

Minutes: City Council Meeting
February 9, 2023
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

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

Others present: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; and Tommy Turner CPA, Thurman Campbell Group.

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council member Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Laster led invocation.

Mayor Green called for review of the minutes of the January 12, 2023 council meeting. There were no changes and Orr motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green called for discussion of the bills payable and financial reports. Clerk Brock reported the city received notice that the estate of Sarah Markham should be settled in the next few weeks and the city should be receiving a check in the mail for establishment of the Markham Community Trust at Elkton Bank and Trust Company. Brock distributed the page in Sarah Markham's Will that sets forth how the Trust should be operated. There were no other questions, and Gibson motioned to approve the bills payable and financial reports, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Mayor Green welcomed Tommy Turner who presented the audit report for FYE June 30, 2022. Mr. Turner stated the financial statements were given an unmodified opinion, the best possible outcome of an audit and reviewed a Summary of Financial Information. After the presentation, McReynolds motioned to accept the audit, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously. Mr. Turner reminded everyone this would be the last year Thurman Campbell Group would be completing the audit as their company has decided to no longer perform municipal audits. Mayor Green thanked Mr. Turner and he then left the meeting.

ORDINANCES

Case motioned to read the Summary of Ordinance 2023-01 in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously by show of hands. Clerk Brock read second reading of Summary Ordinance 2023-01, "AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 57 B WHITE ROAD." Orr motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-01, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously by show of hands.

Case motioned to read the Summary of Ordinance 2023-02 in lieu of the full ordinance, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously by show of hands. Clerk Brock read first reading of Summary Ordinance 2023-02, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE THIRTY-FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY."

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Green reported he received a formal proposal from Pennyryle Area Development District to assist the Planning Commission in updating the Comprehensive Plan at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00. After discussion,

Orr motioned to approve the proposal and amend the budget as necessary, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented a list of city property and equipment from the Police Department and Utility Department proposed to be surplus. These items include a 2014 Dodge Charger and 2007 Ford Explorer police vehicles that will be sold on Govdeals.com. Also, it is proposed to transfer a 2014 Ford Explorer from the Police to the Utility Department. Chief Toombs also stated three radar units need to be surplus and traded for the purchase of new radar units. Finally, the Utility Department requested the following property be surplus: 2003 Dodge truck, 2018 Chevrolet truck bed, 2 aluminum bed side toolboxes, 1 aluminum in bed toolbox, John Deere rear grader blade, and 25 used parking bumpers. After discussion, Case motioned to approve the disposal or transfer of the properties as presented, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported there is a discrepancy in the Employee Handbook in the policies regarding sick leave and bereavement leave where the definition of “immediate family” is not consistent. After discussion, Municipal Order 2023-06, “MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY AMENDING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR THE CITY OF ELKTON” was presented. Case motioned to adopt Municipal Order 2023-06, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green requested the council consider amending the bills payable process. City ordinances require the City Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector to “present all claims” to the council each month and this process goes against the mayor-council form of government and the city should pay the bills as they are incurred if they are within the budget approved by the council. Instead of a bills payable report, the Clerk can present a report showing all bills paid for the month. After discussion, the ordinance will be reviewed, and a proposed amendment will be presented to the council.

Mayor Green presented a proposed Residential Development Incentive Agreement between the city and developer Tyler Gilliland Construction, where the city would make a one-time rebate of property taxes to the developer for reimbursement of sewer main line construction costing approximately \$20,268.12 after the completion of construction of five additional homes, making a total of eight new homes, on Beckham Road. After discussion, Orr motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023-02, a resolution adopting the Pennyriale Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, was presented to the council. Orr motioned to approve Resolution 2023-02, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

GRANT AND PROJECT UPDATES

Westate Construction plans to return in 4-6 weeks to finish up some concrete work and resurfacing of Goebel Avenue. The city may request an estimate to gravel and pave the small area reserved for a grass strip between the road and sidewalk.

Mayor Green reported a committee met to review qualifications of three engineering firms that responded to the Request for Qualifications for engineering services for the West Main Street Improvements Project. Firms responding were McGhee Engineering, GRW, and Bell Engineering. Mayor Green reported Bell Engineering was scored as the highest ranking firm and will be presenting a proposal to the city in the next week.

Mayor Green reported an opportunity to apply for another Transportation Alternative Program grant and asked the council for any suggested projects for new sidewalks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Green reported someone may be volunteering to prepare another proposal for renovations to the City Hall façade. Their suggestion was to also include the Police Department façade in the proposed renovations.

The contract for cemetery maintenance expires in April and has already been extended once, therefore the

contract must be bid again. Maintenance of the new additional cemetery property will be added to the specifications, and bids will be presented at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Green distributed a Planning and Code Enforcement activity report and reported that he recently presented Bryan Blount with a proclamation of appreciation for his 21 years of service on the Planning Commission. Mayor Green reported Mr. Blount stated, "it was not service, but an act of love."

Fire Chief Waggoner reported volunteers will be notified at their next meeting that service awards for several firemen will be given out at the February 20th training meeting.

Police Chief Toombs reported the department had 710 calls for service last month, including 14 alcohol related calls. All five new Dodge Durango police cars have been received and everyone is complimenting the new look of the vehicles.

Public Works Director Chris Orr reported Phase III of the Sewer Improvements Project has reached substantial completion and there is a small punch list of items that need to be completed. Water loss last month was around 12% and there are a few small water leaks that need to be repaired. Orr reported there was an accident a few weeks ago where the city backhoe pulled down a very low hanging Mediacom wire and the pole came down disconnecting electric service to many customers. Mediacom notified the city a claim may be filed for damages, although the city will dispute the claim. The pole was scheduled to be replaced by Pennyrile Electric. Finally, Orr reported high school student Will Withers has been hired part-time by the city to clean the Square and other small jobs.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green distributed a form for each council member to complete identifying what they think are the city's top five priorities over the next few years. He also requested the council members suggestions for streets that need to be paved.

Mayor Green stated the city has been studying the use of grinder pumps in the sewer system and this item will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Case reported several blue/purple street lights in the city and has found out that these are defective LED lights and inquired about them being replaced.

Gibson asked about police cars blocking gas pumps when they are pulling over a vehicle. Chief Toombs stated the car being pulled over is stopping in these locations and as a safety precaution, the vehicles are not asked to move until the stop has been completed.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer