

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
AQUATICS FACILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 21, 2023

7:00 P.M.

CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR, LOCKHART, TEXAS

Council present:

Councilmember Brad Westmoreland
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez

Council absent:

Councilmember Kara McGregor
Councilmember John Castillo

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board present:

Warren Burnett
Rob Ortiz
Dennis Placke
Karla Tate
Russell Wheeler

Aquatics Facility Planning Committee present:

B.J. Westmoreland
Todd Moebes
Stephanie Camerrillo
Karla Tate

Staff present:

Steve Lewis, City Manager
Travis Hughes, Parks Director
Julie Bowermon, Civil Service/HR Director

Joseph Resendez, Assistant City Manager

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

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

ITEM 2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION FROM HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC. AND WATER TECHNOLOGY (WTI) REGARDING THE AQUATIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART.

Robbie Hazelbaker of Water Technology, Inc. provided information and there was discussion about the following:

Phased Approach to Concept Development

Phase I

- Participate in a virtual listening discussion with the Aquatics Committee to identify goals, objectives, activities and uses of a proposed new Lockhart Pool.
- Presentation in person on trends, like size projects, possible partnerships, and associated construction cost opinions for future City Council Consideration.
- Seek City Council approval to move forward with Phase II.

Phase II

- Confirm Aquatic goals, objectives, activities and uses.
- Develop Aquatic program and capacities.
- Discuss number of pools, pool zones, and Depths.
- Identify preliminary water activities and features.
- Develop (2) 2D Aquatic Concept Plans.
- Develop Concept Cost Opinion for each plan.
- Consider site evaluation criteria (size, access, utility availability, adjacencies).
- Using the Expertise of Ballard *King consultants, conduct demographic research and analysis specifically for Lockhart Aquatics.
- Conduct Facility and Market Research.
- Provide Revenue and Expense forecasting using the approved concepts.
- Conduct Operational Evaluation and Analysis.

Lockhart Municipal Pool

Current Conditions

- Pool is no longer level as indicated by water level change at the skimmers.
- Pool continues to lose water beyond the evaporation rate.
- Decks have moved and are in poor condition.
- Lack of shade, lack of current amenities
- Maintenance History.
 - Saw cut and remove deck to locate underground leak/replace 4 skimmers at a cost of \$45,000 this summer.
 - Replaced two sand filters at a cost of \$50,000 in 2021.

Lockhart Municipal Pool

Average Summer Attendance

2022

- 855 per week (13 Weeks)
- 46 private party rentals

2023

- 615 per week (5 Weeks)
- Lifeguard shortage delayed opening 2 weeks
- Closed three weeks for leak repairs and skimmer replacement
- 15 private party rentals

Aquatic Committee Input

Observations

- Current City Pool is over 50 years old and has exceeded its serviceable life.
- New families moving into the area are expecting a modern-day aquatic facility in a safe and convenient location.
- Our local kids would always appreciate new things to do.
- K-2nd graders would benefit greatly from a learn to swim program.
 - Superintendent of schools feels strongly about this program to prevent drownings. The district has suffered loss due to drowning.
 - A Natatorium is preferred, but realistically, affordability is a concern.

Goals

- Offer a Multi-generational/Multi-use aquatics facility.
- Promote a collaborative effort between the City of Lockhart and the Lockhart ISD.
 - High Priority from the start.
- Promote an atmosphere where the city, working with the ISD, can groom lifeguards for the foreseeable future.
- Create a practice facility outdoors that can help build a UIL swim team tradition.
- Offer a pool where everyone feels like this is the place to spend times with friends and family.
- Build on the popularity of party rentals and other sources of revenue.
- Offer a May 2024 Bond election to provide the funding for a new pool to be constructed before the 2025 swim season.
- Identify a 3- 5-acre site to host a new aquatic facility with adequate parking.
- Use the recent city-wide survey to understand citizens interest level to prioritize the Aquatics and Recreational needs its citizens.
- Today's Pool Patrons are tomorrow's Lifeguards.
- Get the plans for a new facility in place now.

Objectives

- To move forward with an exploratory effort to design a new facility that meets the needs of the City of Lockhart and the Lockhart ISD, serving all people with an emphasis on the youth of the community.
- To seek funding opportunities through Bonds, Parks and Recreation Grants, personal donations, endowments and possible naming opportunities for interested parties who have a vested interest in the City of Lockhart.
- Offer the amenities that will attract the sophisticated aquatic user moving to Lockhart with a family.

TRENDS

- Zero Depth Entries
- Shallow Water
- Interactive Play Features
- Separate Bodies of Water
- Shade Structures, First Come First Serve
- Rental Cabanas and Pavilions

- Underwater Benches for Learn to Swim classes
- Water Volleyball/Water Basketball

There was discussion regarding outdoor pools with desired amenities and associated construction costs of several other cities.

NEXT STEPS: MARKET RESEARCH & CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Pending City Council Approval

Phase II Consideration

- Confirm Aquatic goals, objectives, activities and uses
- Develop Aquatic program and capacities
- Discuss number of pools, pool zones, and depths
- Identify preliminary water activities and features
- Develop (2) 2D Aquatic Concept Plans
- Develop Concept Cost Opinion for each plan
- Consider site evaluation criteria (size, access, utility availability, adjacencies)
- Using the Expertise of Ballard *King consultants, conduct demographic research and analysis specifically for Lockhart Aquatics
 - Conduct Facility and Market Research
 - Provide Revenue and Expense forecasting using the approved concepts
 - Conduct Operational Evaluation and Analysis

CONSENSUS: After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to authorize commencement of Phase II as indicated above with a cost comparison of 6 and 8 lanes of the pool.

ITEM 3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 21st day of May, 2024.

CITY OF LOCKHART


Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Bowermon
City Secretary

