

Minutes: City Council Meeting
November 9, 2015
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 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; Brian Atkinson, Police Chief; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Leslie Rager, Welcome Center Director; and Amy Kearns, *Todd County Standard*.

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

After reviewing the October 19, 2015 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. Powell and carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Clerk Brock reminded the council that at the last meeting they approved changes to the zoning ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission. Now, an ordinance must be passed to make the changes official. City Attorney Jeff Traughber has prepared the ordinance and a Summary Ordinance. After discussion, Mr. Jefferson motioned to read the Summary Ordinance in lieu of the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Haley and carried unanimously. Therefore, Clerk Brock read first reading of Summary of Ordinance 2015-10, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 151 (ZONING) OF THE CITY OF ELKTON CODE OF ORDINANCES." Mr. Haley motioned to approve after first reading, seconded by Mr. Jefferson and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Mayor Weathers presented a draft Snow Removal Plan and asked the council to review the plan for any comments or suggestions. She suggested we work with this new plan this year and see how well it goes. Terry Frogue stated the city currently has one blade that goes on the tractor to push snow off the streets. He stated the city might consider purchasing another blade to go on the front of one of the trucks and a salt spreader to go on the back of the truck. The salt spreader would be used on the hills on such streets as Elk Fork Road and others. The commercial blade will cost about \$4,100.00 installed and a salt spreader will cost about \$1,600.00. This item was left with no action taken, however later in the meeting Mr. Gibson brought up the discussion again and motioned to purchase the salt spreader and blade. Motion seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously. Clerk Brock will see if the KLC Safety Grant can be applied to this purchase.

Mayor Weathers reported Debbie Laster's term on the Planning Commission is expiring at the end of December, but she has agreed to serve another term. Mayor Weathers recommended reappointing Debbie Laster to the Planning Commission. Mr. Haley motioned to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock reported that the property the city owns at 106 North Main Street that was declared surplus was advertised for sale and no bids were received. Mr. Powell motioned to advertise and accept bids on the property again. Motion seconded by Mr. Haley and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers reported the state recently bid the North Main Street Streetscape project for construction. The portion of the project that would be the city's responsibility to pay for, which includes burying utility lines and installing decorative lighting from Public Square to Jefferson Street would cost \$159,505.00. The city would also have approximately \$55,000.00 in additional expenses we are required to complete, including engineering fees, purchasing decorative light poles, electrical, cable and telephone line modifications to some buildings. Therefore, the total cost is expected to be between \$210,000 and \$215,000. The original estimate for the entire project was \$105,000.00, however the portion of the project included in the state's bid came in way over what was expected. The city has \$105,000.00 in this year's budget. However, this project will likely extend over the next two budget years. The entire state project includes resurfacing the street and installing new curb, gutter, drainage, and sidewalks on both sides of the street from the Square to the new bridge on North Main Street. There was considerable discussion about the expense, however many agreed that if this is ever to be done in the city then now is the time to do it. Mayor Weathers asked the council if they remembered that this was a goal of the city when they applied to be in the Main Street Program under Mayor John Walton which was to bury utility lines and install new sidewalks on Public Square and one block down in each direction. Mayor Weathers stated this is the main entrance into town from Highway 181 North and those exiting Highway 68/80 using North Main Street. If we do not bury utility lines and install decorative lighting the old wooden poles and overhead lines would remain. The state is waiting for the city to agree to pay for these expenses, and enter into an agreement with the state agreeing to this, before continuing with the project. After discussion, Mr. Jefferson motioned to proceed with the project, seconded by Mr. Laster and carried unanimously.

Mayor Weathers recommended the city council consider enacting an ordinance to adjust water and sewer bills for unusually high water usage. She explained that a citizen of Elkton recently was out of town for a month and her commode ran the entire time she was gone, leaving her with a \$250.00 utility bill. They normally pay about \$65.00 per month. The city does not currently adjust the water charge on utility bills for any reason, since the city purchases water from Logan-Todd Regional Water. Mayor Weathers presented everyone with a copy of the draft ordinance that was considered by the city in November 2014, but was never acted upon. The draft ordinance allows a water charge adjustment once in every five year period where the customer pays their average water charge plus the wholesale rate on the difference between the average and the actual high usage. Also, in this citizens' case, the sewer charge on the utility bill could not be adjusted because the city ordinance for sewer adjustments only allows an adjustment if the leak is "underground," therefore not entering the sewer system. Since her commode was running constantly, this leaking water is running into the sewer system and therefore no adjustment is allowed under city ordinance. Clerk Brock recommended possibly allowing a once in every five year adjustment in this case. There was considerable discussion about if the adjustment should run with the renter and/or the landlord for the five year period. Considering all the discussion, City Attorney Jeff Traughber will draft an ordinance for the next meeting.

Mayor Weathers introduced Welcome Center Director Leslie Rager to discuss plans for Christmas in Elkton and Parade. Leslie reported this event will be held Saturday, December 12th with the parade leaving the high school at 7 PM. The parade had to start a little later this year due to an event being held at the high school. She highlighted several new activities this year, including a live nativity scene, carolers dressed in Dicken's costumes, a special surprise on the Square during the parade, and free antique car rides at the Community House. As always, there will be refreshments and candy for children and guests as they wait to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Community House after the parade.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Haley reported Modern Woodmen gave the City-County Park a grant of \$750.00 that helped pay for materials to repair the gazebos, new treated lumber for the playground areas, five new flowering trees, new shrubs, and new sinks and faucets for the bathrooms.

Mr. Laster reported water loss continues to go up and down each month. Mr. Terry Frogue stated his crew is always working to repair leaks, but when you fix one it seems another arises.

Mr. Powell called for a report from the Fire Department. Chief Waggoner reported on maintenance and

repairs to several of the trucks. He and Mr. Daniel Smith also reported state training for all firemen will take place at the end of November and first of December.

Mr. Jefferson reported everyone received a copy of the department activity report for the calendar year to date. Chief Brian Atkinson reported the cooler weather usually means activity goes down a little. He also reported there haven't been any reported car break-ins recently, which might be related to several arrests that have recently been made for break-ins in surrounding counties.

Mr. Gibson asked Terry Frogue if Micah Lane had been adopted as a city street. Mr. Frogue stated he would need to research, but believed it was not adopted because the contractor building the street would not certify it was built according to city specifications. Gibson reported complaints about the street needing to be resurfaced. Frogue will research if it is a city street and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. McReynolds reported the leaves have not been removed from the cemetery. Also, there seems to be a lot of limbs down and the grass is about 6" tall. He stated he understands Mr. Ricchuite is busy with leaf pickup but the cemetery needs some attention. Mayor Weathers stated this will be communicated to Mr. Ricchuite.

Mr. Haley asked how long it had been since the rock wall at the cemetery had been sealed and stated it needs to be done every two years. Also, the iron gate at the entrance needs to be cleared of dirt and debris so that it will not rust. Clerk Brock will work with employee Raymond Williams to get these items completed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Weathers reported she has a busy week lined up attending economic development conferences, including the Kentucky Association for Economic Development Association Annual Conference, TVA economic development workshop and the Kentucky Arts Council Creative Industry Summit.

Mayor Weathers presented information about the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education program. She stated this program includes dual-track, apprenticeship type training and she would like to get some of our local factories involved.

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.

Returning to discussion about the North Main Street Streetscape project, Clerk Brock stated the city's current budget includes \$105,000.00 in expense from the Municipal Road Aid fund for this project. However, Clerk Brock requested the council amend the city's general fund street budget to include the city's upfront costs for this project as reported earlier of about \$55,000.00. These expenses are likely to be the only expense in this year's budget, as the amount the city will reimburse the state will be due upon completion of the project, which is expected to be around November 2016. One of the city's Community Development Block Grant homes recently sold and the mortgage payoff into the general fund was about \$22,000.00, which was unexpected revenue the city could use for this project. This would allow funds to remain in the Municipal Road Aid fund for upcoming street maintenance projects. Mr. Jefferson motioned to approve Clerk Brock's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Jefferson asked what progress is going on for training in the Elkton Die Casting Center and how it would be affected by the Career Path Institute. Mayor Weathers stated the Die Casting Center wanted to focus more on plumbing and electrical training, although no training has begun yet.

Mr. Jefferson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. LAster and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer