



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND /PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 14, 2007**

The Community Development/Public Works Committee of the Merriam City Council met on Monday, May 14, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmembers present included: Chair Gayle Stephens, Councilmember John Crabtree, Councilmember Christine Evans Hands and Councilmember Chad Rowe (via telephone linkup). Staff present included: Quinn Bennion, City Administrator; Scott Crain, City Engineer; Susan Hayden, Director of Parks and Recreation; Randy Carroll, Public Works Director; Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director; Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager; and Judy Devere, Recording Secretary.

Public Items

Chair Stephens referred to Charter Ordinance 15 and requested that members of the Visitors Commission be invited to attend the Community Development/Public Works Committee meeting next month and provide their input for the budget process and place on the agenda.

Chair Stephens commended Judy Devere for administering the Franchise Fee Rebate Program for 2006 noting that there were 75 participants.

Kerry Zarda, 10103 W. 55th Street, referred to residential light pollution and requested an ordinance regarding this. He stated he has an ongoing problem with light pollution at his residence and has researched neighboring cities' ordinances on residential as well as commercial light pollution. Quinn Bennion, City Administrator, commented that currently there is not an ordinance regarding residential light pollution and had discussed this with Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director, and Councilmember Crabtree. He said that a text amendment change would be most appropriately initiated by either the City Council or the Planning Commission. Mr. Bennion said the item is on the agenda for the council meeting next Monday for a text amendment request for change under Councilmember Crabtree's name and recommend it go to the Planning Commission for a text amendment change and then come back to the City Council for consideration.

- 1. Consider acceptance of the Merriam Aquatic Center Buffer Feature – Phase I (expanded pool deck) project and authorize final payment.**

Scott Crain, City Engineer, provided the background for this item stating that this project provided an expansion of the existing pool deck through the installation of a new raised deck behind the diving boards with landscape walls constructed to provide planting beds to tie this project to the Phase III project. He said in February 2007, the City entered into a contract with D.E.C./Decksapes to provide the physical improvements and is completed.

Mr. Crain that Change Order # 1 in the amount of \$2,800.00 related to a variety of underground utilities that were discovered during construction that created additional work for the contractor to hand dig approximately 68 holes for concrete piers to support the structure.

COUNCILMEMBER CRABTREE MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE MERRIAM AQUATIC CENTER BUFFER FEATURE – PHASE I (EXPANDED POOL DECK) PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE FINAL PAYMENT AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Consider acceptance of the Merriam Aquatic Center Buffer Feature – Phase II (fence upgrades) project and authorize final payment.

Scott Crain, City Engineer, stated that the Phase II contract for the Merriam Aquatic Center Buffer Feature involves replacement of the chain link fence surrounding the perimeter of the pool with a black powder-coated fence. He said in February 2007, the City entered into a contract with Tom Burge Fence and Iron to provide the physical improvements and the project is substantially complete.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE MERRIAM AQUATIC CENTER BUFFER FEATURE – PHASE II (FENCE UPGRADES) PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE FINAL PAYMENT AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Consider acceptance of the Farley Street and Drainage Improvements Project.

Scott Crain, City Engineer, provided the background for this item stating that in December 2006, the City entered into a contract with Miller Paving Inc. and the Notice to Proceed was issued effective January 16, 2007. He said construction was substantially complete on March 12, 2007, a few days past the original contract time.

Mr. Crain stated that the contractor and city staff are working toward an agreement on the final items and their quantities for pay associated with this project. He said that the warranty period for the physical improvements is tied to the acceptance of the project by City Council and staff believes it is appropriate to begin the warranty period now by accepting the project and following up with Council at a later date regarding authorization for final payment.

COUNCILMEMBER CRABTREE MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE FARLEY STREET AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

4. CIP Monthly Update.

Scott Crain, City Engineer, said that the Lowell Street project is going very well, they have pavement down and started driveways last week. He said the contractor is hoping to get sod placed this month so they don't have to wait until September.

Mr. Crain stated that the 67th Street project is starting and the city has received the latest version of an agreement with the railroad for the widening of the 67th Street crossing. He anticipates bringing it through Committee and City Council in June. Mr. Crain said surface was laid on the realigned Frontage Road from the round-a-bout to 67th Street.

Councilmember Rowe complimented Mr. Crain for coming in under budget on three of the projects and asked what fund the excess dollars would go into. Mr. Bennion replied that the funds would stay within the CIP fund to help with any updated costs that may be higher for other upcoming projects. Mr. Crain added updated costs have been received for the 61st Street project which is part of the Residential Street Group I as well as the other portion of the Residential Street Group I project and both projects have increased in costs.

5. Consider approval of recommendation of Vavra Park Improvements (tennis courts).

Susan Hayden, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the background for this item stating that in December 2006 at the Community Development/Public Works Committee meeting, staff presented a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to replace three existing Vavra Park tennis courts with one full court and two half-court basketball courts. She said the advisory board felt that there are ample tennis courts in the area and basketball courts could be more highly utilized by the public. Ms. Hayden said the CD/PW Committee requested additional research information and continued the discussion to the January 2007 meeting. The recommendation by the advisory board was unanimously approved at the January CD/PW meeting.

Ms. Hayden said that at the March CD/PW meeting committee members requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reconsider the recommendation to eliminate the tennis courts and the item was placed on the agenda for the April 24 advisory board meeting.

In early April, Ms. Hayden said that staff solicited public comments regarding basketball or tennis court options and mailed requests for comments to neighbors living east of Vavra Park from Slater to Antioch. She said a total of ten responses

were received with six respondents indicating they preferred two tennis courts, four indicated they wanted at least one tennis court but could live with a combination of one tennis and one basketball court. She added that there were no respondents indicating they wanted two basketball courts.

Ms. Hayden said a poll was conducted with area park and recreation directors concerning their experience with combined tennis and basketball facilities. She said they replied this is not commonly done because there are two different types of atmospheres required. She said it was done in two communities fairly successfully with no problems so there is some precedent in the area.

Ms. Hayden said at the April Park and Recreation Advisory meeting, staff presented background information regarding national community standards for tennis and basketball facilities, and a survey of area public, school and private outdoor tennis and basketball facilities using the community center as the starting point for distance calculations. She said staff gave the board three options to consider:

1. Stay with previous recommendation, eliminate tennis courts and install one full-court and two half-court basketball courts
2. Keep two tennis courts and build a basketball court in another location at a later date. Two tennis courts are necessary to be able to program tennis lessons and tournaments.
3. Have a combined facility of one tennis and one basketball court, side-by-side.

Ms. Hayden said the board took the discussion very seriously and recommended to retain and upgrade Vavra Park with two tennis courts, adding lighting as soon as possible and research another park site to install an outdoor basketball court in the future. She said staff requests board consensus on the recommendation and get authorization to move forward because the Aquatic Center will be occupied in a couple of weeks and the park is in need of the improvements. There was discussion of possible locations for future basketball courts.

Tim Burnett, property owner of 7915 W. 60th Street, addressed the committee and strongly encouraged them to improve Vavra Park by resurfacing and upgrading the existing tennis courts and look for another location in the city for basketball courts. Mr. Burnett referred to his comments that were included in the packet.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED TO RETAIN AND UPGRADE VAVRA PARK WITH TWO TENNIS COURTS, ADD LIGHTING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESEARCH ANOTHER PARK SITE TO INSTALL AN OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT IN THE FUTURE. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6. Discussion regarding damage to Streamway trail at Waterfall Park.

Councilmember Rowe referred to the damages on the Streamway Trail stating it is damaged in three different spots and appears to be by Merriam Drainage District equipment. He requested that communication be put into motion for the Drainage District to put down plywood or whatever is required to prevent the damage caused by the equipment and damages be repaired by the Drainage District.

Mr. Bennion commented that he discussed this with Randy Carroll, Public Works Director, and Mr. Carroll had visited with Merriam Drainage District Superintendent regarding (1) notification provided as a courtesy, (2) damages to the trail and (3) continued concern of Merriam Drainage District coordinating work with the Corp of Engineers. Mr. Bennion said that Mr. Carroll would be contacting the Merriam Drainage District Superintendent soon regarding these concerns. Chair Stephens suggested that staff invite the members of the Merriam Drainage District to the next CD/PW meeting.

7. Discussion regarding resident request for “No Parking” sign on north side of street near 49th & Knox (E. of Knox).

Councilmember Rowe said he was contacted by a resident regarding the feasibility of placing a “No Parking” sign on the north side of the street near 49th Street & Knox (E. of Knox). Mr. Bennion replied typically parking signs go through the Police Department and Finance Committee and with the Chair’s permission would move this item to the Finance Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Devere, Recording Secretary