

Minutes: City Council Meeting
July 11, 2016
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 11, 2016 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: Jeffrey Traughber, City Attorney; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Terry Frogue, Utility/Streets Superintendent; Brian Atkinson, Police Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Ashley Weatherholt, Assistant City Clerk; John Walton, Todd County Industrial Foundation; Adam May, WHOP Radio; Larry and Angela Grinter; Shane Hessey; Brenda Gordian; Pauletta Harrell; Joseph Johnson; and, Mr. Robert Harris.

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

After reviewing the June 15, 2016 special council meeting minutes, Mr. Haley motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Gibson 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 Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers called for public comments and welcomed all guests. Mr. Robert Harris reported the city has a sewer line that crosses through the Elk Fork Creek beside his house. During the recent flooding, debris was caught up in the sewer line and needs to be cleaned out. He stated he has reported it clogged up before and it was never cleaned. Terry Frogue stated he would take a look and get it cleaned out. Terry also requested that he contact City Hall in the future so the contact can be recorded and a work order generated for the cleanup.

Clerk Brock stated City Attorney Jeff Traughber has prepared a Summary of Ordinance 2016-10 if the council would like to read the Summary in lieu of the entire ordinance. Mr. Haley motioned to read the Summary of Ordinance 2016-10, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously. Therefore, Clerk Brock read first reading of Summary of Ordinance 2016-10, "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A 13.5 FEET WIDE STRIP OF LAND EXTENDING FROM EAST WASHINGTON STREET TO EAST MAIN STREET AND ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING ALLEY BY THE CITY OF ELKTON." Mr. Gibson motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Weathers reported the city received a request for the annual contribution to the Todd County Industrial Foundation. Mr. John Walton, President of the Industrial Foundation, updated the council on industrial activity in the city. He reported the foundation will have another piece of property in Elkton under option for industrial use. Walton reported he will have more details about the property at a future meeting, because a geological study will need to be done on the property. He also suggested the city consider building a spec building. We have had two recent requests for industrial space, but there is very little in the city vacant. Mr. Walton thanked the council for creating such a positive environment for recruiting industry. Clerk Brock reported the request from the Foundation was for \$25,000.00, the same amount as last year. After discussion, Mr. Powell motioned to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock presented a proposal from Thurman Campbell Group to perform the audit of the city's

financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The fee will be \$17,000, the same amount as last year. After discussion, Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve the proposal, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Haley reported the Recreation Commission is meeting Thursday and will discuss having a movie night in the park. Mayor Weathers reported Todd Mansfield would like to work with the park to start a middle school soccer league.

Mr. Laster thanked Terry Frogue and the utility/street department for all their hard work during the recent flood in Elkton on July 7, 2016. Frogue reported that during the flood, water rushed over Elk Fork Road Bridge and washed out the creek banks and some of the asphalt pavement on the street. The bridge was inspected immediately by the state and deemed to be safe. There was also some washout damage at city lake, of which the council were presented pictures of the damage. Mayor Weathers stated the damage to city lake will need to be repaired. Frogue also reported he will be ordering some new safety signs with flashing lights so that they are easier to see at night.

Mr. Powell thanked the fire department for their work during the flood, which including rescuing people from their homes in the middle of the night.

Mr. Jefferson presented the monthly activity report for the police department. The report stated there were “351 complaints” in June and Mr. Jefferson asked Chief Atkinson what qualified as a “complaint.” Chief Atkinson stated this really should be a “call for service” and includes any citizen request or call. Terry Frogue also commended the police department for their help during the flood.

Mr. Gibson stated there are several streets the city intends to resurface this year, however we need to wait until all the construction in town is complete before doing any work. Also, we may need to wait and see what damage has been done due to the flooding, including replacing drainage tiles and potholes repaired.

Mr. McReynolds presented pictures of two large trees that fell in the cemeteries, one fell in Elkton Cemetery and one fell in Glenwood Cemetery. Both trees were removed by Ricchuite Enterprises.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Weathers commended the work done by Emergency Management Director, Judy Toombs and stated she can't thank her enough for all of her hard work during the flood. Mayor Weathers has been working with Judy on assessing the damage in the city. So far, they have documented 70 homes with damage.

Mayor Weathers reported on the garbage pickup situation in the city over the past week. There have been delays and rain soaked garbage running in the streets. Waste Management has been contacted and they have apologized for any inconvenience and promise to pick up garbage as soon as possible.

Clerk Brock reported she contacted Waste Management for a cost estimate for the city to rent dumpsters to assist flood victims removing debris. A 30-yard container will cost about \$300 for delivery and hauling and then we will pay \$35 per ton of debris, for a total estimated cost of \$500-600 per container. After discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to order up to 6 dumpsters. Motion seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Terry Frogue stated he would also like to mention Jerry Wayne Simmons, who brought a large tractor to town and helped stranded motorists and people needed rescuing from flooded homes. Frogue stated Simmons got water in the tractor's engine. Mayor Weathers suggested the city might consider paying the bill for Mr. Simmons to have his oil changed. Mr. Gibson also stated Watson Ricchuite used his personal vehicle to drive through water to make sure nurses and other employees got to the nursing home on Allensville

Street. Pauletta Harrell tearfully thanked Rico Webb, who brought his own boat and helped them evacuate their home on Water Street, possibly saving their lives because gas had been leaking into their home.

Mr. Joseph Johnson reported he lived on Allenville Street and asked if the city planned to do a study to help reduce flooding in the city. Mrs. Harrell and Brenda Gordian both expressed the water was as high as they have ever seen it. Mayor Weathers reported the city has been cleaning out Elk Fork Creek every so many years and we just cleaned it out a few years ago to help prevent flooding. In this flood event, there was just a tremendous amount of water in a very short amount of time. Mr. Haley stated it would not hurt for the city to consult with someone to see if something else can be done. Terry Frogue reported City Lake was inspected recently and the value of the lake and spillway were assessed as far as flood control for the city. It was suggested there is no flood control value to the city, however we should seek another opinion.

Mrs. Harrell asked if homeowners would receive any type of assistance if their home was damaged from the flooding. Mayor Weathers reported FEMA will be in the city on Tuesday inspecting all the damage so that funding, if any, can be determined. The city would have to meet certain criteria to get assistance.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Rescue Squad and the amount of time it took for help to arrive on the scene of the flooding. Mrs. Grinter reported it was at least 1 to 1.5 hours before anyone arrived to help people on Water Street evacuate after calling 911. There was also much discussion that no one received any warning their homes were flooding. Mrs. Harrell stated she called 911 twice to report she needed help and that gas was leaking into her home. Mr. Gibson stated that we do have to remember that the Rescue Squad is all volunteers and they live all over the county so it takes time to respond. Terry Frogue reported that everyone in the city and emergency management will meet in the near future to see what can be done better.

Mr. Shane Hessey asked why the reverse 911 system did not send out any warning about the flood danger. Mr. Hessey also expressed his desire to help anyone affected by the disaster. Mayor Weathers stated she was not sure why the county did not use the reverse 911 system. Mayor Weathers also reported while the city does not have a disaster plan, we fall under the county's emergency management plan. There was also discussion about how much training the fire department receives for emergencies. The fire department trains many hours throughout the year.

Mr. Jefferson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer