

Lebo City Council Community Town Hall Forum
September 30, 2024
Lebo Community Building
320 N. Ogden St. Lebo, Kansas
7:30 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson welcomed everyone and explained tonight's informative meeting was being held to 1) discuss the proposed special sales tax question on the election ballot 2) gather public opinion on the swimming pool and park improvement designs and 3) discuss applying for CDBG funds and other funding options.

Council members present Mayor Eric Ferguson, Council members: Amanda Hopkins, Jim Jones, Nick Sanchez, and Will Baker. Absent: Council member Troy Friend.

City Employees present: Catherine Griffin, Scott Hein, and Carrie Sloan

Community members present: Chris Dolley, Matt Hopkins, Ida Wilson, Joe & Judy Shoemaker, Casey Jones, Jenny Tatman, Mary Lochmann, Vicki Rosine, Lesa Robke and Brian Rosine.

Also present: Jerad Head-Mammoth Sports Construction and Garrett Nordstrom-GAS

Mayor Ferguson asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Ferguson asked for public questions and input on the subjects listed for discussion.

Synopsis of comments:

- 1) Joe Shoemaker expressed many concerns: He stated he is all for a new swimming pool, but is concerned about how the city can finance the new pool. He also feels the current design for improvements at the north park is prohibitive for a town of our size. He asked if soil samples had been taken to determine the depth of the rock and its effect on the construction cost. He does not favor extending the current special sales tax because of how it is worded on the ballot. He is also concerned that if Lebo and the surrounding communities grow as much as people think that the Lebo-Waverly schools will be combined, relocated, and construct their own sports complex.
- 2) Chris Dolly spoke about the positive impact the park improvements will provide in drawing people to our community. And the importance of phasing the improvements and getting them started. He cautioned of possible problems if things are removed from the original design. The cost may rise in the future or the city may not have the available area needed for all the improvements.
- 3) Jenny Tatman wanted clarification on the park design and phases: Phase one would be relocating the pool and the softball diamond. Relocation of the field and pool will allow for future developments in the park. How will the other phases be determined and how soon? And is the city looking at other cities' projects and how they are funding their projects?
- 4) Casey Jones communicated that the city should move quickly on applying for grants from the Jones Foundation and evaluate if they are requesting enough money in grants.
- 5) Lesa Robke asked if the number 1 problem; drainage issues in the park, is being addressed.
- 6) Judy Shoemaker asked when the sales tax would start being collected if it passed in the November election.

Synopsis of Council's responses to the community questions and input:

- 1) The current concept of park and pool improvements is a starting point using the high end of a design of everything the city would like to change. The improvements would take place in phases that would

take place over several years. The first phase would include the swimming pool. The current design layout would maximize the space in the park by locating the baseball and softball diamonds together, which would allow them to share amenities and spectators can easily view 2 games at one time. It would allow all the sporting events to share a concession stand. And it would allow for more parking.

- 2) The council asked Jerad Head, Mammoth Sports if he could provide an updated cost of the design with changes in the size of the pool, no turf on the baseball and softball fields, and redesign of the dugouts and concession stand. The Council also asked about getting a soil sample and more information on the drainage plan.
- 3) The sales tax would take effect on April 1, 2025, the day after the current special sales tax ends. It would not increase sales taxes in the city, it would simply allow the city to continue to collect a special sales tax for 10 more years. The sales tax would be used for the swimming pool and park improvements and maintenance. The continuation of the tax will allow the city to improve and maintain the parks.
- 4) The Council, using input from Garrett Nordstrom, concluded that it will be best to forgo applying for a CDBG until after the city has applied for a Jones Grant. The next round of Jones applications is due in December. The next round of CDBG applications should be due around May.

Hopkins moved and Sanchez seconded to adjourn. Vote 4/0, motion carried.

Attest:


Carrie J. Sloan, City Clerk

Approved:


Eric S. Ferguson, Mayor