

Minutes: City Council Meeting
January 14, 2019
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

City Council members present: Michael Case; Doug Gibson; Danny Laster; Frank McReynolds; George Orr; and, David Powell.

Others present: Jeffrey Traughber, Attorney (entered during the meeting); Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Terry Frogue, Utility/Street Superintendent; Brian Atkinson, Police Chief; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Justin Moberly, Zoning Administrator/Citation Officer; John Service, Animal Control Officer; Doug and Caroline Meadows; Jimmy Shemwell; Rodney Seay.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Green called for a moment of silence to remember Patsy Wheeler, former city employee who recently passed away.

After reviewing the December 10, 2018 council meeting minutes, Case motioned to approve, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for approval of the bills payable and financial reports and any comments from Clerk Brock. There were no comments or questions, therefore McReynolds motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Green discussed the Mayor-Council form of government and stated there will be changes to the agenda and he will not appoint council members as “liaisons” or “commissioners” for each department as they have been called in the past. Green reported the council is the legislative body that brings ordinances, budget, and policies to operate the city and they represent all departments of the city and each council member should address all concerns of the citizens. Council members should report all concerns to him or City Hall immediately and not wait until the council meeting, so that issues can be addressed as soon as possible. It is the Mayor and Clerk, with city employees, responsibility to carry out the council’s actions. There will no longer be a “Council Reports” section on the agenda, but a City Council Concerns will be listed to discuss and report on past and current issues. Mr. Green stated that he and the council may not always agree and that is ok. However, if the council feels there are mistakes made or other issues, to please let him know.

Mayor Green recommended the appointment of himself to the Logan-Todd Regional Water Commission to serve out the term expiring in June 2020 that was vacated by former Mayor Jackie Weathers. Laster motioned to approve the appointment of Arthur Green to the Logan-Todd Regional Water Commission, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green recommended the reappointment of Eugene Jefferson to another four-year term expiring December 2022 to the Elkton Planning Commission. Powell motioned to approve the recommendation, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green recommended the reappointment of David Leavell to another four-year term expiring December 2022 to the Elkton Board of Adjustment and the appointment of Rodney Seay to a four-year term expiring December 2022 to replace the expired term vacated by Patsy Wheeler. Case motioned to approve the recommendations, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green recommended the reappointment of Michael Case as the city council member on the

Elkton-Todd County Recreation Commission for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020. Orr motioned to approve the recommendation and seconded by Gibson. Voting in favor were Gibson, Laster, McReynolds, Orr, and Powell. Case abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor Green recommended the appointment of Frank McReynolds as the city council member on the Job Development Incentives Program Committee for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020. Orr motioned to approve the recommendation, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green recommended the reappointment of Doug Gibson as the city council member on the Revolving Fund Board for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020. Powell motioned to approve the recommendation, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor reported he received a letter dated December 31, 2018 from Jeff Traughber stating that due to his election as Todd County Attorney, he must resign from the position of City Attorney effective January 6, 2019. Orr motioned to accept the resignation, seconded by McReynolds, and carried unanimously.

Green reported that in the same letter, Mr. Traughber suggested he could continue to serve under contract as legal counsel for the city as needed. Mr. Green reviewed the proposed contract and requested revisions; however he has not received a response yet and is unsure if the city even needs a contract. Therefore, with no final contract ready to present, there was no recommendation at this time.

Mayor Green and Clerk Brock passed out the Open Records and Open Meetings documents and each council member returned the Certificate of Receipt form. (Jeff Traughber entered the meeting at this time.)

Mayor Green requested each city council member complete and return the Method of Communication Authorization Form indicating the methods the city should communicate with them.

Mr. Green suggested the council determine which city council member would serve as chair of the council meeting in the absence of the Mayor. McReynolds nominated Michael Case. There were no other nominations. McReynolds then motioned that Michael Case serve as the chair of the council in the absence of the Mayor and seconded by Orr. Voting in favor were Gibson, Laster, McReynolds, Orr, and Powell. Case abstained. Motion carried.

Bids were received on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 for two projects. Sidewalk Replacement Project, which includes replacing three sections of sidewalks that were damaged during demolition of three homes: Knight Construction and Excavations, \$33,071.00; TA Gaddis Services LLC, \$24,208.70; and, Southern Contractors of Kentucky, LLC, \$22,000.05. Mayor Green stated the bids were good for 90 days and he is working with Terry Frogue on an alternative proposal to do the work ourselves. Green reiterated that the city has been talking about this project for three years and nothing is getting done. Laster stated he is worried the utility/street department is understaffed to get some of these projects completed. Green stated maybe we need to look at hiring additional staff to get more accomplished. There is no recommendation at this time.

Bids were also received for the Lift Station Generator Pad Addition, which is for an addition to the current concrete generator pad to accommodate the purchase and installation of a new generator under a Homeland Security grant project: Knight Construction and Excavation, \$75,550.00; Scott and Ritter, Inc., \$37,800.00; Allied Contracting Group, \$21,200.00; TA Gaddis Services LLC, \$51,740.00; Southern Contractor of KY, LLC, \$22,000.00; Scott and Murphy Inc., \$31,890.00. Once again, the bids are good for 90 days and the Mayor, Terry and Laura met to discuss doing some of this work ourselves or will look at ways to save money since the bids are not within budget for the project.

Mayor reminded the council that at the last meeting they requested Clerk Brock present cost estimates for part-time employees Raymond Williams and John Service to go full-time. He reminded the council they can address this through creating the positions in the budget and the Mayor is responsible for hiring. Brock reported part-time employees are required by the city to work less than 1200 hours a year, or about 23 hours a week, so they do not participate in the Kentucky Retirement System, which would involve the employee

contributing 6% of their wages and the city paying the matching portion of about 25%. Also, health insurance would have to be offered if they work 30 hours or more per week. After reviewing the current cost of the part-time employees, which is about \$31,402 per year, the additional cost for them to go full-time would be about \$47,022 per year. Brock also presented another option of allowing them to work up to 29 hours a week, which would require retirement participation, but not require health insurance coverage and is estimated to cost an additional \$14,854 per year over the current cost.

Mayor Green reported he, Judge Todd Mansfield, and other committee members have been meeting to discuss the operations of the city-county park. The park is in bad shape and not being maintained appropriately. Mayor and Judge are considering dividing the park into an administrative group to oversee maintenance of the park under the direction of the Mayor and the Recreation Commission would oversee the sports programs under the direction of the County Judge. A formal recommendation will be presented at a later date. The Judge is also working on a land survey for the new soccer park at the Die Casting property and looking for grants to help pay for fencing and lighting. Mayor requested anyone with thoughts or ideas to report them to him or Mr. Case.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Daniel Smith reported the Fire Department had 38 fire calls last year, 19 in the city and 19 in the county. He also reported on the condition of the four fire engines and one brush truck. The department has a need to replace SCBAs and a FEMA grant has been submitted to purchase 6 new ones. Turn out gear will need to be replaced over the next few years, with most of the gear expiring between 2020 and 2022 and will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of about \$60,000. The fire station also needs to be expanded to allow for parking apparatus and training. The department is not having much luck getting citizens to respond to the survey needed to apply for a grant to expand the fire hall. Smith also requested the city's portion of the county fire aid in the amount of \$3,000.

Chief Atkinson stated he has a medical issue and did not have a report for the Police Department at this time.

Terry Frogue reported the Utility/Street Department flushed the water mains in December, which accounted for some of the water loss, which was about 20% last month. Industry standard is about 15%, so they continue to work on finding leaks. There was a major sewer line blockage on Marion Street where tree roots were completely blocking the line and were cleaned out. Frogue also reported they have ordered special brackets that will be used to install stop signs on the alleys on the Square and just off the Square. Surveys are being mailed to local businesses and industries to update our records regarding sprinkler systems, backflow preventers, and grease traps.

Justin Moberly reported on all the code enforcement actions taken since the last meeting. He reported those in compliance and those that further action will need to be taken.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Case passed out an article from *Waterproof* magazine titled "Inflow, Infiltration, and Overflow" that he thought was a very interesting and easy to read article describing the city's current concerns with the same problem in our sewer system.

Mayor Green took this opportunity to welcome new city council member George Orr.

Laster reported he received complaints about the city lowering the speed limit on Pond River Road to 25 mph and stating it is too low. Several other council members reported receiving the same calls. Mayor Green stated signs don't make people slow down and that we need to be more visible patrolling the area.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Green reported he has already attended several meetings with County Judge Mansfield, the Industrial

Foundation and other groups. He and George Orr attended Kentucky League of Cities training for new officials.

Mayor reported he sent a letter to all city employees asking for their input about improvements in the city, what would make their job easier, and what items need to be taken care of in the city. He reiterated there is a lot the city is doing good, but we need to communicate this better with our citizens. Therefore, he will be sending a newsletter out each month with the utility bills to inform everyone of things being done in the city. Eventually, the newsletter will also have a section titled "Heard on the Street" to explain and answer "talk" going on around the city.

Mayor Green stated he will focus on simplifying some city processes for the citizens. And, just because the city receives a few complaints doesn't mean you have to make a new rule or change an ordinance.

Mayor reported the city's contract for weekly garbage pickup with Waste Management will expire in June this year. We are requesting a proposal to renew the contract for one more year and will present it at the next meeting.

Green also reported the city's contract with Ricchuite Enterprises for cemetery maintenance expires in April and will have to be advertised and bid out. Watson Ricchuite was recently arrested and Green reminded the council that if convicted it would nullify the current contract.

The dedication ceremony for Mr. Guy Mallory Lane has been scheduled with the family and will be held Friday, January 18th at 1 pm.

Clerk Brock reminded everyone that financial disclosure statements are due to her by January 15th.

Mayor Green also stated the city needs to find a way to promote housing development because we have a shortage of housing in the city and county. He is working on some ideas and talking to others about working together to solve the housing problem.

Again, Mr. Green requested all issues be reported to city hall immediately so we can begin working on solutions. Elkton may have struggles to improve in the future, but we have good times ahead.

Gibson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer