

Minutes: City Council Special Meeting  
February 4, 2020  
5:30 PM

The Elkton City Council met in special session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 5:30 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

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

Others present: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Police Chief; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; Billy Bryant, Charlotte Morrow, Glenn Slack, Gary Violette, and Carolyn Wells of Historic Todd County, Inc.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Historic Todd County, Inc.
2. Resolution 2020-02, "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE GOEBEL AVE BIKE/PED PROJECT"
3. COPS Grant Application – SRO Officer
4. Water Meter Replacement
5. Waste Truck Study
6. Cemetery Maintenance Contract
7. Utility Rate Study Implementation
8. Bicentennial Activities

Glenn Slack, President of Historic Todd County, Inc., announced members of the Board of Directors were present to update the city council on plans to rehabilitate the second floor of the Historic 1835 Courthouse for a future museum. The Board has hired structural engineers from K & S Engineering to study the building for the construction of an elevator. Also, the Board has hired mechanical and electrical engineers from SKY Engineers to prepare plans for electrical, HVAC and plumbing. Gary Violette, board member and architect, reviewed the preliminary findings from the engineers including plans for the elevator in the northeast corner of the building and new ADA restrooms on the first and second floors. The second floor will be rehabilitated to look like the old courtroom and will be used for museum and historical displays. Installation of new electrical panels for the entire building and new modern HVAC will be installed on the second floor. The total cost of this first phase is estimated to cost \$300,000. Violette explained the second phase would involve painting, flooring and other work to prepare for the second floor museum space. Finally, the third phase would be installation of the museum and historical displays. Laster asked if grants could help with the project. Slack explained HTC applied for a CDBG grant last year, however Todd County has been blocked from applying until past CDBG grant obligations have been met, which has not been done yet. Carolyn Wells explained that over the last three or four years, HTC has raised nearly \$71,000 for our efforts and continues to hold fundraisers. Violette reiterated that in order to install the elevator, holes will be cut in the floor and ceiling of the building to accommodate the elevator shaft. Slack thanked everyone and the group left the meeting.

Resolution 2020-02, "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE GOEBEL AVE BIKE/PED PROJECT" was presented. Mayor Green stated this authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the state in order to begin engineering design of the project. Laster motioned to approve Resolution 2020-02, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Police Chief Robert Toombs requested the council consider applying for a Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) grant for the city to hire a School Resource Officer for the Middle School. The federal grant

would pay for 75% of the cost of the officer for the first three years and School Superintendent Ed Oyler has indicated the school system will pay for the other 25%. The city must maintain the officer the fourth year, however the school system would then pay 75% of the cost and the city would pay the remaining 25%. Mayor Green asked for permission to apply for the grant with the condition that if approved a formal memorandum of understanding would be entered into with the school system setting forth these terms before accepting the grant. Powell motioned to approve applying for the grant, seconded by McReynolds, and carried unanimously.

Director of Public Works Chris Orr reported that water loss is creeping up to about 30% in the city. The department is actively looking for water leaks, however they recently tested about nine water meters and presented findings that the meters are reading inaccurately and sometimes not measuring water usage at all at low flow use. Therefore, some of the water loss can be attributed to the inaccuracy of the city's meters. The city has met with several water meter companies and Orr requested permission to prepare specifications to bid out purchase of all new water meters. This will allow us to get all our options together and see how much the cost will be. These findings will be presented to the council for future decision. After discussion, Gibson motioned to approve the preparation of bid specifications and advertising the purchase, seconded by Laster and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported meeting with Best Equipment, who contacted the city and offered to help study the possibility of the city providing our own garbage pick up service. Mayor asked the council if we should proceed in studying this as an option. It was the consensus to continue the study.

Mayor Green reported the current cemetery maintenance contract with Ricchuite Enterprises expires soon but can be renewed for another year under the same terms and cost. Gibson motioned to renew the contract for another year and seconded by Laster. McReynolds asked about a recent charge against the owner of the company. Mayor Green stated there are no felony convictions against the contractor and that they meet all the requirements of the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Green and Clerk Brock presented findings of the Utility Rate Study prepared by GRW Engineering. Mayor stated that we already know rates must be increased in order to meet the terms of recent KIA loan agreements. GRW studied lowering the minimum bill usage from 2,000 to 1,000 gallons and stated that because 40% of users in the city use under 2,000 gallons it is not feasible to lower the minimum because it would put unnecessary hardship on all other users. The final recommendation was to increase sewer rates by 11% and increase water rates by 4% to meet upcoming debt service obligations by the year 2023. Clerk Brock also presented a summary of how the increase effects the minimum and average user in Elkton as well as comparing the new rates to cities in the surrounding area. Green stated ordinances to implement these new rates will be presented for first reading at the next meeting. Orr reiterated that our rates may be a little higher than surrounding areas, but the city is getting ahead of many issues other cities have not even begun to address such as aging infrastructure and failing sewer plants.

Mayor Green passed out a picture of the city's Bicentennial Logo and a Bicentennial Sponsor form and requested the council help in finding sponsors for our bicentennial events. He also reported he has submitted an application to the Guinness Book of World Records for the city to sponsor a record for the most people participating in a two-step line dance. Mark and Deana Power are assisting in organizing this bicentennial event with more information to be reported soon. Gibson stated he may know someone that would help call a square dance event and he will report that information to the Mayor.

There were no further items on the agenda therefore Gibson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

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Arthur Green, Mayor

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Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer