

Liberty Tourism and Convention Commission Meeting

Special Called 7/1/24

5:00 PM City Hall

Those present: Lionel Long, Laura Hebrock, Meagan Klee, TJ Rayhill, Director Heather Cundiff, Guest Allen Sparr, and Officer Kerry Patton. Not present, Charlie Vanleuven, for the Casey County news, Director Cundiff recorded the meeting in Charlie's absence.

Acting Chairman Meagan Klee called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

Klee called for new business, Zartico renewal. Director Cundiff explained that the contract for Zartico visitor research was quickly approaching and they would need to decide whether or not to renew the \$25,000 contract or not. She explained that the initial investment had been paid with ARPA grant funding, and they were thankful to be able to do something so large and learn what they could while they could but that renewing may not be within their budget.

Lionel Long made a motion not to renew the contract, and Laura Hebrock seconded. Motion passed.

Klee called for old business, FY 25 Budget estimate, 2nd reading.

Cundiff presented an adjustment to the budget for line item administration- Grants and donations, amending from the grant allocation from \$165,000 to \$101,158.74, a reduction of \$63,841.26. This was presented for two reasons. Her first budget presentation was over budget by \$63,841.26 and needed an adjustment by that amount. A further suggestion was to no longer allocate an annual 20% directly to the city for legal reasons.

Liberty's auditor responded via email to Tourism's question about how other commissions handle these large allocations to other entities. Liberty Tourism's auditor, Heather Cochran, CPA, stated that while she handles other tourisms, she has never seen anyone transfer money to the city or county in this manner. Furthermore, she encouraged the board speak to an attorney if they plan to continue in this manner. She mentioned other tourisms spend their funding on: marketing, festivals, administration, parks, and various events.

The City's FY 24 contract for spending categories report was also presented to aid in the discussion of this line item budget cut, no one brought up major concerns for the City's FY 24 spending that tourism had agreed to reimburse per their 2024 budget. Although this was presented as information, should the board choose to proceed in this manor for FY25, it was clarified that FY 24 budget was already passed and this agreed past payment was still going to be paid.

After some discussion about the legality and lack of accountability from the board when providing funds in this manor, TJ Rayhill moved to amend the FY25 budget and remove the lump sum payment to the City of Liberty. Lionel Long seconded. The vote was unanimous, and a motion was carried to remove the lump sum payment and amend the FY25 budget.

Lionel Long made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss contract negotiation in regard to the budget, KRS 61.810 (e). Tj Rayhill Seconded.

Lionel Long made a motion to exit the executive session, and Laura Hebrock seconded.

No further decision was made, motion stands. The next regular meeting is Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 5 PM City Hall.