CITY OF CAMERON
MINUTES
June 22, 2020

SPECIAL 'COLLABORATIVE' SESSION

Dennis M. Clark	P
Darlene Breckenridge	A
Becky Curtis	P
Julie Ausmus	P
Roy Estes	P

The City Council of the City of Cameron, Missouri met in Special 'Collaborative' Session on Monday, the 22nd day of June 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cameron United Methodist Church. Mayor Dennis M. Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Dennis M. Clark presided with the following Councilmembers present: Becky Curtis, Julie Ausmus and Roy Estes. Absent: Darlene Breckenridge.

Also present for the collaborative session were:
School District: Jackie Peck, Matt Robinson, Ann Clark, Dan Kercher and Mary Tyrrell.
Chamber/EDOC: Mike O'Donnell, Josh Strong, Mark Baker (sitting in for Joe Abrutz), Kent Osborn, Mark Garges, Tony Clark and Terry Rumery (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)
Park Board: Al Briggs, Jason Jones, Matt Arndt, Richard Whalen and Jennifer Helmich.

Present from City Staff were Assistant City Manager Zac Johnson, Finance Director Weigand, Public Works Director Bontrager, Community Development Director Wymes, City Inspector Beckwith and City Clerk Shellie J. Blades.

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Dennis M. Clark thanked everyone who was in attendance. Mayor Clark asked everyone, "Do you want to be a destination community?" and, "Do we want to collaborate?" Mayor Clark stated that the City Council is seeking direction and looking for actionable projects to be considered as goals and to take into account for the budgeting process. Mayor Clark went on to describe what characteristics make a destination city and gave examples of possible collaborative-type projects. The stakeholders in attendance at the meeting were asked to submit potential projects to the City Manager/City Staff within the next week or two in order to be considered as a goal and for deliberation in the budgeting process.

DISCUSSION

School Board Member Dan Kercher stated he was excited about partnering with the City especially for a potential pothole project around the schools. Is interested in making Cameron a destination city.

Mark Garges with EDOC said his organization sees the value in working together and they are onboard with partnering on projects.

Mark Baker stated that Cameron Regional Medical Center is very interested in a flag pole project in the new proposed park ground. They envision a large American flag that can be seen from the Interstate which would be a memorable visual attraction, help draw visitors to our community and be a memorial to support our local veterans.

Tony Clark with the Chamber of Commerce/EDOC relayed that the Chamber of Commerce is very interested in collaboration.

Jason Jones with the Park Board advised that the Park Board has collaborated with the School District on many projects in the past and are interested in participating in more of these types of projects in the future.

Councilmember Ausmus agreed that she also would like Cameron to become a destination city and draw visitors to the community.

Councilmember Curtis also gave her support to collaborative projects.

Councilmember Estes loved the idea of collaboration and stated it is easier to make things happen together. Cameron is a great place in the region and we would like to have more cool things to attract tourism.

Mike O'Donnell with EDOC explained with the increase in sales tax revenue last month, we have seen what is possible. People do and will shop in Cameron. We can't control what businesses do but we know and can support that our businesses are able to take care of its citizens. Being a destination city comes down to quality of life. This can be single events and festivals and it can also be the daily living conditions of our citizens. As a community we need to work on tourism and we are currently doing so with our pursuit of a hotel/motel tax. We need to do better at attracting tourism than we have done in the past.

Kent Osborn with EDOC stated his organizations mission is to bring industry and jobs to the community. Quality of life is always an issue when attracting new business prospects to the area, specifically housing, recreation and schools.

Terry Rumery with EDOC relayed that Cameron has a real opportunity to be a destination city for both living and tourism. Development of the Business Park is crucial for furthering this agenda.

Ann Clark with the School District advised that her experience is that teachers come to Cameron and many stay and raise their families here. Others want to stay but they don't. She feels that adding amenities and making the City more attractive would cause more teachers to move here and stay long term.

Jackie Peck with the School District stated she supports collaboration and said that the community's passage of the Park sales tax and School bonds is evidence that the people here want change.

Matt Arndt with the Park Board expressed that it is also important to make improvements to the City that benefit the citizens and families already living here. If we make our constituents happy then the community will expand naturally.

Mayor Clark stated that what is a destination for one person is not a destination for another. We need to get creative. He would like us to create collaborative projects as a 12-24 month experiment and see what the results show us. Requested that stakeholders send their ideas for projects to the City Manager or drop their suggestions by City Hall within the next week or so.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gina Reed, 324 E. Fifth: Expressed her appreciation for the Police Department. Stated she is skeptical about the idea of a destination city and would rather we fix what is already here. Detailed a list of items she would like the City to address:

1. Buy local
2. Quit waiting for 'big business' to save us
3. Learn to be happy & satisfied
4. Learn one new thing each day, one new skill each year
5. Spend 10 hours per week volunteering
6. Stop the 'gotcha' code enforcement
7. Stop harassing businesses with code enforcement
8. Decide what is historic and save it
9. There are serious problems with some buildings on Third Street – pay an engineer to review the structures
10. Recruit new/youth businesses
11. Provided Community Developer Wymes a list of needed businesses the community could support

There being no further business on motion made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. on voice vote. Councilmember Breckenridge absent.

APPROVED:

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Mayor Dennis M. Clark

ATTEST:

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City Clerk