

Minutes: City Council Meeting
April 13, 2015
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2015 with Mayor Jackie Boyd Weathers presiding.

City Council members present: Doug Gibson; David Haley; Eugene Jefferson; Danny Laster; Frank McReynolds; and, David Powell.

Others present: City Clerk/Treasurer Laura Brock; Utility/Street Superintendent Terry Frogue; City Attorney Jeff Traughber; Police Chief Brian Atkinson; Fire Chief Derrell Waggoner; Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Smith; Bill Weathers; Ryan Craig, *Todd County Standard*; Donald and Kathy Settle; and Shane Hessey.

Mayor Weathers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Laster gave invocation.

After reviewing the March 9, 2015 council meeting minutes, Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the April 2, 2015 special council meeting minutes, Mr. Laster motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers called for review and approval of the bills payable and financial reports. Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers called for public comments.

- Donald Settle was present to discuss the Elkton Die Casting Center. Mayor Weathers informed the council that Mr. Settle presented an itemized quote of repairs that were requested at a previous meeting. These repairs, totaling about \$5,728, will be needed at the Center in order to accommodate Amy Deason using the building for her business. Donald explained each repair needed. Mayor Weathers stated she did not believe the city had any funds available to make these repairs at this time, however she stated we could approve Mrs. Deason subleasing the building. After discussion, Mr. Powell motioned to approve Amy Deason subleasing a portion of the Elkton Die Casting Center, seconded by Mr. Haley and carried unanimously. Mr. and Mrs. Settle thanked the council and left the meeting.

Clerk Brock reported construction on the South Streets Avenue sidewalk project has been moving along, sometimes slowly due to the rainy weather. The third project pay request was presented with engineer DBS and Associates requesting \$3,300.00 and contractor Scott & Murphy requesting \$96,525.04. Brock reported the engineer has reviewed and approved the pay request of the contractor. After review, Mr. Laster motioned to approve the pay request, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously. Mr. Frogue stated that about 100' of the drain line had to be cut from the project due to running into a sewer line that could not be moved. Construction is set to be completed in mid-June.

Clerk Brock reported that Waste Management presented a proposal to renew the contract for residential garbage pickup for one year as discussed at the last meeting. The proposal is for one year and includes a 1.5% increase from \$8.85 per container to \$9.02 per container. Brock stated the current contract allows for renewing the contract for one year annually and allows for an increase based on the Consumer Price Index. Waste Management has not asked for an increase since they were awarded the contract in 2008. Brock received information from Waste Management that the actual CPI increase for 2014 was about 4%, therefore they are requesting an increase less than what they could ask for. After

discussion, Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the proposal as submitted, seconded by Mr. McReynolds and carried unanimously.

Resolution 2015-3, “RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES,” was presented to the council. Brock explained the Recreation Commission requested the city sponsor this grant project and explained that they have funds in reserve to cover the required 50% match. The project includes replacing lighting on one ball field, constructing a new large pavilion, installing new playground equipment, and upgrading electrical panels to keep the lighting on ball fields from going out. After discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock reported that she, Mayor Weathers, and Mr. McReynolds met with Hopkinsville Electric Service regarding installing new Wi-Fi hotspots downtown. After reviewing their proposal, the group agreed this was the best route to go for the city to re-establish Wi-Fi downtown. The group reported the Wi-Fi equipment is on backorder but they expect to get it installed and running in 3-4 weeks.

Clerk Brock reported that Elkton Bike Night will get started Thursday, May 7th in downtown Elkton and she passed out a schedule of entertainment for the year. New this year, a group has volunteered to organize bike games that will be held the first Thursday of every month.

Mayor Weathers apologized for skipping over other public comments and recognized Shane Hessey in attendance. Mr. Hessey, owner of Todd County Funeral Home in Elkton, reported that he has been considering for several months opening a crematory in a property he owns on North Main Street. He stated that he thought it was wrong that Planning Commission Chair, Bryan Blount, went to his competitor to discuss this issue after he met with the Planning Commission several months ago to initially discuss the crematory. He felt this was privileged information that should have remained with the committee. He also commented that both he and the Planning Commission had followed the letter of the law in what needed to be done to open the crematory. When the Planning Commission held a public hearing last week to hear comments on amending the zoning ordinance to allow a crematory, he withdrew his proposal due to the public comments that were made in opposition. However, he stated he felt council member McReynolds overstepped his bounds by gathering the masses to attend the hearing and that a racial line was drawn by gathering many of the black community in opposition. He also felt like Laura Brock deserved an apology for an attack Mr. McReynolds made towards her in the meeting. Mayor Weathers thanked Mr. Hessey for his comments and stated that the issue with Chairman Bryan Blount will be investigated. Mr. Traughber later stated that if this issue was discussed in open meeting, then it would not be considered proprietary but public information. Mayor Weathers asked if Mr. McReynolds would like to respond. Mr. McReynolds said he attended the meeting as a private citizen and that he was concerned with the issue and therefore did interview many people in the community, both black and white from all different backgrounds. Mr. Hessey asked him if he later went back to let these people know that out of concern for the community, Mr. Hessey had withdrawn his proposal and again called for an apology to Ms. Brock. Clerk Brock stated she appreciated Mr. Hessey’s concern, but at no time did she feel attacked and therefore did not deserve an apology. Mr. McReynolds had questioned Brock during the hearing about the notice of hearing only being published once in the paper and why it was not posted at City Hall. Brock stated she knew she did everything that was legally required and she stated so in the meeting. Mayor Weathers thanked everyone for their comments.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Gibson asked about the budget for resurfacing streets. Clerk Brock stated they needed to sit down and review remaining funds considering existing projects including Streets Avenue and North Main Street. Gibson stated that South Streets Avenue may need to be completely resurfaced after the sidewalk project is completed.

Mr. Jefferson called for a report from Chief Atkinson, who presented a police department activity report for the last month. He reported activity is down due to the bad weather and because they are short staffed.

Mr. Powell called for a report from Fire Chief Derrell Waggoner. Mr. Waggoner presented a “Past, Present and Future” report on the fire department. He and Assistant Chief Smith reported they made the repairs to pumper truck 13 and saved about \$4,500 that can be spent elsewhere. Also, they ordered new lights and installed them in the Fire Hall and were very thankful. Mr. Smith reviewed some of the repairs needed to the other trucks and indicated the city might consider selling truck 13 because it only serves the county and serves no purpose in the city limits. After discussion, they asked the council to review the report to begin considering plans for future budgets and the needs to lower the city’s ISO rating to decrease insurance premiums for the citizens of Elkton.

Mr. Laster called for a report from Mr. Frogue. Frogue reported he was not pleased that water loss is still a little high in the city and they are continuing to work on finding water leaks. Mowing of right-of-ways and other city properties has begun. Frogue reported the state has passed new certification requirements for operating a laboratory and he and Chris Orr will be attending training soon.

Mr. Haley reported reworking all three ball fields in the park is in progress. They are also putting gravel in the parking lot with the county hauling the gravel. The city was asked to pay for the gravel, however Mayor Weathers stated the city had already made their \$17,000 contribution to the park for this purpose.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Weathers reported Leslie Rager was hired as the new Welcome Center Director. Deana Power will fill in and assist her when needed.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be volunteering in the City-County Park this Saturday, April 18th to clean up and trim some trees. Anyone else wanting to volunteer can attend.

There was no further discussion, therefore Mr. Jefferson motioned to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Gibson. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer