

Minutes: City Council Meeting
September 9, 2021
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, September 9, 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 Traugher, legal counsel; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief/Todd County EMS Director; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; and, Yvonne Rundall.

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

After review, Orr motioned to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021 city council meeting, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for discussion of the bills payable and financial reports. After brief discussion, McReynolds motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, second by Orr, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Daniel Smith reported on behalf of Todd County Emergency Management that they received a grant to locate a new outdoor tornado siren at the high school. They will apply for additional grants for sirens at North and South Todd schools.

Yvonne Rundall stated she was present for an update on the flooding issue near her property on West Main Street. Mayor Green stated there are items on the agenda later in the meeting discussing this issue.

REPORTS

Mayor Green reported a public hearing was held prior to the meeting at 5:45 pm to hear comments regarding the proposed 2021 ad valorem tax rates. There were no public comments.

Mayor Green reported the City Beautification Committee named Marcie Collins of 218 Allensville Street at Yard of the Month. The Elkton mural on E Main St is basically completed. Mayor Green thanked Darlene Groves and Kim Rager for volunteering their time and talents on this effort. The Committee is looking to paint more murals in town and possibly restore the signs on the wall of the Shelter Insurance building.

The city has hired a new co-op student, Emma Petrie, who is working every afternoon in City Hall. Emma may work with Assistant Clerk Heather Harrison to start a youth leadership council.

ORDINANCES

Clerk Brock read second reading of Ordinance 2021-08 (renumbered from 2021-09 as presented at the last meeting), "AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04, AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF B WHITE ROAD WEST OF ITS INTERSECTION WITH COMMERCE STREET PURSUANT TO KRS 82.405" sponsored by council member Orr. Orr motioned to adopt after second reading, seconded by McReynolds. Voting in favor of the motion by show of hands were McReynolds,

Gibson, Powell, and Orr. Voting opposed by show of hands were Case. Motion carried.

Case motioned to read Summary of Ordinance 2021-09, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE THIRTY-THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY," seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2021-09.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2021-10, "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE UPON THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, MOTOR VEHICLES AND WATERCRAFT WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY, FOR THE YEAR 2021."

BID OPENINGS

Mayor Green reported bids were received for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Improvements - Contract 3 on August 24, 2021 at 11 am at City Hall with the following base bids received: 1) The Walker Company of KY, \$1,590,000.00; 2) Lokits Contracting Co., \$1,935,000.00; and, 3) MEB General Contractors, Inc., \$1,997,000.00. Three bid alternate items were also reported and the Mayor stated the lowest bid including all bid alternates was The Walker Company of KY at \$1,712,000.00. The Mayor reported we only have about \$1,154,600 remaining in the KIA loan for the project. The city could use ARP funds allocated to the city in the amount of about \$550,000.00 for the project and the Mayor has requested additional loan funds of \$200,000.00 if needed. We have been informed the \$200,000.00 additional loan funds would not require a sewer rate increase and would need to be approved at the next KIA meeting. The bids are being reviewed by GRW Engineering and city legal counsel and will be discussed further at a future meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

A special city council meeting will need to be held to have second reading of ordinances. After discussion, a special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5 pm.

Case requested moving to item New Transportation Alternatives Program Application on the agenda for Mrs. Rundall. Mayor stated the city is working on resubmitting a TAP application from 2016 to replace sidewalks by the Post Office and Food Giant, but we are also adding repairs to the culvert on West Main near Mrs. Rundall's home to improve drainage. Mayor Green has also talked to the Highway District Engineer to include some of this work in a future state project. There also may be a few things the city can do to help with the issue.

Mayor Green welcomed to the meeting by television conference Bill Seifert, PNC Institutional Asset Management, which manages the Investment Pool for Kentucky League of Cities. Mr. Seifert explained the program and stated the investment pool includes two stock equity funds, two bond funds, and one money market fund and the city can allocate a certain percentage of investment to each fund. The state law restricts the amount of money invested in some funds and PNC will assist the city with staying within the law. After discussion, it was decided PNC will prepare a proposed investment portfolio for presentation at a later meeting.

Mayor Green reported the city was awarded an additional \$15,776.00 in CARES covid relief funding. The city has been applying these funds to law enforcement salaries already budgeted, which frees up the funds to be used for other purposes. After discussion, Orr motioned to apply the funds to police salaries, seconded by Case, and carried unanimously.

The American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds allocated to the city can be used for various projects including infrastructure and it has been discussed using the funds for completing Phase III of the sewer project. However, the Mayor is proposing to use some of the funds for premium pay to essential employees of the city that worked during the covid pandemic. Initially his thoughts are to pay all full-time employees \$0.50 per

hour for each hour worked during the pandemic from about March 2020 through March 2021. There would also be some pay to part-time employees, but more research is needed. The expense would probably not exceed about \$25,000.00. After discussion, it was the consensus to bring a proposal back to the council at the next meeting.

Mayor Green reported Todd County Fiscal Court has agreed to pay half the cost of a recycling program for one year with the city paying the other half. The cost to use Hopkinsville Solid Waste is estimated at no more than \$3,000 for a year, so about \$1,500 each. Case motioned to partner with the county to provide the recycling program seconded by Gibson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported the city has received an Agreed Order from the Energy and Environment Cabinet, Division of Enforcement, for sewer violations including \$1,000 in fines. A letter from Attorney Jeff Traughber stating he has reviewed the proposed Agreed Order and recommends entering into the agreement to avoid harsher statutory and regulatory civil penalties. Traughber reiterated the Order includes "Remedial Measures" the city should comply with by submitting a Corrective Action Plan for acceptance by the state. Green stated all the violations will be corrected through Phase III of the sewer project. Orr motioned to authorize the Mayor to enter into the Agreed Order, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES

The Goebel Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Lane Project is still in the design phase of the project.

The city has been informed the FEMA grant applications for tornado sirens and flood mitigation have been denied. However, more funding has become available and those grants will be resubmitted.

Mayor Green reported that Litter Abatement Grant applications are due soon, however he recently learned that if the city does not apply for the funds, then the county will receive the funds and would be responsible for litter cleanup in the city.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Traughber reported foreclosure procedures on property located at 310 North Main Street has been filed. Gibson asked if the property owner has been contacted to sell the property. After discussion, Gibson will contact the property owner to see if the property can be purchased. Traughber stated other foreclosure procedures are in the works.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Smith reported the new generator for the Fire Department is supposed to be installed in the next few weeks but has been delayed several times in the past.

Police Chief Robert Toombs reported 616 calls for service last month with 10 alcohol related incidents. Toombs reported he has four police officer recruit applicants taking a physical test in a few weeks. One recruit will probably be hired by the city to send them to officer certification training. Toombs also presented three quotes for installing cameras on Public Square. 1) Copperband, \$5,263.87, which also includes a HES internet bridge for Wi-Fi capability; 2) Alpha Tech, \$5,025.00 and does not include WiFi; 3) Wired for Life, \$2,850.00 which includes the city staff doing most of the wiring and installation costs. No action was taken, and grants may be applied for this project. Mayor Green stated the department looked into using a speed trailer from the state however none are available. The city may also apply for grants to purchase a trailer of our own.

Chris Orr reported two utility department employees will be testing for wastewater collection and water distribution certification soon. Phase II of the sewer project has been delayed for several weeks. Water and sewer line extension plans for Elk Fork Country Club housing development are being developed to submit to

the state. The Country Club will be reimbursing the city for all expenses. Orr reported water loss is holding at about 14% with several small leaks still needing repair.

Mayor Green reported Elk Fork Country Club will be submitting their Development Plan to the Planning Commission for review. Public hearings will be held soon for two proposed annexations. A new vision center will be opening next door to City Hall. Also, contact has been made with City Hall regarding a new business in the old Sav-a-lot building.

Mayor Green reported bids for removal of the Melvin Stinson Lake Dam will be accepted on September 29th. The dam is scheduled for annual inspection on October 7th.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Gibson reported Ricchuite Enterprises is doing a good job in the cemetery with three men working three days a week.

Powell reported many positive comments about the Soda Shop recently opening back up.

McReynolds reported receiving requests for mosquito spraying on Poplar Street and Allensville Street. Mayor Green stated the city can request the state spray for mosquitos.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The 2020 Census has Elkton's population decreasing by 6 from 2020 down to 2,056. He stated many people believe the Census numbers are not accurate. Elkton has seen more growth than normal in recent years.

The city will receive bids for the sale of the city's property located at 204 S Perry Street on September 30th.

Mayor Green has received the signed contract from the state for funding to resurface various city streets. The consensus was to wait and bid the resurfacing project until the spring.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates of upcoming events including free summer concert and HarvestFest were reviewed. Trick-or-treat will be Sunday, October 31st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Clerk Brock stated the November council meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 11th falls on Veteran's Day, therefore city ordinances state the regular meeting will be held on the following Monday, November 15th.

Orr motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer