



MAYOR

George B McGill

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Carl E Geffken

CITY CLERK

Sherri Gard

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ward 1 - Jarred Rego

Ward 2 - Andre' Good

Ward 3 - Lavon Morton

Ward 4 - George Catsavis

At-Large Position 5 - Christina Catsavis

At-Large Position 6 - Kevin Settle

At-Large Position 7 - Neal Martin

AGENDA ~ SUMMARY

Fort Smith Board of Directors

STUDY SESSION

May 9, 2023 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Blue Lion

101 North 2nd Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas

THIS MEETING IS BEING TELECAST LIVE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://video.ibm.com/channel/XqbsvFPFApS>

CALL TO ORDER

- All physically present
- Mayor George McGill presiding

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding next steps toward a potential indoor multi-purpose sports facility project (*Convention & Visitors Bureau*)
Update from Bill Kruger, Principle of Convention, Sports & Leisure International, LLC (CSL). The Board conveyed no objection and expressed interest for a sports facility in Fort Smith; however, funding was a great point of concern. Due to such, it was encouraged that CSL garner interest from other facility operators and update the Board accordingly.
2. Report of Convention Center 2022 accomplishments (*Convention Center*)
Presentation only by Convention Center Manager Randy Johnson. The Board concurred and encouraged increased local marketing of events.
3. Discuss moving customer service from the Water Utilities Department to the Finance Department ~ *G.Catsavis/Martin placed on a future study session agenda at the January 17, 2023 regular meeting ~ (Water Utilities)*
The Board extended no determination; however, it was recommended that staff performing finance functions be under the Finance Department, which was recommended by the Audit Advisory Committee. It was further acknowledged that additional staff is likely needed in both departments. Regardless, due to numerous resident complaints of long waits and no return phone calls, it was noted that research indicates two (2) additional staff are needed specifically in the Call Center (increase from present 6 personnel to 8) whereby the Board conveyed no objection to such.

4. Presentation of water meter reading process ~ *G.Catsavis/Martin placed on a future study session at the January 17, 2023 regular meeting ~ (Water Utilities)*
Due to the late hour, the Board concurred to defer this item to a future study session.
5. Review Sustainability/Green Energy efforts and an Energy Master Plan ~ *Requested at the December 1, 2022 Town Hall Meeting ~ (City Administrator)*
Presentation by Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and various energy-related representatives. The Board extended no determination other than acknowledgement that the first step is to increase energy efficiency at all City-owned facilities, and in order to ensure the City's opportunity to receive incentives, a feasibility study should be initiated prior to September 2024.
6. Review parking issues on Fairway Hamlet Court ~ *Rego/G.Catsavis placed on future study session agenda at the November 1, 2022 regular meeting / Deferred from January 24, 2023 study session, canceled due to inclement weather ~ (City Administrator)*
Due to the late hour, the Board concurred to defer this item to a future study session.
7. Review preliminary agenda for the May 16, 2023 regular meeting (*City Clerk*)

CITIZENS FORUM

- Rod Blake
- Sarah Ligon
- Phillip and Rosilee Russell

OTHER

Director Morton

1. Morton/Settle requested a joint meeting with the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority (FCRA)
2. Reminded all that the *9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit* provided by the Tunnel of Towers Foundation will be on display at the Northwest Arkansas Mall from May 18 -21, 2023.

Director Settle

Reminded the Board that the Town Hall meeting was recently repealed and the Citizens Forum reinstated. Such was accomplished to prevent residents desiring to address the Board from having to wait until after a meeting to do so. He noted the late hour citing the aforementioned defeated the purpose this evening; therefore, he urged the Board to consider adjustment or relocation of the Citizen Forum for future meetings.

ADJOURN

9:12 p.m.