

Minutes: City Council Special Meeting
April 30, 2020
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in special session on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding by video conference. Due to the current state of emergency regarding threats to public health presented by the novel coronavirus, this meeting of the Elkton City Council was conducted by video conference with the video of the meeting made available to the public by visiting the city's YouTube Video Channel.

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

Others present by video conference: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; and, Robert Toombs, Police Chief.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 12, 2020 City Council Meeting
5. First Reading Ordinance 2020-03, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE THIRTY-SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY"
6. Bid Openings
 - a. Automated Water Meter Equipment Procurement
7. Sewer Improvements Project Update
8. Police Department Vehicles Purchase Request – Budget Amendment
9. Water and Sewer Rate Discussion
10. Adjournment

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm due to video technical difficulties.

Mayor Green led the pledge of allegiance and gave invocation.

Clerk Brock called roll for city council members present.

Mayor Green called for approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2020 city council meeting. Michael Case stated for the record that in discussion of the Welcome to Elkton signs at the last meeting it was his intention that the signs need to be replaced and not just painted, but the minutes did not need to be changed. McReynolds motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Green stated Attorney Jeff Traughber prepared a Summary of Ordinance 2020-03. Gibson motioned to read Summary of Ordinance 2020-03 in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously by roll call vote. Clerk Brock read Summary of Ordinance 2020-03, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE THIRTY-SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY."

Mayor Green reported bids were received for the purchase of Automated Water Meter Equipment. Clerk Brock reported three bids were received and opened on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM with the following received for Base Bid and Alternative Bid: United Systems, \$231,095.00 and No Bid; Core & Main LP, \$201,993.05 and \$213,712.57; and, Allied Utility Solutions, \$198,338.84 and \$223,948.94. Mayor Green

reported the bids still need to be analyzed and a recommendation will be made at the next meeting but called for any questions or discussion. Powell asked the difference between the base and alternative bid and the Mayor explained the alternate bids allows the meters to be read on a more consistent basis from City Hall instead of the once a month drive by radio read meters in the base bid. The alternate bid is an upgrade in technology and would allow customers to download apps to monitor their water usage on a daily basis. McReynolds asked about grants to purchase the meters. Mayor Green reported there is none at the moment but this project has been added to a list of possible future stimulus funded projects as well as some sewer improvement projects.

Mayor Green updated the council on the Sewer Improvements Project and explained the “pipe in place” portion of the project has basically been completed. The subcontractor doing the dig work to replace sewer pipe was supposed to start work this week. Phase II of the project is currently being planned and will include a sewer force main to the pump station at the high school and sewer plant improvements with bids received hopefully in June. Phase III will be determined by how much funding is remaining after Phase I and II are complete.

Chief Toombs reviewed his proposal sent to the council prior to the meeting requesting the purchase of two police vehicles. He explained that he has not hired the 7th full-time police officer in this year’s budget in order to save funds to improve much needed equipment in the department. Therefore, he is requesting that some of the estimated \$52,000 in savings in the budget from salaries and retirement expense by not hiring the seventh police officer be transferred to capital expenses to purchase two used police vehicles, a 2014 Dodge Charger and a 2017 Ford Explorer. The 2011 Ford Explorer is having mechanical issues and may need to be surplus, leaving a shortage of vehicles if a new officer is hired in the next budget year. Chief Toombs also reported Logan County Sherriff Department will be donating a partition to the city valued at about \$2,000 for the 2014 Dodge Charger. The total cost to purchase and equip the vehicles will not exceed \$42,000. After discussion, Powell motioned to approve the purchase and budget amendment, seconded by McReynolds, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Green reminded the council the city was required to raise water and sewer rates due to the recent water and sewer KIA loan projects. Water rates have already been adjusted as required. However, the city is required to raise the sewer rates at least 10% by July 1, 2020. Clerk Brock explained the city contacted KIA and requested the rate increase be postponed for one year. KIA responded that they could only request a postponement until December 31, 2020 and that would need to be approved by the two different boards. Mayor Green stated a recommendation for sewer rates will be presented in next year’s budget proposal and right now he thinks that will be to raise sewer rates effective January 1, 2021. Powell asked how much a 10% sewer increase would be on the minimum user bill and Clerk Brock confirmed that would be about \$3.68 per month. Case reported he is studying alternative ways to raise the needed revenue without increasing the minimum bill as much.

Mayor Green stated the plan is to hold another meeting on the regularly scheduled date. According to current state guidelines to maintain socially distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, any meetings held in May will more than likely be held through Zoom video conferencing unless the guidelines change. Mayor Green stated this is the first ever video conference meeting in Elkton’s history.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer