

Minutes: City Council Meeting  
January 14, 2021  
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

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

Others present: Jeff Traughber, legal counsel; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; and, Frank Wallace, Building Inspector.

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

After review, Orr motioned to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 city council meeting, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for discussion of the bills payable and financial reports. Clerk Brock had nothing to note and after discussion Case motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reminded everyone that several months ago there was discussion of hiring Frank Wallace, Building Inspector, for single-family home residential building inspection in the city. Mayor Green introduced Mr. Wallace and called for any questions. Mr. Wallace reported he is building inspector for various locations in Western Kentucky and does some multifamily and commercial inspections in Todd County for the state. He stated that all builders are supposed to follow the Kentucky Residential Building Code, however it is up to each municipality to hire an inspector to enforce the Code for single-family housing. After some discussion, Mayor Green stated a draft ordinance including fees for the building permits would be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Wallace thanked everyone and left the meeting.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Green stated Jeff Traughber prepared Ordinance 2021-01, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROCEED WITH THE CLOSURE OF COMMERCE STREET AT THE INTERSECTION WITH B. WHITE ROAD PURSUANT TO KRS 82.405(4)" as ordered by the council at the last meeting. However, Mayor Green stated he proposes closing B White Road near the Commerce Street intersection instead of closing Commerce Street. Mayor's concern is that there will be 72 apartments on Commerce Street by the end of this year and they will have only one way in and out. However, there are only 20 houses on B White Road. Traughber confirmed if the city closes B White Road there are two adjoining property owners instead of just one. After discussion, it was the consensus to check on this option before proceeding with reading Ordinance 2021-01.

Mayor Green reported Clerk Brock has prepared an amendment to the Budget Ordinance for FYE June 30, 2021. Clerk Brock reviewed a summary of changes and called for any questions. The amendment includes several changes already approved by the council and one new item for the addition of \$10,000 under City Beautification to purchase items such as trash receptacles, benches, and flowers for Public Square. Case stated he would like to see more beautification items one block off the Square. Also, there needs to be some garbage receptacles placed on South Streets Avenue where the city built new sidewalks several years ago. After discussion, Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2021-02, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE

30, 2021.”

Resolution 2021-01, “A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY ELKTON, KENTUCKY APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF WATER LINES AND APPURTENANCES FOR THE LOGAN TODD REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION KY HIGHWAY 181 WATERLINE PROJECT ALONG ANY NECESSARY CITY STREETS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, ALLEYS OR OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES” was presented to the council. Mayor Green reviewed the project and showed a map of where the water line would be installed. After discussion, Case motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-01, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock reported the city received a Kentucky Libraries and Archives grant in the amount of \$12,379.00 to digitize and microfilm 15 Board of Trustee and City Council meeting minute books and purchase two fireproof filing cabinets. The grant pays for 100% of the project.

Chief Toombs reported his department received a grant to pay for all of the cost to purchase evidence tracking software costing about \$3,000.00.

Mayor Green asked if the council would like to elect a presiding officer to serve at council meetings in the absence of the Mayor. Orr motioned to nominate Michael Case, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported that city council member appointments to committees for the previous term had been as follows: Recreation Commission – Michael Case; Job Development Incentive Committee – Frank McReynolds; and Revolving Fund Board – Doug Gibson. These terms expire with the city council terms and need to be reappointed for two more years to coincide with the new term. Powell motioned to reappoint the same council members for two more years, second by Orr, and carried unanimously.

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

Mayor Green stated this will be a new item on the agenda every month for Attorney Jeff Traughber to update the council on any action that has been taken or needs discussion. Mr. Traughber reported he has filed suit on a property on North Main Street to foreclose on code enforcement fines. Also, he has been working with property owners to close city alleys on the old Sav-a-Lot property on North Main Street. He continues to move forward on foreclosure on a property on Duke Street due to code enforcement liens. He also continues to work on collection of delinquent property taxes, however the city seems to do very well on collection of delinquent taxes. Finally, he announced he is no longer affiliated with Ken Dillingham as Mr. Dillingham eases into retirement. He will be moving into his new office in the old Jefferson Davis Hotel building in the next few months.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Toombs reported 436 calls for service in December with 4 alcohol related calls. He reported the two vehicles declared surplus at a previous meeting are currently listed for sale on govdeals.com.

Mayor Green thanked the Police Department for their work on traffic control the last several months during very busy food bank distribution on East Main Street and the recent start of covid vaccine drive-thru clinic at the Health Department.

Chris Orr reported water loss saw a slight increase to about 46% this month, however they already believe they found a leak in Riverbend Subdivision and will be repairing it soon. We should know how much the new water meters are helping with water loss by March meter reading. Since most cellular read meters have been installed the city now has access to the new meter reading website and can monitor those readings daily. The department has started reading drive by meters once a week to

monitor leaks for customers. Cellular meter customers will be able to access the www.EyeonWater.com website and smartphone app probably in February. Orr reported the department performed annual flushing of the water lines in December. Phase II of the sewer project is expected to be bid in March with Phase III a month behind that. Both water tanks in the city will be inspected and specifications to repair and paint the Morningside Drive tank will be prepared for bidding a future project. Mayor Green thanked the utility department for their work on the sewer project saving the city about \$182,000 in Phase I that will be used on much needed repairs to the sewer plant in Phase III.

#### CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

McReynolds asked about refreshing the painted crosswalks on the Square. Mayor Green stated it is on his list of projects to discuss with the state.

Case suggested the city use the bicentennial logo on new benches purchased for the Square. Mayor Green also suggested getting businesses to sponsor a bench. Case also stated he saw where the Welcome to Elkton signs were painted and that maybe they could be supplemented with a bicentennial sign.

Case also asked about the credit card processing fees the city has been paying during the COVID-19 pandemic as Brock discussed in the budget amendment discussion. Brock stated the city will spend an additional \$5,000 this year on credit card fees because the city has been paying all credit card fees during the crisis. The council discussed at a previous meeting that the city pays the fee for credit card payments in City Hall, but the customer pays the fee for credit card payments online and over the phone, but no decision to continue this was made. Case stated there may be benefits to the city paying the fees and more people using credit cards. After discussion, Brock will return with figures on how many customers use credit cards, cash or check and automated payments for future discussion.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Municipal Order 2021-01, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING MARLENE HARRELL TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE" was presented to the council. McReynolds motioned to approve, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously.

Municipal Order 2021-02, "MUNICIPAL ORDER RE-APPOINTING NAKITA BARROW-KENNEDY TO THE ELKTON PLANNING COMMISSION" was presented to the council. Orr motioned to approve, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported he and Judge/Executive Todd Mansfield will be on a virtual meeting with the Transportation Cabinet tomorrow to discuss future projects. Mayor Green stated Elk Fork Bridge needs to be adjusted and he has letters of support for the project from all five businesses near the bridge and from Todd County Schools who have busses using this bridge on their routes. After discussion, Orr motioned to approve the Mayor applying for discretionary funding for a project on Elk Fork Road and bridge, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Orr motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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Arthur Green, Mayor

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Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer