

Minutes: City Council Special Meeting
May 23, 2016
5:30 PM

The Elkton City Council met in special session on Monday, May 23, 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: City Clerk/Treasurer Laura Brock; Terry Frogue, Utility/Streets Superintendent; Brian Atkinson, Police Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Adam May, WHOP Radio; and, Rebecca Walter, *Kentucky New Era*.

Mayor Weathers called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Because it was a special called meeting, only items on the agenda could be discussed.

AGENDA

1. 2nd Reading Ordinance 2016-04 – Ordinance Accepting Wilmon Moore Circle as a Dedicated Public Right-of-Way
2. 1st Reading of Ordinance 2016-05 – An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016
3. Mayor's Budget Message and Proposal for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
4. 1st Reading Ordinance Adjusting User Rates and Tap Fees for Wastewater Services
5. 1st Reading Ordinance Amending Chapter 50 Regulating the Service of Water and Amending Rates for Use and Service
6. 1st Reading Ordinance Amending Section 50.25 Adjusting Water Rates Charged by the Waterworks System
7. 1st Reading Ordinance Relating to the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

Mayor Weathers called for second reading of Ordinance 2016-04. Clerk Brock asked the council if they would like to read the Summary in lieu of the entire ordinance. Mr. Haley motioned to read the Summary of Ordinance 2016-04, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously. Therefore, Clerk Brock read second reading of Summary of Ordinance 2016-04, "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING WILMON MOORE CIRCLE AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PERMANENT USE AND MAINTENANCE BY THE CITY OF ELKTON." Mr. Jefferson motioned to adopt after second reading, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2016-05, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016." This amendment is making changes to the budget as approved by the council throughout the year. Mr. Haley motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Mr. McReynolds and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Weathers read her budget message and proposal for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The budget proposal included a cost of living salary increase of 2% for all employees and officials. The Mayor's Budget Message, which is on file at City Hall, also outlined all special projects in each department. Some of the major projects include new sidewalks constructed on West Main Street from Dairy Queen to Dollar General through a TAP grant that will pay for 80% of the project. Also, the city will bury utility lines and install decorative lighting on a portion of North Main Street while the state is installing new curb, gutter, drainage

and sidewalks. The water tank on Morningside Drive is in need of painting at a cost expected to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Several old water lines in the city need to be replaced. Sewer lines need to be extended in the B. White Road area due to residential growth. Due to these projects and various maintenance and repair issues that have been put off for several years in the water and sewer departments, the budget proposal includes water and sewer rate increases of 5% to the minimum bill and 10% increase on all additional usage. Also, service charges and tap fees need to be modified to generate additional revenue and to bring the fees up to comparable rates in the area. The water and sewer rate increase proposed would increase the minimum utility bill by \$2.70 per month and the average bill using 4,000 gallons by about \$4.87 per month. There were no questions regarding the budget message.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2016-06, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 52.04(A) AND 52.07 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON ADJUSTING AND MODIFYING USER RATES AND TAP FEES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICES IN THE CITY OF ELKTON." Clerk Brock stated this ordinance is adjusting the sewer rates as proposed in the Mayor's budget message. Even with this increase, the sewer budget is projecting an \$18,300 deficit next fiscal year. Frogue reported there are so many more regulations the sewer plant has to follow and requires the purchase of more chemicals and supplies. Laster reported he recently toured the sewer plant and stated we have been making band aid repairs for too long. Jefferson proposed increasing the minimum bill from 2,000 gallons of usage to 2,500 gallons. Clerk Brock stated a more detailed rate study would be needed to do this and projected that it would cost the city revenue and offset some of this increase. There was discussion regarding the proposed increase in the sewer tap fee from \$500 to \$900. Brock stated this fee was in line with what others in the area charge and the cost of extending sewer lines is much higher than the \$900 tap fee brings in revenue. Clerk Brock stated we don't discuss in meetings enough the efforts the city makes to save money and Mayor Weathers agreed she was impressed with how diligent employees are at holding down expenses. Haley complimented all city employees and stated the council has to ask questions because they have to be able to answer to the citizens. After discussion, Laster motioned to approve Ordinance 2016-06 on first reading and seconded by Haley. Voting in favor of the motion were Haley, Laster and Powell. Voting opposed were Jefferson, Gibson and McReynolds. Due to the tie, Mayor Weathers cast a vote in favor of the motion and therefore the motion carried.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2016-07, "ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON REGULATING THE SERVICE OF WATER AND AMENDING RATES FOR USE AND SERVICE." Brock stated this ordinance is amending service charges which are normally a one-time fee when a customer has service connected or reconnected for various reasons. Powell motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2016-08, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 50.25 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON ADJUSTING WATER RATES CHARGED BY THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF ELKTON." Brock stated this ordinance adjusts the tap fee and water rates discussed in the budget proposal. Clerk Brock also pointed out that with the proposed project to paint the Morningside water tank and the rate increase, the budget projects a \$38,700 deficit in the water department. Mayor Weathers stated that without the rate increase, the water department will be \$60,000 in the hole and the water tank project cannot be put off any longer. Haley motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Powell. Voting in favor of the motion were Haley, Laster and Powell. Voting opposed were Jefferson, Gibson and McReynolds. Mayor Weathers stated that because she loves her community and wishes to provide the best services possible, that she will cast a vote in favor of the motion and much needed rate increase. Motion carried.

Clerk Brock called for further discussion or questions about the proposed budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Since there were no questions, Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2016-09, "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE

CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017.” Jefferson motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Gibson and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Since there were no other items on the agenda, Haley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Laster and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer