

Minutes: City Council Meeting
August 10, 2015
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 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; Terry Frogue, Utility/Streets Superintendent; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Brian Atkinson, Police Chief; John Walton, Todd County Industrial Foundation; Elaina Higgins; Jason Sydnor; Kathy Dickinson; and Amy Kearns, *Todd County Standard*.

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

After reviewing the July 13, 2015 council meeting minutes, Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Haley and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers called for review and approval of the bills payable and financial reports. There was discussion regarding an invoice from BDI, which Terry Frogue responded. After discussion, Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers called for public comments and called for guests from South Streets Avenue to speak. Elaina Higgins stated she lived on South Streets Avenue and is concerned that they are no longer allowed to park on the street as they have been doing prior to the new sidewalk construction project. Kathy Dickinson and Jason Sydnor also addressed the council with their concerns. Mr. Sydnor has three vehicles and only has room for two in his driveway. Mrs. Dickinson asked how many feet of roadway was legal for a city street. Mr. Frogue stated most city streets need at least 10 feet for each driving lane, but it also depends on the right-of-way, which may be different for each street. Mayor Weathers stated that no longer allowing parking in the roadway is not meant to be an inconvenience, but there have been many complaints about the congestion on the street with cars parked in the roadway causing problems with buses, large trucks going to the factory, and also being dangerous with so many small children playing in the area. The yellow line was painted to help everyone adjust to the new centerline of the street. Mrs. Higgins suggested allowing on street parking after busy hours, about 4pm to 7 am. Police Chief Atkinson stated the department has only given warnings to those parking on the street at this time. He also stated residents may not realize that if a vehicle strikes their car parked on the street that they are partially liable because they are parked in the roadway. There was also discussion about the speed limit and installing "children playing" or similar signs to help with safety. Mayor Weathers and the council thanked everyone but no action was taken and the guests left the meeting.

Clerk Brock reported a pay request from DBS Engineering for their final payment for engineering services for the South Streets Avenue Sidewalks Project in the amount of \$1,650.00. Also, Scott and Murphy is requesting payment of \$11,376.60. This will not be the final request from Scott and Murphy, as there are some other expenses and demobilization expense that cannot be paid until the final state inspection is approved. Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve the pay request, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock presented the property tax rate calculations for 2015. Clerk Brock reported real property tax values have increased from \$59,790,919 in 2014 to \$61,347,948 in 2015, an increase of \$1,557,029. The compensating rate for 2015 is \$.239 per \$100 assessment for real property and \$.1795 per \$100 assessment for personal property. This rate would generate approximately \$154 more revenue than last year. The 4% rate, which requires two public notices and a public hearing, is \$.248 per \$100 assessment for real property and \$.1863 per \$100 assessment for personal property. The 4% rate would generate

approximately \$6,556 over last year. Last year's real property tax rate was \$.245 per \$100 assessment. If the city adopted the same real property tax rate as last year, it would still require two public notices and a hearing. The corresponding personal property tax rate would be \$.1840 per \$100 assessment if the same real tax rate as last year is adopted. Clerk Brock recommended setting the rate at least at the same real property tax rate as last year. After discussion, Mr. Powell motioned to set the real property tax rate at the same rate as last year, \$.245. Motion seconded by Mr. Haley and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock will schedule a public hearing, which the Mayor and Clerk will attend, and then the ordinance setting the tax rate will be presented at the next meeting.

Mayor Weathers reported Assistant City Clerk Debbie Moore has completed her training as a Certified Kentucky Municipal Clerk. Clerk Brock reported in the past the council has approved a \$.75 per hour raise upon receiving this certification. Mr. Gibson motioned to approve a \$.75 per hour raise for Debbie Moore, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Municipal Order 2015-1, "MUNICIPAL ORDER AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES," was presented to the council. Clerk Brock explained this Order is adding position descriptions for two positions already established in the city, but they had no formal descriptions for the positions of Welcome Center Director and Street Cleaner. This Order is also adding the position of Police Captain (Assistant Chief) and amending the Police Sergeant position. Police Chief Atkinson explained that the department had been operating with two Sergeants and this change would clarify questions about authority by having one Captain and one Sergeant. Chief Atkinson explained that Sergeant Will Meyers will be moved to the Police Captain position. After discussion, Haley motioned to approve Municipal Order 2015-1, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2015-8, "ORDINANCE ADOPTING COMPENSATION PLAN AND PAY SCALE." Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Clerk Brock explained that with the creation of the new Police Captain position in the Police Department it creates an issue with the Retirement System. Some of our experienced police officers are under hazardous duty retirement and some that were hired after September 2008 are under non-hazardous retirement. If an officer under hazardous duty is promoted to the new Captain position, they would then be placed under non-hazardous unless the city applies to the retirement system to make the position hazardous for anyone with service prior to September 2008. After discussion, Mr. Jefferson motioned to petition to the Kentucky Retirement System to place the Police Captain position under hazardous duty for officers with service prior to September 2008. Motion seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers reported she received a request from the Todd County Industrial Foundation for a contribution of \$25,000.00 for FY2016. Clerk Brock confirmed that the city gave \$20,000.00 in annual contribution last year, plus an additional \$10,000.00 under a special request. There is \$30,000.00 in the budget for economic and industrial development. John Walton reported on industrial activity and stated Custom Cooler has doubled their production capacity and all industries are busy. He stated the Foundation appreciates the city's support. After discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to contribute \$25,000.00 to the Foundation, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously. Mr. Laster, other council members, and Mayor all thanked Mr. Walton for his hard work.

Terry Frogue presented the most recent agreement that has been approved by the Todd County Water District. Frogue and Traughber confirmed the sentence regarding approval from the Public Service Commission the city requested removed has been taken out. After discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to approve entering into the agreement as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Resolution 2015-7, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY COMMITTING FUNDS TO MATCH THE 2015 KENTUCKY COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HOUSING APPLICATION,” was presented. Clerk Brock and Mayor Weathers explained that after finalizing the application for the Community Development Block Grant, which the city applied for a total of \$462,000.00, Mrs. Suzanne Arnold suggested the city commit \$10,000.00 from funds available in the Revolving Fund. The Revolving Fund is program income from previous CDBG projects. Mr. McReynolds asked why the city only applied for \$462,000.00 when the maximum amount available is \$1 million. Clerk Brock stated most of the applicants qualified for rehabilitation instead of new construction, making the total we are eligible for lower than the maximum amount available. After discussion, Mr. Laster motioned to approve Resolution 2015-7, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. McReynolds reported he received complaints about the Waste Management garbage truck leaking oil in the roads. Clerk Brock stated she had received similar complaints and contacted Waste Management, with no response yet. Mr. McReynolds also reported that grass clippings are being left on the headstones in the cemetery. Brock confirmed that the maintenance contract requires the grass clippings to be blown off the stones.

Police Chief Atkinson passed out a department activity report for the calendar year to date. Chief Atkinson reported criminal arrests and activity in general is up because this is the first time in several years the department has been at full staff. Mr. Laster asked about activity on Allensville Street and Atkinson reported several car break-ins, however most of the cars were unlocked when items were taken out of the cars. Mr. Atkinson also reported videos from body cameras are stored on a separate secured and password protected server. Also, every time the video is accessed or copied there is an activity log. Videos are destroyed after 90 days if they are not part of an ongoing investigation.

Mr. Powell called for a report from the Fire Department. Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Smith reported an amendment to the FEMA grant clarifying the items to be purchased has been submitted and awaiting approval. Clerk Brock reported the city has received good response from the fire membership drive, with many people stating they are happy to contribute to the fire department and appreciate their service.

Mr. Laster reported the utility department has received the listening device to find water leaks and is already in use. The department has been going out and using the device at about 2 am trying to find leaks. Mr. Frogue also reported they found a billing error where Logan-Todd Regional Water was overbilling the city due to a meter reading error, so the city will receive a refund of about \$4,000 for the last six months' error.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Weathers reported she is still working on issues with people parking too long on the Square. She will be meeting with the Mayor of Hopkinsville to discuss the issue. She encouraged the council to talk to the public and businesses on the Square so we can come to a solution.

There are four dead trees in city right-of-way that need to be removed. Two are at the Dunheath entrance and two are on West Main Street near the Christian Church. Mayor called several people for quotes and only received one from Bobby Standard with a cost of \$325.00 to cut the trees down and remove the limbs.

Mayor Weathers reported there is funding available for walking trails. She has received several inquiries from residents on Foggy Road about children and others having to cross the busy street near Dairy Queen and walking to the Dollar Store with no sidewalks or crosswalk. Mayor Weathers would like to work with PADD and McGhee Engineering to write a grant application to install sidewalks from Southern States to the Dollar Store.

Mr. Haley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 pm.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer