City committee hears several topics / makes recommendations to full city council
News
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Topics included a grant for a farmer's market structure; financial pledges for the transportable bleachers; creation of an ordinance protecting protesters and the public; a development company seeking tax credits for a proposed housing project renovation; two new businesses; and requests for information from prospective businesses.
Economic Developer Ralph Boots reported U-S Department of Agriculture has approved a 30 thousand dollar grant to the city. Funds are designated for a pavilion to accommodate farmer's market vendors. The target site is in the city parking lot on Washington. Boots said the first phase of the project involves an open structure that's 36 feet wide and 40 feet long. It is not known how much money the city will need to match the grant and / or in-kind services by city workers.

The Trenton Downtown Improvement Association has committed 15-hundred dollars to the project. A ceremony and check presentation will be at a later date with U-S-D-A Rural Development officials.

On a somewhat related note, the long-time American Legion building downtown is to be torn down because of safety reasons. It is unknown whether enough money will be available from the C-D-B-G demolition grant, but the structure will be demolished.

Boots quoted Councilman Jacob Black as recommending a park be established there as a tribute to veterans. It also would allow a
clear view of the Farmer's Market pavilion from five points. A committee is to formed to gather input from the community and begin fund-raising for development of the so-called Veteran's park downtown.

On the subject of transportable bleachers obtained by the city for use at the fairgrounds and other sites in Trenton, Boots said the committee reviewed pledge agreements with the Trenton R-9 school district and Trenton Lions Club. MoDOT reimbursement on the Highway 65 access road project south of Trenton has been re-directed toward July's purchase of the five bleacher units.

Now, Trenton R-9 has pledged a lump sum payment of TEN thousand dollars to use three units at home, softball and football games and one unit at track and field events. Each covers specific three month periods. A 20 year lease, with stipulations, has been proposed involving the school district. The committee recommends that IF the city abandons or decides to sell the transportable bleachers, that Trenton R-9 gets to own one unit (for their ten thousand dollar donation) and the option to buy two other bleachers.

The Lions Club has pledged a total of 75 hundred dollars toward those bleachers at the rate of 15-hundred dollars in each of five years. That agreement includes a 99 year renewable lease for the Lions to operate their concession stand at the fairgrounds AND for other community events there.

Boots noted the Lions support the community through scholarships, collection of eye glasses, and helping other local organizations. Now the Lions Club is offering TEN percent of its net revenues to sponsors of events using the fairgrounds while they're operating the concession stand. They also pledge to continue picking up trash at the site; offer an affordable menu; and to have enough manpower to operate the concession stand. Both agreements are to be referred to the Trenton city council meeting
next Monday night. Boots did not have paperwork yesterday on what amount North Central Missouri
Fair Board may contribute toward the portable bleachers.

Boots told the economic development committee that a developer plans to seek Missouri Housing Development Commission low income tax credits to renovate 20 residential units at the Village East apartments on Cherry Lane. He described it as a 740 thousand dollar proposal from a company called A-M-B L-L-C. Boots said the company wants a letter of support from the city.

Boots said discussion involved having the city attorney develop a local ordinance establishing certain guidelines to protect any protestors and the public at Trenton events in which large crowds are anticipated. He indicated the councils' administrative committee is expected to review the document.

Boots reported two empty buildings are, or will be, occupied. Rick White of Utah has opened a motorcycle / A-T-V repair and parts business in the former Barnes-Baker location on East 10th Street. It is called White's Power Sports. Boots said the former Popcorn World building on Princeton Road has been purchased by Richard Etter to warehouse agriculture seeds and chemicals under the business name of Broker Direct.

As economic developer, Boots said he responds to requests for information often telling the prospects that Trenton is not able to meet their needs and specifications. He estimated 15 requests have been made so far this year; with ONE having the possible potential to locate in Trenton. Some of the specifics requested by business and / or industrial prospects that Trenton does not have--include an existing 80 thousand to 150 thousand square foot building. The largest available building at Trenton, Boots said, has 28 thousand square feet. Prospects seeking information about Trenton also
want to locate within ten miles of an Interstate highway; have a navigable river; 60 to 120 thousand square feet in a hangar at the airport; and some have gas, sewer, and electrical needs that exceed Trenton's capacity. Boots told the committee that various requests for information help to occupy his time as the city's economic development director.

Economic development committee members are Jacob Black, Chuck Elliott, Beth Mack, and Ed Spencer. Other councilmen present were Jim Bush, Kenneth Ewing, and Mark Robinson (Others attending were Kerry Sampson, Cindy Simpson, Debbie Carman, and Chasidy Boman).