

Minutes: City Council Special Meeting
August 13, 2020
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in special session on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding. 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 on the regular meeting date as a special meeting due to change in location to the Historic 1835 Courthouse Welcome Center, 1 Public Square, Elkton, Kentucky to maintain social distancing guidelines.

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

Others present: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Police Chief; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; Mark Thomas, Superintendent, Todd County School District; and, John Mullins.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gibson led invocation.

After review, Orr motioned to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020 special city council meeting, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock reported in the bills payable this month is a request from the Todd County Industrial Foundation for their budgeted contribution of \$15,000, a payment to the Recreation Commission for half of their annual contribution in the amount of \$8,500, and requested membership contribution to the Todd County Chamber of Commerce of \$1,000. Also, Brock presented an additional bill to pay from Finley Fire Equipment for the purchase of four sets of fire coats and pants in the amount of \$5,440.87 that will be reimbursed by state fire aid. McReynolds motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Case introduced new Todd County Schools Superintendent Mark Thomas, who he invited to attend. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Case for the invitation and introduced himself and stated he is an Elkton resident and he and his friends and family love the town and are happy to be here. He explained to the council how school will look in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic including the recent change to begin the school year completely virtual on August 26th with the first opportunity for in person classes to begin on October 12th. Case thanked the Superintendent for the school system working with the city on the new Dolly Parton's Imagination Library project. Mayor Green reported the Superintendent approved the application for the USPS bulk mailing permit so the application to begin the program is still in the works. Mayor Green thanked Mr. Thomas for attending and presented him with an Elkton bicentennial coin and pin. Mr. Thomas thanked everyone and left the meeting.

Mayor Green called for public comments and stated Double Luck is not in attendance as requested because he met with Kelvin DeBerry to discuss their issue with city ordinance 50.27 which holds landowners jointly liable for utility bills. Mayor Green stated both landowners and the city have additional issues now due to COVID-19 because landlords have been ordered not to evict tenants for not paying rent and the city has been ordered not to charge penalties or cut off service for nonpayment. The city has increased the utility deposit for renters in the past to help address this issue. Mayor Green stated the city is looking for resources to help both the city and landlords pay for unpaid utility bills during the pandemic. Clerk Brock stated currently there are about 17 customer that have three or more months unpaid utility bills totaling about \$6,089 in delinquencies. There are a few customers that have not paid a bill since March. The city has been corresponding with landlords to let them know when renters are not paying their bill and some landlords are staying on

their tenants to keep their bills paid.

Ordinance 2020-07 was presented for second reading with Orr motioning to read Summary of Ordinance 2020-07 in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock read second reading of Summary of Ordinance 2020-07, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 97.21 AND 97.22 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." Laster motioned to adopt after second reading, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Green reported that the transition from Waste Management to GFL providing city garbage pickup went well. There were a few customers that did not get new containers from GFL, but this was corrected. Waste Management did put out orders to remove all containers from the city and inadvertently removed large containers for commercial customers. This service was restored as soon as the issue was found.

Clerk Brock reported the city received proposals on August 4, 2020 from parties interested in obtaining franchises to operate cable systems within Elkton pursuant to Ordinance No. 2020-06 passed at the last meeting. Mediacom submitted the only proposal agreeing to all terms in the ordinance. Mediacom also stated they would provide the city with free internet and basic cable to five city properties, three of which already have free service and including the addition of the fire department and the sewer treatment plant which we are currently paying for internet. After discussion, Case motioned to approve Resolution 2020-10, "A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF MEDIACOM COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION ("THE COMPANY") FOR THE RENEWAL OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE, TEN (10) YEAR FRANCHISE FOR THE OPERATION OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY BASED UPON AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06," seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported meeting with various organizations and our legislators to discuss proposed legislation to restructure the formula for Municipal Road Aid funding. Over the last 10 years the city has received around \$42,000 per year even though expenses are increasing.

Mayor Green reported at the end of July the city of Elkton had a 54.7% response rate to the 2020 Census. In the next 4-6 weeks, Census workers will be visiting household that have not yet responded. Mayor Green stated it is very important to the city for everyone to be counted.

Mayor Green reported he had a conference call on August 5th with GRW and geotechnical engineers, and Division of Water to discuss the city's plans for city lake dam. After coming up with a plan to breach the dam, Mayor Green and city employee Josh Reynolds met with GRW and geotechnical engineers at city lake and they gathered various local documents about the dam. There may be enough core drilling data from past studies that we may not need to do additional drilling.

Mayor Green also met with Kraig Moore, Forester with Land & Timber Realty, at the city lake. Mr. Moore walked the property and presented a written estimate that a timber harvest would yield about \$25,000 to \$30,000. Mayor Green stated we can contract with Land & Timber Realty to mark the trees for harvesting and prepare specifications for the city to bid the project for about \$1,000. Or, we can contract with Mr. Moore to also bid out and manage the entire project including meeting with potential bidders and supervising the work for a total of 10% of the successful bid, estimated at \$2,500 to \$3,000. Mayor read Mr. Moore's bio and reported he was recommended by a local logger. Case motioned to enter into a contract with Land & Timber Realty to manage the entire project as presented, seconded by Gibson and carried unanimously. Traugher stated the contract with them should require them to follow the city's bid requirements.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works

- Director Chris Orr reported Phase I of the sewer improvements project should be completed in the next two weeks. Phase II, sewer force main from the high school lift station to the sewer treatment plant, and Phase III, sewer treatment plant improvements, should both be bid out in September.
- July 31st was the deadline for property owners to choose the option to purchase a cellular read meter. However, the deadline has been extended a few days and Orr is visiting businesses and landlords to make sure they received the notice and explain the benefits of cellular. So far about 180 customers out of about 950 have chosen the cellular read option.

Police Department

- Chief Toombs asked for approval to apply for a KY-ASAP grant to purchase evidence tracking software including bar code scanner and printer. The initial cost of \$2,930 will be completely covered by the grant, however there would be an annual \$400 maintenance fee. Powell motioned to approve applying for the grant, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.
- Toombs also reported Clerk Willenborg is working on a Firehouse Subs grant to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) for each police vehicle and police department. This would be 100% grant.
- Toombs reported 515 total calls for service last month including 7 alcohol related calls. The department has increased enforcement and writing more tickets for both loud exhaust pipes and speeding.
- All but one police officer received training this week on tire deflation devices. The County Drug Fund purchased the devices for the department.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

McReynolds asked if the city could request that the crosswalks around Public Square be refreshed. Mayor Green stated he can request it but not sure if it can be done.

Case stated that he would like to see a new crosswalk at Five Star going from West Main to S Streets Ave.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green reported he is forming a committee to review the zoning ordinance and asked for volunteers from the council. He has also asked for volunteers from the Planning Commission and has a few local engineers and architects that have volunteered. Green reported there are lots of conversations going on now about new residential construction in the city but existing lots are too small and potential buyers are hesitant to buy lots without knowing if a variance can be obtained to build a home before purchasing the lot. This is one area that could be simplified in the zoning ordinance.

The city has requested a second spraying for mosquitos in town.

The School System has applied for the USPS bulk mailing permit needed to start the Imagination Library program in the city. He hopes the application will be done in time for kids to start receiving books in October.

Mayor Green reported delivering 21 Coronavirus Relief Grant applications to local businesses. As of today, the city has approved 12 application totaling \$10,439.01. It has been determined a few other businesses not initially contacted qualify and applications have been delivered to them as well.

Mayor Green stated the city needs to investigate incentives and rebates for construction of infrastructure for developments and new annexations. There are several new housing projects in the works and a potential buyer of all the remaining lots in Riverbend Subdivision. He reported all the delinquent city property taxes in Riverbend have been paid.

Mayor Green reported speaking with the owners of the Orthopedic Plus building beside City Hall and it should be officially for sale in a few weeks.

City Hall has been closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will probably open back up soon. Mayor and City Hall staff are preparing guidelines for reopening safely.

Mayor Green reported he and Chris Orr are studying an additional fee for water and sewer customers based on meter sizes. Larger meters cost more to test and replace and therefore charging them the same rate as normal 5/8" meter does not generate sufficient revenue. He also stated he may propose doing away with the 40,000 and higher gallon step in the water rate structure. A formal proposed change to the rate ordinances will be presented at a later date.

Mayor Green presented the new city logo developed during the bicentennial committee discussions. The logo features an elk and will be installed on all the city work trucks starting next week.

Green also reported the new elk statue that will be installed on the courthouse lawn has arrived and an unveiling will be scheduled for September.

Case reminded everyone he thinks the welcome to Elkton signs need to be refurbished.

Bicentennial logo banners for the city and county and recognizing city sponsors have been put up around the Square.

The 400 Mile Sale usually held the first weekend in June was rescheduled to the first weekend in October. Mayor Green would like to see a citywide yard sale with food trucks in different locations around town. Maybe we can have some music on the Square while encouraging social distancing.

Mayor Green stated Kentucky League of Cities gave city employees and each council member a "I Love my KY City" mask. We will take a group picture with the masks on to send to KLC.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer