

Minutes: City Council Meeting
December 9, 2019
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 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: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Police Chief Robert Toombs; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief/Todd County Emergency Management Director; 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 November 12, 2019 regular council meeting minutes, McReynolds motioned to approve, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the November 18, 2019 special council meeting minutes, Gibson motioned to approve, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for approval of the bills payable and financial reports and any comments from Clerk Brock. Brock reported issuing one ABC license since the last meeting for the Green River Academy for the New Year's Eve Celebration. There was no further discussion, therefore Laster motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2019-16, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 32.21 OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY CODE OF ORDINANCES" sponsored by council member Powell was presented for second reading. Powell motioned to read the Summary Ordinance in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock read second reading of Summary Ordinance 2019-16. Case motioned to approve Ordinance 2019-16 upon second reading, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously by show of hands. This ordinance changes the regular meeting of the city council to the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm. Therefore, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6 pm.

Ordinance 2019-17, "ORDINANCE ADOPTING COMPENSATION PLAN AND PAY SCALE" sponsored by council member Orr was presented for first reading. Mayor Green explained this ordinance is being presented after recommendation from Police Chief Robert Toombs to eliminate the position of Police Captain and create a new position of Police Officer/Evidence Custodian in the police department. Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2019-17.

Mayor Green presented an Interlocal Agreement between Todd County and the cities of Elkton, Guthrie, and Trenton to improve fire protection in the cities and county through the purchase and use of a ladder fire truck. Daniel Smith explained the city will benefit from the ladder truck by helping our ISO fire rating. After discussing the agreement, Case motioned to enter into the Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Green reported he met with Angela and Edward Belew regarding code enforcement liens on 110 N Main Street as authorized at the last meeting. The Belew's agreed to pay \$500 in fines and to a list of repairs that still need to be made to the building by April 30, 2020. If the repairs are not made in a timely manner, then the full amount of fines will become due again. Mayor Green reported that after the agreement was signed, a portion of the back wall of the building fell in and needs to be repaired. Mayor Green encouraged the Belew's to maintain communication with City Hall if any future correspondence is sent to them.

Mayor Green updated the council on the Water Improvement Project, which is about 80-90% complete.

Mostly just cleanup and seeding the ground remains to be done. Retainage will be withheld from the contractor until these items are complete.

Mayor Green reported the contract for Phase I of the Sewer Rehabilitation and Improvement Project has been approved by the state and awarded to the contractor as approved last month. Starting this week, the contractor will be in town videoing sewer lines before they begin making repairs. Construction of the project should begin in January. Mayor Green stated he will give out more information about what to expect during construction at the next meeting. This information will also be released to the public. Phase II of the project, which includes construction of a force main sewer line and improvements to the sewer plant, is currently being designed by GRW Engineering and may be ready to bid out by the end of January.

GRW is also in the process of completing a water and sewer rate study needed in order to pay debt service on the water and sewer projects. Mayor Green passed out a utility rate sheet Pennyrile Area Development District created comparing all utility rates in the region. A rate study report from GRW will hopefully be ready to present to the council in January.

Paving of Wilmon Moore Circle and the parking lot in the City-County Park has been completed, including striping of the parking lot. Mayor Green also reported that rubber bumpers and rubber mulch have been installed in the tree landscape areas in the park as required by the Crumb Rubber Grant the city was awarded. The repairs to the fence and dugout due to recent storm damage should be completed soon.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Daniel Smith reported Chief Waggoner is not present because he is attending state training at the fire department tonight. Smith reported the department has had 50 fire responses this year to date, which is up significantly from last year.

Mayor Green reported the sewer jetter approved at the last meeting has been ordered and received. The old jetter was declared surplus at the last meeting and will be sold by online auction soon. Leaf pick up has been extended until December 16th. The utility department has done a great job with picking up leaves and we have received many compliments from citizens. Green reported we will look for a more permanent box for the leaf pickup truck next year.

Police Chief Toombs reported 316 calls for service last month. He also reported several equipment items that need upgrading, including body cameras and tasers. The current body cameras are outdated and several do not work. Toombs presented a quote from Axon for the purchase of 7 new body cameras at a cost of \$4,893. This item is not budgeted, but he believes the cameras are much needed to the department. Toombs has already applied for a LEPP grant for new body armor and will apply for a LEPP grant for tasers, but he does not expect to receive two grants in one year. Case asked about cloud storage of body camera video. Toombs stated that would increase the cost of the cameras to about \$11,000 over the next three years and he feels the videos can be stored locally. Attorney Traughber stated that money would be better spent on better local storage and backup of the video. Traughber also suggested looking into using the Todd County Drug Fund for purchasing the cameras. Gibson motioned to approve the purchase of the body cameras and amend the budget as necessary, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

There was considerable discussion about how the Todd County Drug Fund money is pooled between all law enforcement agencies in the county and why the money is pooled instead of going to each individual department. Traughber also stated there is not as much money going into the Fund anymore since the decriminalization of marijuana. Traughber will discuss with all law enforcement agencies how the Fund is pooled and potentially segregating the funds.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Laster complimented the utility department staff on the good job collecting leaves. He also asked about large item trash pick-up because some people in the city have started placing large items at the curb. Mayor Green stated no city large item trash pick-up has been scheduled.

Gibson reported that Tony Combs will assist citizens with taking away old appliances.

Case reported seeing contractors at the Middle School draining water into the city sewer lines and the gas lines are marked in the area. Mayor Green stated this was probably the sewer project contractor videoing sewer lines. Case also reported seeing utility crews running cables on East and West Main Street. Mayor Green was not sure if this is HES running fiber internet lines, but he reported they do have plans to run lines all over the city by the end of next year.

McReynolds asked if the city has heard any plans for the building formerly occupied by Orthopedics Plus adjacent to City Hall. Mayor Green is not aware of any plans for the building. Gibson reported he spoke to the owner and the building is for sale, however nothing will be done until after their contract for the building runs out at the end of December.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green requested city council members submit names of people that might be willing to serve on the following city committees: City Beautification Committee, Planning Commission, and Board of Adjustment. A City Beautification Committee will be formed in January to help take a look at the city and things that can be done for beautification.

Mayor Green reported a date for the sale of all Refine Tile property has been set for the first week of January.

The city has received the signed contract from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the discretionary road fund money awarded to the city in the amount of \$199,200. Bids that were received to complete this project last month came in under the awarded amount. We will need to clarify with the state if we can pave additional streets with the remaining funds.

Mayor Green passed along an invitation for anyone to attend the Area Development District gathering for the Kentucky Governor's Inauguration that will be held tomorrow in Frankfort. There are other inauguration events tomorrow that are open to the public.

Brock reported the city applied for a Kentucky League of Cities liability grant and received \$3,000 to help reimburse the city for the sidewalk repairs on East Main Street.

Chief Toombs invited the council members to attend a Christmas Brunch with the Police Department on Saturday, December 14th at 10 am.

Laster motioned to go into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) for deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Everyone left the meeting except mayor, council members, attorney, and clerk.

Powell motioned to go out of closed session, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously. Doors were opened to the public. Mayor Green reported no action taken as a result of closed session.

Case motioned to adjourn, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer