

Minutes: City Council Meeting
March 11, 2019
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 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; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Terry Frogue, Utility/Street Superintendent; Jason Clardy, Police Captain; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Watson Ricchuite, Ricchuite Enterprises; James Rundall; Melvin Warren; Paisley Case; Doug Meadows; and, Jimmy Shemwell.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Doug Gibson gave invocation.

After reviewing the February 11, 2019 council meeting minutes, Orr motioned to approve, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Green called for public comments. Mr. James Rundall, who lives on West Main Street, reported his house is starting to flood more often in the last three years. Water seems to be coming from behind his property where a drain is located in a field. Fire Chief Waggoner reported he used to live in the Marion Street area near this field and that this problem seemed to start when the Middle School was built and they filled in several sinkholes. Case, who lives in the area near Rundall, stated he drove around the city during the last heavy rain and the water seems to drain well as it is raining, however a few hours later his and Mr. Rundall's yard was flooding. Water seems to be pushing from the creek to where the drain is located. Mr. Melvin Warren stated he is neighbors with Mr. Rundall and his basement is flooding more often also and there has to be a way to correct the problem. Mayor Green stated there are areas in the city that seem to be flooding more often and the city will start investigating and get some people here to help. There was also some discussion about the city approving die testing the drain in the field so we would know where the water is draining to. Frogue stated he has talked to Natural Resource Conservation Service for advice on die testing the area.

Mayor Green reported there have been discussions with Atmos Energy regarding Ordinance 2019-01 and the natural gas franchise agreement, which was set for second reading tonight. A representative from Atmos was in City Hall this morning and stated they did not want to agree to a five year term with 3% franchise fee as proposed in the ordinance. They would be agreeable to a 2% fee with ten year term or 3% fee over twenty years. With a ten year term, they also suggested putting in the agreement that it could be automatically renewed for an additional ten years. Mr. Green also reported to them there needs to be more willingness from Atmos to extend gas lines to areas that are growing in town. All were in agreement that a ten year term with 2% franchise fee should be offered in the ordinance at the next meeting.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2019-02, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE THIRTY-FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY." Orr motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Laster and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2019-03, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION

97.21(A) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY SERVICE FEE ESTABLISHED FOR RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE MATERIALS.” Powell motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Laster and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Green reported the insurance company settled with the city regarding the loss of a police vehicle and equipment and we will receive a check for \$13,678.77 for the losses. Captain Clardy reported the best replacement vehicle he could find is a used 2014 Ford Taurus for \$12,670.00. An estimated cost to equip the car is about \$7,067.00, but some of that funding could come from the Todd County Drug Fund. Purchasing a new car as an alternative was also discussed. After discussion, Gibson motioned to approve the purchase of the vehicle proposed, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported on two bid openings. First, the city received bids for the Elk Fork Bridge Ditch and Drainage Rehab project on February 26, 2019 at 10:00 am. Bids received: Abbico Contracting, \$29,608.00; KMAC Contracting, \$15,872.00; and, Knight Construction, \$33,422.00. Clerk Brock stated there is an option to install geotextile fabric, which would add \$1,052.00 to the low bid. Case asked if the project was in the budget. Clerk Brock stated there is \$27,000.00 remaining in the Road Aid budget for street repairs and maintenance. After discussion, Laster motioned to approve the bid from KMAC Contracting in the amount of \$15,872.00, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported bids were received on March 7, 2019 at 3:00 pm for the cemetery maintenance contract. Bids received: Ricchuite Enterprises, \$38,900.00; Kanagy’s Kustom Kutting, \$27,500.00; Boley Landscaping, \$52,000.00. Mayor reported bids were just received Thursday and he has not had a chance to check on the low bidder. Clerk Brock read the statement of experience submitted by Mr. Kanagy. Gibson recommended staying with Ricchuite Enterprises. Case stated over the last several years he has been about saving money and believes we need more information on the low bidder. Mr. Gibson motioned to award the contract to Ricchuite Enterprises, seconded by Laster. Voting in favor of the motion were Gibson, Laster, McReynolds, Orr, and Powell. Abstaining was Case. Motion carried.

Municipal Order 2019-01, “AMENDING SECTION 6.19 TAXABLE BENEFITS AND CREATING SECTION 6.20 MOBILE PHONE REIMBURSEMENT IN THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES” was presented. Clerk Brock explained the order was removing regulations regarding cell phones in Section 6.19 because the IRS no longer requires taxing personal use of cell phones as a fringe benefit. The Order creates section 6.20 Mobile Phone Reimbursement that would reimburse certain city employees \$10.00 per month for using personal cell phones for city business. Brock explained the city currently provides two utility department employees with a paid cell phone costing the city about \$120 per month. What she and the Mayor discussed was implementing this policy and reimbursing all utility and police department employees, 12 in total, \$10.00 per month, which would also cost \$120.00 per month and benefit more employees who use their phones for city business. Several stated they had a problem with the policy stating employees would be required to answer their cell phones. After discussion, there was no action taken.

Mayor Green reported the city’s Annual Spring Cleanup has been scheduled for April 15-17, 2019.

Mayor Green presented a working plan to offer economic development incentives to encourage annexation into the city, which is based on a similar program by the city of Bowling Green. Mayor Green hopes to encourage more annexation at one time, instead of parcel by parcel. Gibson stated with the new factory coming to the south part of the county, Elkton needs more land to grow. Mayor stated he presented this as a working draft for discussion and no action was taken.

Mayor Green called for approval to hire two full-time seasonal employees to focus more attention on sidewalk repairs, street sign replacement, and other utility duties that need to be completed. Clerk Brock stated there is \$20,000 in the general fund street department budget that could be transferred to salaries to cover the cost of the employees until the end of this year’s budget. If employment is to continue past June 30, then funds would need to be put in next year’s budget. Case motioned to approve hiring two fulltime

seasonal workers, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Captain Clardy and Fire Chief Waggoner had nothing else to report.

Utility/Street Superintendent Frogue reported several stopped up sewer lines and pump problems due to the heavy rains over the last few months. GRW Engineering will be at City Hall tomorrow to begin formulating a rehabilitation project for the KIA construction loan program. Frogue also reported the last several months there may have been a discrepancy in the water purchase totals from Logan-Todd Regional Water and we may receive a credit.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Powell inquired about how many jobs will be created by the new factory working with DDS Glass Door. Mayor Green reported the new partnership with DDS Glass Door will help maintain current employment levels with the hope for future growth. There was a ribbon cutting last week announcing that Cisaplast, a worldwide company based in Italy, has partnered with DDS Glass Door Solutions in Elkton to serve as their US distribution center.

Laster asked for an update on the Die Casting building. Mayor Green reported a contract has been awarded to repair the roof for about \$8,885. Also, Doss Farms has begun renting half of the tall ceiling portion of the building for \$.45 per square foot. This price will increase to \$.90 per square foot when the roof is repaired. So, there are now two renters in the building.

Case reported on the restructuring of the Recreation Commission. There are now two separate committees, one focused on facilities and one focused on the sports programs. The facilities committee has hired a part-time employee to work on the grounds using funds already available in hopes of improving the facilities. Mayor Green asked that everyone go to the park and let us know what needs repair and suggest improvements.

McReynolds suggested the city build a coalition with local pastors by having prayer meetings or at least inviting a pastor to give invocation at city council meetings. Mayor Green will take this into consideration.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Two street lights have been approved for installation on B White Road near two new homes. Mayor Green would like to present ordinances proposing policies on street light installation and street tile installation at the next meeting.

Mayor reported attending a Kentucky Transportation meeting setting priorities for the county and at this time Elkton does not have any projects in the top five. With the new factory in Guthrie, the priority in the next few years will probably be the south end of the county.

The Safety Committee has begun meeting and the Mayor requested each department focus on cleaning up their department areas and present a list of items to declare surplus and get rid of.

Mayor Green invited all landlords to a meeting on February 19th and about a third invited attended. Discussions were held about their properties, the zoning process, and more. The biggest complaint is that they own property in the city, but they don't get to vote. Mayor Green reiterated that voting law is set by state law.

Mayor Green signed a contract with a company to repair brickwork on the front of the Police Department that is cracking off into the sidewalk at a cost of \$1,375.00.

Mayor Green and other local officials met on March 6th with EnergyNet from Hopkinsville, who intends to expand high speed fiber internet into Elkton. They have decided to focus future growth in Elkton and have separated the city into several segments. The segment that shows the most interest first will then be studied further for potential installation of the internet service. Anyone interested in the service should visit www.goenergynet.com to complete the survey and request service with no immediate commitment to purchase.

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