City of Albion

Study Session Minutes

July 13, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4) Jeanette Spicer (5) and Mayor Brown. Council Members Maurice Barnes (1) and Andrew French (6) were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney and Jill Domingo, City Clerk.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

 comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

 Comments were received from Nancy Boltz. 103 Irwin Avenue; Doris McCracken, 108 Valley View Drive; Wilma Patrick, 306 W. Erie Street; Vicki Neville, 103 Irwin Avenue; Jay Loomis, 408 W. Ash Street; Richard Lindsey, Oaklawn Hospital all who spoke in favor of continuing the Albion-Marshall Connector service. Additional comments were received from Council Member Brown.

IV. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

1. Albion-Marshall Connector

Elizabeth Renault, Director Albion-Marshall Connector stated a $30,000 contribution would be needed to continue the Albion-Marshall Connector service. This contribution would provide service from September 2017 through June 2018.

Questions/Comments from the Council were as follows:

* Concern was expressed with the City providing funding for a program that was limited in scope.
* What can be done to sustain the Albion-Marshall Connector until 2020 when a county wide transportation option can be put in place so the City does not have to make yearly contributions? ***One sustainability option may be a ½ mill millage which would create about $45,000 in revenue to be used for the Albion-Marshall Connector service. You may also be able to include additional services such as local stops in Albion and include rides to other communities.***
* Would like to see transportation options expanded to include rides within the City.
* Is the City of Marshall helping to support the Albion-Marshall Connector and is this an actual partnership? ***Marshall has a .9393 millage for their Dial a Ride program and a portion of that is leveraging the support through staff and fleet service for the Albion-Marshall Connector.***
* The Albion-Marshall Connector has been in place since 2014. This program began as a means of transporting seniors and those with disabilities to Oaklawn Hospital and Marshall for doctor’s appointments*.*
* The program was initially a grant funded project and has been supported with state and federal funding. There were also donations made for the original project.
* The need is recognized for those needing rides for doctor and hospital visits.
* How was the Albion-Marshall Connector bus purchased and what will happen if this program is discontinued? ***The bus was purchased with grant funding and if the program were discontinued, the bus would be absorbed into the Marshall Dial A Ride fleet.***
* Would it be possible to solicit funding from businesses in Marshall that benefit from the use of the Albion-Marshall Connector? ***The City of Marshall does not have the manpower to support solicitation of funding for the Albion-Marshall Connector.***
* There is discussion of a county wide transportation system. What is the timeline for this? ***It would be at least two more likely three years for a county wide transportation system to be put in place***
* Concern was expressed as to what would happen with the Albion-Marshall Connector if a county wide transportation were put in place.
* If the bus were only used for seniors and those with disabilities, would there be a decrease in cost? ***This is a public transportation system so it would be difficult to monitor usage for particular groups*.**
* Is there anything that can be done to cut expenses for the Albion-Marshall Connector service? ***The budget is bare bones and very tight. They are always looking for ways to save money and there is a $15,000 decrease in the City’s contribution from last year****.*
* With the original grant, was anything spelled out pertaining to sustainability? ***The grant required a percentage of handicap riders and because this was not met, there was no sustainability for additional grant funding.***
* Approximately how many people ride the Albion-Marshall Connector?
* ***Generally the first run from Albion to Marshall is 8:00-8:20 am and have about 6-7 riders***
* ***There is about 5-6 people per run***
* ***Approximately 15 to 40 riders per day***.
* How many seats are there on the bus? ***There are 18 seats***.
* How much is collected from the actual ridership of the bus? ***Approximately 8% revue is collected.***
* What is the money collected from ridership used for? ***The funds collected from ridership along with state and federal funding are used strictly for the Albion-Marshall Connector expenses.***
* Funding for the City to have its own bus system would be triple the cost of the Albion-Marshall Connector and would require a longer term agreement.
* What are the revenue sources for the Albion-Marshall Connector?
* ***State & Federal funding-57.5 %***
* ***City of Albion-34.5%***
* ***Passenger fares-8%***
* Can the baseline rate be based on destination? ***No***
* What types of businesses are Albion residents working in Marshall? **A few of the businesses are the Marshall House, Applebee’s and Tuffy. Unfortunately Albion residents are not working in the Marshall Industrial Park which may have provided some additional funding.**
* Would like to see other entities help support the $30,000 needed to continue the Albion-Marshall Connector**. *Becky Jones, Marshall Public Schools recognizing the student use of the Albion-Marshall Connector committed to a $10,000 contribution for this year and is also willing to help with sustainability for the next couple of years. Richard Lindsay, Oaklawn Hospital committed a $5,000 contribution to the Albion-Marshall Connector for this year but would like to see a sustainability option moving forward.***
* Would like to see a joint committee for sustainability of the Albion-Marshall Connector*.*
* **The $30,000 funding sources for the Albion-Marshall Connector service from September of 2017 through June 2018 would be:**
* **$15,000 - City of Albion-taken from fund balance**
* **$10,000 - Marshall Public Schools**
* **$5,000 - Oaklawn Hospital**

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler, Reid, Spicer and Brown; Mayor Brown; City Manager Mitchell; Becky Jones, Director of Business Operations Marshall Public Schools and Richard Lindsay, Oaklawn Hospital.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

 comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

Comments were received from Richard Lindsay, Oaklawn Hospital, Lester Edmond, 301 W. Erie Street and Gary Thompkins, Calhoun County Commissioner.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

 Brown moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Study Session. (5-0, vv).

Mayor Brown adjourned the Study Session at 8:00 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk