

Minutes: City Council Meeting
October 15, 2019
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 15, 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; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Police Chief Robert Toombs; State Senator Whitney Westerfield; and, Doug Meadows.

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

After reviewing the September 9, 2019 special council meeting minutes, McReynolds motioned to approve, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the September 9, 2019 regular council meeting minutes, Orr motioned to approve, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the September 12, 2019 special council meeting minutes, Orr motioned to approve, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for approval of the bills payable and financial reports and any comments from Clerk Brock. Brock reported new ABC regulatory fees are now being collected and then must then be transferred to a special fund. After discussion, Gibson motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for public comments.

- Mr. Meadows stated the utility maintenance guys did a great job on replacing the sidewalks near his property.
- State Senator Whitney Westerfield thanked everyone for their public service and thanked McReynolds for inviting him to attend the meeting. He reminded everyone he is here for us and to never hesitate to call him.

Mayor Green reported the following bid openings:

- Tree and Stump Removal Services: Skipworth Tree Services, \$6,725.00 for tree removal and additional \$1,200.00 for stump removal; Sears Tree Service, \$9,400.00 for tree removal and additional \$3,450.00 for stump removal. Mayor Green explained this bid is to remove several trees in the cemeteries and one tree in the park. The park will reimburse the city for their share of the project. Mayor Green recommended acceptance of the Skipworth bid for tree removal services only with no stump removal. Clerk Brock explained there is only \$4,600.00 remaining in the cemetery budget for tree removal. So, what she proposed is to move about \$1,500.00 from headstone repairs budget in order to complete the tree removal. After discussion, Powell motioned to approve the recommendation and amend the budget as stated, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.
- Park Asphalt Surfacing Project: Scotty's Contracting and Stone, \$29,085.00 for Item 1 (city street paving), additional \$48,106.00 for Item 2 (parking lot widening and paving), and additional \$600.00 for Item 3 (parking lot striping.) Mayor Green stated this project has been discussed for many years and Fiscal Court has agreed to pay \$39,000.00 of the project. The city can use road funding to

pave the city street portion of the project, which will leave \$9,706.00 the city must fund through some other source. Brock reported there is a Revolving Loan Fund that can be used for such purposes, however the Revolving Fund Board would need to meet and recommend the project. After discussion, Gibson motioned to approve the bid from Scotty's totaling \$77,791.00, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously. Case motioned to approve spending \$9,706.00 from the Revolving Fund to complete the project if recommended by the Revolving Fund Board. Orr seconded the motion and carried unanimously. Traugher stated for the record that county funds are not being spent on a city street, but parking area only.

Mayor Green reported work has begun on the water project that was awarded at the last meeting. The contractor started the new water line on Poplar Street first and then will move to the alley beside the Police Department and then Weathers Lane behind Weathers Drugs.

Mayor Green reported the Wastewater System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project will be bid on October 22, 2019 and reported to the council. Currently, eight companies have requested copies of the plans and specifications.

Mayor Green reported the council members are invited to attend the TCCHS Veterans Day Program on November 8th. There will be a breakfast at 8 am and program at 9 am. He requested everyone let City Hall know if they plan to attend so we can RSVP to the school.

Mayor Green reported that the city will receive about \$199,200.00 in Transportation Cabinet discretionary funds to resurface multiple city streets. Bid specifications have been prepared and bids will be received on October 29th. However, funds will not be spent until an agreement is signed and funds are officially committed by the state. Westerfield offered his services to help speed up the process if needed.

Mayor Green met with Nicholas Hurt as authorized by the council at the last meeting and he agreed to pay \$3,750.00 of his code enforcement fines within 30 days of October 7th, when the agreement with the city was signed. His property on North Main Street must also be sold within 90 days to someone who will clean the property up. McReynolds asked if the city could negotiate with other property owners with large fines. Mayor Green stated it is possible and that he will be meeting with Traugher soon to take the next steps with 3 or 4 other properties in the city with large code enforcement fines.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Derrell Waggoner reported annual pump tests will be completed soon on all trucks.

Daniel Smith reported as Emergency Services Director that the county has agreed to apply for funding to replace radio equipment for the entire county at a cost of about \$90,000.00. Elkton would receive about 15 handheld radios and each truck would get a new radio. This may not meet our entire needs, but additional radios could be purchased for about \$550 each. The current radio system is very old and in great need of updating.

New Chief of Police Robert Toombs thanked the mayor and council for allowing him to serve the city of Elkton. He reported on activity during the last month and stated the number of alcohol related calls does not seem correct. He feels there is either an issue on how it is coded at dispatch service or officers need to report the calls differently. He will work with the dispatch service to improve reporting. Jakop Smith has been hired as a new certified police officer for the city. There are still two fulltime positions available. Toombs also reported night shift officers are doing business checks in the evenings.

Mayor Green also reported the new Police Records Clerk Megan Willenborg has started work and is being trained. Mayor is getting bids to install a new service window in the Police Department from the front office where the Police Clerk will be located to the front lobby. There may be some additional changes needed such as a new steel door in the lobby. Mayor would also like to look into securing City Hall more as well.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Powell reported the new sidewalks the city constructed on East Main Street look really good and he hopes we can continue replacing sidewalks around the city. Mayor Green stated there are more sidewalks that need to be replaced on South Main where they were damaged during demolition of a house, but they will not be replaced until the new home being constructed near this property is complete. Green reported the Kentucky League of Cities recommends an annual inspection of at least 1/4th of the city's sidewalks every year. This plan is in the works, starting with the Health Department inspecting sidewalks and submitting to the city a list of most needed repairs. Mayor stated our city maintenance workers are very capable of doing most anything and is pleased with their progress this year. Doug Meadows also stated they seem eager to work and do a good job.

Laster asked for an update on the status of the Die Casting building. Mayor Green reported the roof has been repaired by Bouldin Roofing with a few small leaks still needing repair. There are still two renters in the building. Finally, Mayor Green reported the council may be hearing rumors about the school system using the building. Mayor Green stated the school system is working on a proposal to use the building as a recreation center and once they submit a proposal it will be presented to the city council.

Laster also asked the status of Refine Tile and if it is closed. Mayor Green confirmed the business has closed and there is still an order by the court to sell the property and equipment. Traugher stated the sell date has not been set yet, but the city is first in line to get paid back taxes.

Gibson reported complaints on Murrey Court of multiple cars and trucks parking on both sides of the street. Mayor stated this issue will be looked at.

Case asked what will be done with the trees in the parking lot at the park due to the paving project. Green stated the trees will remain with old crosssties being removed by the city and new rubber stops and rubber mulch will be placed around the trees through the crumb rubber grant the city received. The parking lot will probably be completely closed during this project. Traugher reported soccer season is scheduled to end around the first week in November, so the paving project should not affect it.

Case also reported the new wheelchair accessible swing is being used by multiple children and treated roughly. This will need to be monitored more in the future.

McReynolds thanked Westerfield for attending the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner meeting will be held November 9th at 5:30 pm. The city is a Chamber member and therefore has three tickets to the event if anyone wants to attend.

The city applied for Delta Regional Authority Funding for additional wastewater improvements, however received notice we were not approved.

United Way will be raising funds at Dairy Queen in Elkton on October 22nd with a percentage of sales from 5 pm to 8 pm going to the group.

Mayor asked the council to consider changing the regular council meeting to the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm. The Planning Commission meeting would also be changed to the first Thursday of the month so it will always meet the week before the city and action can be approved more timely. There was no opposition; therefore an ordinance will be drafted for the next meeting.

Mayor thanked everyone who had a hand in helping with HarvesFest. Many people don't realize the work that goes into the event and that actually every city employee helps in some way. Green encouraged the council to thank the city employees for their hard work.

The Bicentennial Committee continues to meet and hopes to report to the council at the November meeting the schedule of events for next year. The first event will be a New Year's Eve party at the Community House. The actual birthday celebration will be in May 2020.

Brock passed around a thank you card from the Todd County Senior Citizens Center thanking the city for the donation to the Aging Council.

Traughber reported that longtime City Attorney John Kirkham passed away on September 29th. It was stated Mr. Kirkham served the city for more than 30 years beginning in the 1970s.

Mayor stated there was no need to go into closed session and asked the council if they would be interested in selling the city's property on South Perry Street. There may be some interested in substantially improving this area so now might be a good time to sell the property. The area is zoned R-1. He asked for them to consider this for future discussion.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer