



APPROVED: December 7, 2011,
by the Albany City Council

TRANSIENT ROOM TAX TASK FORCE
City Hall
Willamette Room
Monday, February 23, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Task Force Members in Attendance: Mayor Sharon Konopa, Randy Porter, Ralph Reid, Jr., Oscar Hult, Jimmie Lucht, Wes Hare (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)

Task Force Members Absent: Steve Terjeson (excused)

Staff: Stewart Taylor, Finance Director; Jim Delapoer, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Oscar Hult made a motion to approve the February 7, 2011, minutes; Ralph Reid seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Finalizing Policy Statement

Mayor Sharon Konopa said that the final policy will be presented to the City Council at its March 7 work session. She said that she will provide background to the Council as well as explaining the policy. She said that there were a few changes made to the policy and they are in red lettering in the document.

Konopa said that there were some comments about adding more members to this committee who are receiving funding. She said that we would need to add a CARA member, a Veterans Day Parade member, an Albany-Millersburg Economic Development Corporation member. She said that we will end up with a very large group and suggested we don't do this. Jimmie Lucht said that the public will always be welcome to make comments to the new committee. Reid said that he would like the meetings to take place every six months for the first one or two years and then annually or more often as needed. He said that he is trying to cut down on the number of meetings that everyone needs to go to. Randy Porter said that he is willing to meet once or twice a year. Konopa said that she thinks that the meetings are needed every six months. Lucht said that changes could be made later after seeing how the meetings are going. Hult said that if one of the other agencies wanted to bring something to the table a year is a long time to wait. Konopa said that this group will be meeting to look at the overall funding that will be coming through. She said that it is important that everyone is up-to-date regarding revenue. Stewart Taylor said that he thinks it is appropriate to meet every six months to review the policy and recommend changes.

Jim said that he is in agreement with Taylor's interpretation of the state law. He said that part of the problem is trying to interpret what it means to be a tourism-related activity. He said that it is easier for him to defend the City if the policy is broad.

Taylor said that Ed Hodney wanted the Task Force to look at #5 and #2 and take out the word "or." Lucht thought it would make more sense to take out the "and" instead. The group agreed to take out the word "and."

Reid had questions about Section 5, #6. He asked if the group wants to restore the reserve account first. Konopa said that the thought was to keep the existing programs whole. Lucht suggested taking out the word "increased".

Konopa said that we have the numbers that will be included in the budget. She said that this is the policy that will aid in allocating the dollars. Hult said that if you look at all of the guidelines it makes sense. Taylor said that the policy states that the accounts will grow by three percent and then the reserve account will be made whole and then the new entities will have the remaining dollars allocated to them equally. Reid said that in six months this group could raise or lower allocations for new programs. A motion was made by Hult to approve the policy as written. Lucht seconded the motion; approved 6-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE TASK FORCE

Hare said that he has talked to Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker to arrange a meeting with the Linn County Board of Commissioners. He said that he is waiting to hear back from them. Pascone asked if it is typical for fairgrounds to be subsidized by the County. Porter said that it is very common. Lucht said that Albany was the chosen site for the Linn County Fairgrounds because of the location. Lucht asked if there is a lodging tax collected through county parks. Porter said that the state charges a one percent tax. Hare said that it would be good to talk with the commissioners about this.

NEXT MEETING DATE: None; task force disbanded.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,



Stewart Taylor
Finance Director