

The North Little Rock Airport Commission Meeting was held at noon on Thursday, September 17, 2020 in the NLR City Council Chambers.

The roll being called, the following Commissioners attended: Mark Bentley, Jim Julian, Brad Hughes, Will Gruber. Don Blakey showed up after roll call. Mr. Hughes moves to approve the absence of Adrienne Smith, Mr. Bentley seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Also Present: Clay Rogers, Marie Miller- City Attorney's Office, Jordan Culver- Garver

Minutes

Mr. Hughes moves to approve the August meeting minutes, Ms. Bentley seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

Financial Report

Mr. Rogers goes over the financial reports for August. He says the finances are in good shape, and things are coming in as expected. He says fuel sales are still down a little, but that it's bouncing back. Mr. Hughes moves to approve the financial statement, Ms. Bentley seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Old Business

Wildlife Maintenance- Mr. Rogers updates the commission on wildlife maintenance efforts. Rogers says he was able to work with the finance department on a way to keep Wes Honeycutt in charge of our wildlife management.

Terminal Expansion- Mr. Rogers updates the commission on the project, and that he hopes by the October meeting he'll have some design plans to show the commission.

EAA Donation Request- Mr. Julian reminds the commission that Jerry Homsley on behalf of the EAA requested a donation from the airport to their organization to make some improvements to their hangar, or an abatement of lease payments to the airport because of the works the EAA does to the benefit of the airport and aviation in general. Mr. Julian asks Marie Miller to give her opinion from the city attorney's office on the legal questions about this request. Ms. Miller talks about the guidelines the city of North Little Rock looks at when considering making donations from city funds to non-profit organizations, and what the goals and purposes are for those donations, and for the entities who receive city funds. Ms. Miller says the Arkansas statute that allows for city funds to be given to a non-profit does not allow for those funds to be used for any type of structure or renovations, and has to be used for programs that provide a need to the community, or providing opportunities to the underserved. The organizations that the city does make charitable donations to fill those needs and meet those requirements. Ms. Miller says the City Attorney agrees that this situation does not meet those requirements. There is discussion with the commission on other possibilities. Mr. Julian says if the commission wants to do something, that

the EAA would need to make a solid proposal to the commission laying out their plans and how that money would be used. Mr. Gruber asks if the city attorney's office would give an opinion one way or the other on a specific plan requested by the EAA. Ms. Miller says that her office would be able to give an opinion on any specific proposal. Jerry Homsley is in attendance on behalf of the EAA. Mr. Homsley says that since the money contribution seems unlikely, he would like to re-request what that had originally asked at the beginning of these discussions which is to request a lease change to a yearly amount of \$1.00 per year because of the works that the EAA does for the airport. Mr. Gruber asks Ms. Miller if the same legal parameters would apply in this scenario. Ms. Miller says she believes that a rent abatement would be similar to a monetary donation in terms of what would be required from the EAA in exchange for that consideration. Mr. Homsley says the EAA is an aviation organization and not a outreach service organization whose mission is to do that type of work. Their organization is focused on aviation and that is what the EAA deals with, just aviation. Mr. Rogers talks about some other non-profit aviation groups that exist that would maybe make similar requests if this is passed. Ms. Miller says that when the city is considering donations to non-profits, they want those organizations to be service oriented geared towards those who are underserved. Mr. Homsley says that his point is this is not the city considering the request, it's the airport commission and they are an aviation centered group. Mr. Julian says the EAA should provide the commission with a specific plan that shows what kind of programs they are planning on for the next year, and the commission can then have something concrete to vote on. Mr. Homsley asks if there could be a vote today to make progress. Mr. Julian asks if they'd rather have more legal guidance from the city attorney's office, or if they'd rather have a vote today. Mr. Gruber says sometimes these things take time, and that he thinks the commission has given some guidelines to follow and a pathway to having a specific request voted on, but that these types of things take time. Mr. Gruber says he'd rather not have a vote today, he'd rather wait on a specific proposal and opinion on that from the city attorney's office. No motion is made.

New Business

Mr. Julian announces that he is calling an executive session with the commissioners to discuss a personnel issue before starting new business. Everyone but the commissioners and attorney are asked to leave the room. After the executive session, the meeting is opened back up to the public. Mr. Julian says he raised the issue of the yearly salary of Airport Director Rogers and the salaries of other Airport Managers in similarly situated airports and based on that Mr. Bentley made the motion to raise Mr. Rogers' salary to \$70,000 starting January 1, 2021, Mr. Hughes seconds the motion. The vote carries unanimously. Mr. Rogers thanks the commission and says he will continue to do his best to serve the airport commission.

2021 Budget- Mr. Rogers goes over his 2021 budget proposal and the changes he's made in it compared to 2021. He goes over revenue increases from rent that he expects, and where that extra revenue goes into expenditures. Mr. Gruber moves to accept the 2021 budget, Mr. Bentley seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Planning/engineering contracts- Mr. Rogers says that the airport's contracts with engineering services and planning services have come up, and we need to sign new contracts. Mr. Rogers says he's put out an RFQ for those contracts, and the submissions are due by the end of the day tomorrow. Mr. Rogers says when he gets those proposals, there will need to be a committee to make a decision to award those contracts. Mr. Rogers suggests a 3 person committee including himself, Chairman Julian, and Commissioner Hughes. Mr. Gruber moves to make that 3 person subcommittee to make those contract decisions, Mr. Bentley seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Culver says he's gotten quote from a contractor that does drainage work and estimated the work would cost about \$100,000 to completely fix the area and build the drainage ditch to divert the water away from the road. He says this plan would fix the problem the way it needs to be done. Mr. Bentley makes a motion to do the two projects, the perimeter road and the Maryland Ave water gate, Mr. Gruber seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Directors Report

Mr. Rogers tells the commissioners that we have a restored B17 coming to the airport and he will be working with the city to promote the event.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Bentley moves to adjourn, Mr. Gruber seconds.

The meeting is adjourned.