behind saying I agree to \$1 million dollar loan. There has to be a reasonable plan on how to pay for it.

Veatch – It's called a business plan and there has to be a timeline on when that loan would be paid back.

Stewart – It wasn't the park that reached out. It's all been blown out. It's fine. We've got a plan. I think we just need to move on. We've got it figured out.

Voorhis – After that, I got to talk to the park board. I got to hear about great things so proud of the park board for where they came and their financial responsibilities. They've done a great job and that is all I've got.

Adjournment

Motion by Veatch to adjourn at 7:44 Seconded by Icenhower
Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Veatch AYE, Icenhower AYE

Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.


Sara Davis, City Clerk