

Minutes: City Council Meeting
November 13, 2017
7:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Jackie Boyd Weathers presiding.

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

Others present: Jeffrey Traughber, City Attorney; Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Terry Frogue, Utility/Streets Superintendent; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Daniel Smith, Assistant Fire Chief; Wilhelm Meyers, Police Captain; Johnny Knuckles, BR Knuckles Insurance; Marty Nemes, Kentucky League of Cities; and, David Watkins, Back Country Builders.

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 10, 2017 special council meeting minutes, Mr. Haley motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously.

After reviewing the October 16, 2017 council meeting minutes, Mr. Haley motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Powell and carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Weathers welcomed all guests and called for public comments. Mayor Weathers introduced Johnny Knuckles and Marty Nemes to address the council. Mr. Nemes explained that the Kentucky League of Cities understands that cities may be facing budgetary pressure in the future due to pension reform. Also, with the many disasters such as fire and hurricanes across the US this year, it is expected insurance premiums will increase nationwide. Therefore, KLC is proposing a Rate Stabilization Agreement to cities with a certain insurance premium cost and a good loss ratio. The Agreement offered to the city would require a commitment to renew insurance with KLC for the next two fiscal years. And, in return the city will receive a rate change not to exceed 3% per line of coverage each year for property and liability coverage. The city will complete a renewal questionnaire in February 2018 and then will be presented with the renewal quote in April 2018. After discussion, Haley motioned to enter into the Rate Stabilization Agreement with Kentucky League of Cities, seconded by Powell and carried unanimously. (Nemes and Knuckles left the meeting.)

Mayor Weathers informed the council that Waste Management has requested an extension of their residential garbage contract with the city. The current contract expires June 30, 2018. Waste Management has proposed extending the contract for one year at the same cost of \$9.02 per cart per month. Mayor Weathers stated City Hall has been keeping up with complaints about the service. There was a time last year when we received quite a few complaints, but there have not been many recently. Clerk Brock stated there is no immediate need to renew the contract, however if the contract is not renewed we will need plenty of time to bid the service out, probably around February. Gibson requested more time to consider the request and that the contract be placed on the January agenda.

Jeff Traughber reported that he, Mayor Weathers, Clerk Brock and Superintendent Terry Frogue met last week to review the city's ordinance regarding water and sewer main extensions. Frogue reviewed recent discussions the council has had about the current policy which required the person requesting the main extension to pay all of the cost of the extension up front with the cost being refunded as

others connect to the line in the future. Traughber stated as a result of the meeting, it was discussed the city hire an engineer when a request for an extension is made to study the cost and the council can review feasibility at the time of the request. The city could then pay the cost of the extension if it is found feasible and recover the expense through higher tap on fees. If it is found not to be feasible, then the applicant would pay the cost as the ordinance currently reads. Case suggested the city consider an additional developmental fee on the users on the line that is extended. Traughber also stated it was discussed having new tap fees based on the type of customer, for example residential, commercial or industrial tap fees. He also found that some cities charge an extra fee if a road bore is needed. Mayor Weathers called for comments or ideas from the council. Frogue asked if Mr. David Watkins would like to comment. Watkins explained he is building homes on B White Road and has observed that many people are interested in moving to Elkton. He stated that the current \$900 tap fee is reasonable, but if the cost is raised too much he would have to increase the cost of the home, which might price them out of the market. He stated he has also had a request to build garden homes on Beckham Road from someone living outside of Elkton. Mr. Haley stated that if a home is built outside the city limits, a septic system costing about \$7,000 would be required, so only paying a \$900 tap fee is a bargain. Case offered to serve on a committee reviewing the ordinance. Haley stated he likes the approach of reviewing each application with an engineering estimate so the council can study the feasibility.

Frogué also reported he estimates the cost to extend the sewer main from B White Road about 500' down Beckham Road would be about \$18,000 if the department performs the work ourselves. Frogue reiterated that the Blount Clinic sewer line would be first priority and will be completed as soon as plans are submitted and approved by the state. Haley motioned to extend the sewer line on Beckham Road approximately 500 feet at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 performed by city workers and to amend the budget as necessary. There was continued discussion if the ordinance needs to be amended before this work is done. Case also suggested putting aside tap fees into a fund for future extensions. Frogue also stated there has been discussion in the past of rebating property taxes generated by the extension to the sewer department to help pay for the cost. After discussion, McReynolds seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock informed the council the city needs to update our Code Enforcement Ordinance. Mr. Traughber has been working on a draft ordinance that will comply with new state law. She stated the ordinance does not change much of the process of issuing citations, however the city will need to create a lien holder notification system. This system requires lienholders to register with the city. In return, the city must notify the registered lienholders of all citations issued in the future. The ordinance is still being drafted and will hopefully be presented at the next meeting.

Terry Frogue reported that PWR submitted a quote to replace the sidewalk in front of the John Gray home on West Main Street at a cost of about \$25,000 for 470 feet of sidewalk. The KLC grant was only for \$3,000 and this cost seems extremely high. So, the KLC grant was not submitted. Frogue has tried to get quotes for repairs needed in other areas of town, but no one seems to want to quote the work and they do not want to have to purchase liability insurance. Gibson suggested the city consider hiring someone to do the work on an hourly basis. Frogue stated his crew has done some sidewalk replacement in the past but right now there is too much other work being done and there is not time.

Clerk Brock reported that Christmas in Elkton and Parade will be held on Saturday, December 9th with the parade leaving the high school at 6 PM. Parade organizer Charlotte Myers has asked that any council member not able to ride in the parade to please let her know by next week.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Laster reported that water loss was about 13% last month. Frogue reported they may have found a leak today that needs repaired.

Mr. Powell called for a report from the fire department. Chief Waggoner reported that two trucks are down

right now. One truck had the power steering go out and one has a primer pump out. Assistant Chief Smith reported the city has already received the \$3,000 requested from Fiscal Court to help the department pay for thermal imaging equipment. Also, the state fire aid annual payment in the amount of \$11,000 has been received.

Case reported all sports programs are finished in the park for the year. Partners of the Park donations are being mailed to area businesses. Case, Clerk Brock and Chris Coffman met recently to begin working on bid specifications for new ballfield lighting.

Gibson asked for an update on the widening of the Commerce Street intersection. Frogue reported Keith Daniels is going to widen the ditch now that all easements have been signed. Once that is complete, the state will be able to install the wider tile. Frogue stated we may have to wait until the spring to complete any paving.

Frogue also reported that a section of sidewalk on the Square was recently repaired where a lady tripped and fell at HarvestFest.

McReynolds asked for an update on the West Main Street sidewalks project. Mayor Weathers stated we are still waiting on Frankfort to release the funds to begin construction.

Chief Waggoner reported that he found a leak in the fire department roof. When he climbed on the roof to seal holes and screws he noticed rocks had been thrown on the roof and thinks that might be what caused the leak. Captain Meyers stated a report should be filed with the police department.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Weathers passed out the proposed budget for Logan-Todd Regional Water Commission. There is no proposed wholesale water rate increase for next year.

At the monthly PADD meeting, Mayor Weathers reported a survey of 17 counties in Western Kentucky was released and Todd County had the lowest unemployment rate of them all at 3.6%.

Mayor Weathers asked the council to consider a restaurant tax for the city. She stated on a daily basis she sees people walking around the Square that are not from here and they are shopping and eating at local restaurants. Every time state workers come to visit they stop and eat at our restaurants. So, the restaurant tax would also be paid by out-of-towners that could help contribute to our tourism efforts. The tax could be anywhere from 1% to 3%. Mayor Weathers would like to setup a meeting with the restaurant owners to get their input and hear a presentation from Ben VanHooser, City Administrator, city of Greenville, on how the restaurant tax has helped the city of Greenville. The city of Guthrie also has the restaurant tax in place. The money has to be spent on tourism activities. Mr. Traugher stated his understanding is a tourism commission has to be put in place and representatives from restaurants and hotels have to be appointed to the commission. Mayor Weathers passed around an article titled, "The Three Reasons Tourism is the Purest Form of Economic Development." She stated that Elkton is picture postcard cute, but we can do better. Case requested an estimate of how much a restaurant tax would generate. Clerk Brock stated she can have an estimate available for the meeting.

Mr. Haley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gibson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Jackie Boyd Weathers, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer