

Minutes: City Council Meeting
November 12, 2020
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 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: Jeff Traughber, legal counsel; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; and Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone back to meeting at City Hall after many months of meeting virtually or in the Historic 1835 Courthouse Welcome Center due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Modifications were made in City Hall installing glass donated by DDS Glass Doors in Elkton for barriers between council members. Mayor Green led the Pledge of Allegiance and Laster led invocation. Mayor Green thanked all veterans for their service and stated on Veteran's Day the city honored the three World War II veterans living in Elkton on our social media and website.

Mayor Green congratulated all city council members on their recent re-election to serve two more years on the city council beginning January 1st. He stated if there were no objections the swearing in ceremony would be held after the next regular council meeting. There were no objections.

After review, Laster motioned to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 special city council meeting and public hearing, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

After review, Powell motioned to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 special city council meeting, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

After review, Orr motioned to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 special city council meeting, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for discussion of the bills payable and financial reports. Clerk Brock reported that in the first month of registrations, the city has 34 participants in the new Imagination Library program. Mayor Green reported there has been some discussion with the Todd County Public Library to make the program available to all of Todd County. McReynolds motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-08, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING TAMMY SHARP TO THE ELKTON CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD." Orr motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-08, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-09, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING JEAN ODUM TO THE ELKTON CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD." Orr motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-09, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-10, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING DEBBIE LASTER TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT." Powell motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-10, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-11, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING

BILLY JONES TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.” Orr motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-11, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-12, “MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING MATT ST. MARTIN TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FULFILLING AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 2021.” Orr motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-12, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented Municipal Order 2020-13, “MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING JEAN ODUM TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.” Laster motioned to approve Municipal Order 2020-13, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green announced he received notice from Debbie Laster that she is resigning from the Planning Commission so there is a vacant position.

Mayor Green reported a new effort between the three Western Kentucky Area Development Districts (Pennyrile, Purchase, and Green River) called the West Kentucky Coalition. The membership fee for a city of our size is \$250 per year. The Coalition will hire lobbyist to work for projects beneficial to Western Kentucky. After discussion, Orr motioned to join the Western Kentucky Coalition and pay the \$250 dues, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green stated he and several others met with Frank Wallace, building inspector, about the city adopting the Residential Building Code and contracting with him as a building inspector. Mayor reported he met with about three local builders that stated the city should begin using an inspector for single-family homes. The city would need to adopt the code and a fee structure by ordinance. Mayor Green reported the recommended fee structure is the one the state uses and there would be no additional cost to the city. Mayor stated people buying new homes want to know the structure has been inspected and not just HVAC, electrical and plumbing. Green reported once this program is adopted, the city could also choose to adopt a program so that all commercial building permits can be approved on a local level instead of having to be submitted to Frankfort. Case stated he would like to exclude the requirement of a building permit and inspections for additions and accessory structures. Clerk Brock will send the model ordinance to Attorney Jeff Traughber. After discussion, Mayor Green asked for feedback before the next meeting and suggested inviting Mr. Wallace to a future meeting for discussion and to answer questions.

Mayor Green reminded the council the city is required by Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to raise sewer rates by January 1, 2021 to increase sewer revenue by 10% to generate enough revenue to pay the Sewer Renovations Project loan principal payment beginning about June 2022. The city did request another delay in the rate increase to see if the new water meter installations generated additional sewer revenue, however this request was denied by KIA. There was discussion of the wording of the agreement if it required a rate increase or if the additional revenue from more accurate water meters would comply. Brock will send the loan agreement documents to Traughber for review. There was discussion that delaying the rate increase could compromise the remaining two phases of the project. The proposed sewer rates were reviewed and Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2020-11, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 52.04(A) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON ADJUSTING AND MODIFYING USER RATES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICES IN THE CITY OF ELKTON.”

Clerk Brock updated the council on recent grant projects: 1) The city has applied for CARES funding through the Department for Local Government, which is COVID Relief Funds for States from the federal government the state has allotted to local governments. The city applied for funds to reimburse the city for police first responder salaries, business relief grants, and utility hardship grants. The city’s application was approved, however the city’s total allotment of funds in the amount of \$152,298 will cover just police salaries from March through September 2020. 2) The city applied for a Kentucky League of Cities Safety Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to help pay for new

water meters. 3) The city was awarded TAP funds for the Goebel Avenue Sidewalks and Bicycle Lane project back in January and an Agreement was passed authorizing the engineering design phase in February. However, there was an issue with the agreement and another one will have to be passed by the state. It is believed we will have permission to proceed with design of the project by the end of the year.

Mayor Green stated he will be meeting with state transportation department representatives to discuss potentially applying for more discretionary paving funds.

Mayor Green updated the council that intent to apply for FEMA funds for breaching city lake dam was submitted and approval has been given to continue with the full application. Mayor and Chris Orr will meet with GRW Engineers soon to discuss preliminary report on breaching the dam before it is presented to the Division of Water.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department

- Chief Toombs reported 426 calls for service in October, including 4 alcohol related calls.
- Toombs also reported the Ford Explorer being used by Code Enforcement needs a new engine and he feels the cost to repair is not feasible. The Chevrolet Blazer is also no longer being used. Mayor and Chief Toombs discussed declaring the two vehicles surplus and selling them and then buying a used vehicle from a local dealer. Case asked how much driving the Code Enforcement Officer did and stated it may be more feasible to reimburse the Citation Officer for mileage on a personal vehicle rather than purchase another city vehicle. Toombs stated there was some local driving for inspections and training out of town. After discussion, Orr motioned to declare the Blazer and Ford Explorer surplus property and sold, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Fire Department

- Chief Derrell Waggoner reported all fire trucks are being serviced this week and pumps will be tested next week.
- Powell asked about the number of firemen and Waggoner reported a total of 20 firemen on staff. The department has been approved for up to 22 firemen.
- Mayor Green reminded everyone that several years ago the firemen were helping with a community survey to apply for a CDBG grant for an addition to be built to the fire hall. This may be revisited next year.

Public Works

- Director Chris Orr reported all the new water meters except for a few large meters have arrived. Training on the new meters will begin next week. Once training is complete, the meters will be installed and hopefully all be in place by the end of the year.
- Orr reported drain tiles have been cleaned out on Pond River Road to help with flooding issues.
- Leaf pick up will continue for a few more weeks. Laster thanked the department for their hard work picking up leaves.
- Phase II of the Sewer Improvements Project is still awaiting environmental review and approval before bidding can begin around January.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Case stated he believes utility funds cannot be used for general fund expenses, but he feels the city could use general fund monies to supplement the utility departments.

Gibson discussed the 40% water loss in the city and questioned where it could be coming from. Orr

stated it is an unknown how much the new water meters will help with water loss, but there will be some improvement.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green reported he and Chris Orr met with Nick Christian of Soil Conservation to work on a plan for flooding in the Pond River Road area. Christian hopes to have a plan ready the first of next year.

Mayor Green reported there will be a ceremony to unveil the elk statue he is donating to the city for the bicentennial on Saturday, November 21st at 11 am on Public Square.

The Christmas Parade in Elkton this year will be themed for the Elkton and Todd County Bicentennial and will be held Saturday, December 12th at 5 pm.

The Chamber of Commerce Annual meeting is this Saturday, November 14th and the city has two extra tickets if anyone wants to attend.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer