

Minutes: City Council Special Meeting
July 9, 2020
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in special session on Thursday, July 9, 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; Carter Hendricks, Executive Director, South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council; and, John Walton, Todd County Industrial Foundation.

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

After review, Powell motioned to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2020 special city council meeting, bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Gibson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green welcomed Carter Hendricks, Executive Director, South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council, who presented information to the council regarding the role of SWKEDC in assisting existing industry and recruiting new industry to Elkton, Todd County, and the region. Mr. Hendricks also recognized John Walton and thanked him for the role he plays for the county as well.

Mayor Green reported Attorney Traugher has prepared a Summary of Ordinance 2020-06, "AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NON-EXCLUSIVE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE WITHIN THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY." Case motioned to read the Summary of Ordinance in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Laster and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock read second reading of Summary of Ordinance 2020-06. McReynolds motioned to adopt after second reading, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Green presented Resolution 2020-09, "ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY ("CITY") AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND ("CRF") APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF INCURRED EXPENSES IN CRF FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ("DLG"); AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY DLG TO REIMBURSE CITY; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED CORRESPONDENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT." Orr motioned to approve Resolution 2020-09, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock confirmed the estimated amount of Coronavirus Relief Funds allotted to the city is \$152,298. The city can use all funds for reimbursement of police salaries incurred during the COVID-19 emergency beginning March 1 through December 30, 2020. However, Mayor Green proposed allotting \$20,000 of these funds for a Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant program for small retail businesses located in Elkton to help reimburse them for rent or mortgage, utilities, personal protective equipment purchased for employee and customer safety and other items during the mandatory shutdown. After discussion, it was the consensus to allow the businesses to get reimbursed for up to \$1,000 all payable upon approval of the grant application. Mayor Green stated the county government is also working on a program that may also help these businesses in some way and we may or may not work together in the future as their program has not yet been approved by fiscal court. After discussion, Case motioned to allot \$20,000 for this grant project with \$1,000 payable to the business up front, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reminded the council the city has received a COPS grant for hiring a new School Resource Officer. Mayor Green and Police Chief Toombs briefly met with the new School Superintendent presenting a draft agreement setting out the duties and sharing the cost of the officer, however the new Superintendent just started July 1 and they have not gotten a response yet. Mayor Green asked for approval to accept the grant. Orr motioned to accept the COPS grant, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented a proposed agreement between the city and GRW Engineering to prepare plans for approval by Kentucky Division of Water to decommission city lake. Mayor reminded the council there is \$30,000 in the current year budget for this project. Orr motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock presented a proposal from Thurman Campbell Group to prepare the audited financial

statement and Uniform Financial Information Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 for a total cost of \$18,000, the same cost as last year. Laster motioned to approve the proposal, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Chris Orr presented a report updating the council on the Wastewater System Improvement Project with pictures and reports from daily progress reports and the group passed around a sample of the Cured in Place Pipe. Mayor Green and Orr also reported letters were sent out yesterday to all property owners informing them of the option to purchase a cellular read endpoint for the new water meters that will be installed in the fall. Mayor Green also reported the utility department inspected sewer manholes that were scheduled to be repaired in Phase I of the Sewer Project and found that about one-third of the manholes did not need repairs. This saved the city about \$150,000 to be used where most needed in future phases. Mayor Green thanked Orr and the utility staff for their hard work.

Police Chief Robert Toombs reported a total of 446 calls for service last month with 7 of those being alcohol related. He also reported increasing enforcement of speeding on various city streets due to increased complaints. Mayor Green reported the air conditioning unit went out in the Police Department this week and has been replaced.

Mayor Green reported many city activities scheduled to celebrate the city's bicentennial have been postponed due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Mayor Green passed out the city's bicentennial coin and lapel pin and the county bicentennial magnet. The plan was to have a bigger and better HarvestFest this year due to the bicentennial, however the Mayor would like council input for having the event under the current virus conditions or any ideas on bicentennial events we could have.

Mayor Green presented a proposed operational policy to establish that all new water services established in the city from this day forward will use cellular read meters and the cost of cellular will be added onto the monthly utility bill. Also, that all new water services to apartment buildings shall have individual water meters per unit. If approved, this will be the operational policy until we codify the policy by city ordinance. Mayor Green stated that current apartment buildings are on one master meter which gives them a discount on water and does not cover the more expensive cost of replacing the bigger meter. After discussion, Orr motioned to approve the proposed operational policy until amended by ordinance, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green also proposed future action to remove the water salesman operated by the city. This action will save the city about \$200 per month and there are other options in the county for purchasing water. We will give notice of about 60 days before it closes.

Mayor Green is also working on a proposal to add a water rate fee for master meters located on the apartment complexes to better reflect the cost of water and maintenance on the meter.

Mayor Green reported he received a proposed contract with GFL Environmental for the city's solid waste removal bid approved at the last meeting. GFL had initially proposed allowing annual increases in garbage rates if additional fees are incurred and a minimum increase in the CPI every year. However, after discussions those additional items were removed from the contract and the four-year contract with option to renew for one or two years only includes an annual increase using the actual CPI every year as bid. Case motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2020-07 was presented proposing the current rate for solid waste removal be amended from \$9.17 plus \$.60 for a total of \$9.77 per container to a flat fee of \$9.25 per container. The amendment also allows for businesses to use a container through the city. Laster motioned to read Summary of Ordinance 2020-07 in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock read first 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."

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

McReynolds reported the city was sprayed for mosquitos last night as he requested at the last meeting.

Case called for an update on the Imagination Library program. Green reported the city must have a

501c3 or school partner with the city to use their non-profit mass marketing mailing rate. He is working with the school system to see if they can obtain the correct mailing permit.

Case inquired about the closure of Commerce Street. Since Traughber was absent the Mayor reported he did not believe any action had been taken on this matter.

Laster thanked the utility department for their hard work.

Powell asked how the garbage collection transition from Waste Management to GFL would work. Mayor Green stated a notice was in the mail this week to all property owners letting them know that Waste Management will pick up garbage July 31st and then a crew will follow behind picking up their containers. GFL will deliver new containers to each customer on July 30th and 31st. GFL will make their first pickup on the first Friday in August. If anyone has issues with their containers should contact City Hall.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green reported blacktopping with discretionary funding was completed in the city. There are additional funds remaining and the Mayor was advised to contact the state again at the end of July to see if funds are available to be used.

A new fire hydrant was installed near the new apartments on Commerce Street.

The city was sprayed for mosquitos last night and we can request additional spraying later in the year.

Letters have gone out to all landlords keeping them informed if their tenants are not paying utility bills. The city is still under orders from the state to not charge penalties or cut off utility services.

The city has signed a vendor agreement with PACS so that our utility customers can obtain help in paying their bills through PACS.

Mayor Green met with First Baptist Church regarding speed bumps on their street. After meeting with them, part of their issue may be on their own private street that could be handled without installing speed bumps.

Mayor Green reported the city received approval for the CDBG grant to loan to a local industry for improvements.

George Orr inquired about the school system using the Die Casting property as discussed at the last meeting. Mayor Green stated Todd County Judge/Executive Todd Mansfield has not met with the new Superintendent yet. Also, the Country Club is aware of current discussions with the school system to work out a plan for the property.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer