

Minutes: City Council Meeting
August 10, 2023
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

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

Others present: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; Jeffrey B. Traughber, Attorney; Derrell Waggoner, Fire Chief; Amy Chester, *Kentucky New Era*; and, Joshua Claussen, WEKT Radio.

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

Mayor Green called for review of the minutes of the July 13, 2023, council meeting. There were no changes and Orr motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Gibson, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock presented the financial reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Green presented a resolution from Historic Todd County, Inc. requesting the city pursue discussions with Todd County Fiscal Court to establish terms for a preservation easement on the Historic 1835 Todd County Courthouse in partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council. After discussion, McReynolds motioned to approve the resolution and recommendation of Historic Todd County, Inc. to pursue discussions to establish terms of a preservation easement, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Traughber stated the terms of the preservation easement would be drafted and then presented to the city council and fiscal court for discussion and final approval.

Clerk Brock presented a proposal to hire Thurman Campbell Group for accounting services to make necessary adjustments to the financial statements in preparation for the annual audit. Thurman Campbell Group has been assisting the city with these adjustments in the past, however it was part of their services conducted prior to them preparing the audit. Since Thurman Campbell is no longer performing the audit, Clerk Brock has been seeking proposals from audit firms to prepare the audit and hopes to have some proposals to present at the next meeting. She has found that many accounting firms are no longer performing local government audits. Traughber stated several other cities he represents are having problems finding an audit firm. The cost of the accounting services should not exceed \$3,000. Powell motioned to approve the proposal from Thurman Campbell Group, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green reported the city can now apply for Transportation Alternative Program grant projects. The city previously applied for new sidewalks on Allensville Street and Commerce Street, and he suggested the city resubmit that application. Case motioned to approve resubmitting the application, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented the 2023 property tax rate calculations. The compensating rate for real property, which generates about the same revenue as last year, is \$.241 per \$100 of assessment, generating about \$202,663. The 4% rate, which allows a 4% increase in revenue, is \$.250 per \$100 of assessment would generate \$210,231. Adopting the same real property tax rate as last year, \$.249 would generate approximately \$209,390. After

discussion, Case motioned to adopt the same real property tax rate as last year, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously. The corresponding personal property tax rate would be \$.0971 per \$100 of assessment. An ordinance will be prepared for the next meeting and Clerk Brock will schedule the public hearing since the proposed rate is higher than the compensating rate.

GRANT AND PROJECT UPDATES

Mayor Green reported Bell Engineering continues to work on the design for the West Main Street Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements TAP project.

Mayor Green reported the Goebel Avenue TAP project is complete, however the contractor has stated they will not be able to do additional work on the project to complete drainage improvements. The city is waiting on guidance from the state on our options to make the drainage repairs.

WBW Engineers may have the design plans for installing new poles and lighting on ball field three as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund project in the park next week. The city had to trim some trees near field three to improve access to the existing lighting.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Traugher asked if the city has an appointment to the joint city-county planning commission. Mayor Green stated that he had two current planning commission members interested in representing the city. After discussion, Mayor Green recommended the city appointment Nick Harris to serve on the joint city-county planning commission. Case motioned to approve the recommendation, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously. Traugher stated this appointment will serve to review the comprehensive plan and additional appointments may be necessary in the future.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Green distributed a Planning and Code Enforcement activity report prepared by Megan Willenborg, Zoning Administrator/Citation Officer. Riverbend Subdivision is preparing to construct "South Riverbend Road" for the next phase of the subdivision. Crouch Farm Subdivision is still working on infrastructure plans and Engineer Rick Harper is reviewing the stormwater management plan on behalf of the city. Mayor Green stated the Crouch development is about 8 weeks away from having the infrastructure ready to begin constructing homes.

Fire Chief Waggoner reported the internet at the fire department is down. ISO will be in Elkton on November 15th for inspection. Waggoner reported some work will need to be done to some of the trucks, including pump testing, to help improve the city's fire rating.

Police Chief Toombs reported the department had 674 calls for service last month, including 30 alcohol related calls. McReynolds asked if there were any calls for service to the Community House due to the large event held last weekend and Chief Toombs stated he was not aware of any calls.

Mayor Green reported design plans are still being prepared for water and sewer extensions to the Robertson industrial property. Precision Concrete Cutting completed repairs to the sidewalks as approved by the council previously. Work to remove trees in the cemetery has been completed. The iron fence at Glenwood cemetery needs to be repaired. The project to make improvements at the sewer plant through additional KIA Clean Water funding is almost ready to be bid, however we are still waiting on approval from the state to proceed. The department has hired a new co-op student, John Riley Service, to water flowers on the Square and other duties.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Green distributed an invitation to the city council to attend a luncheon on August 22nd for discussion regarding state revenue.

Mayor Green reported the city's insurance adjuster has been in discussions with Mediacom regarding their claim the city owes them about \$30,000 in damages from an accident last year. The city disputed the claim as previously reported and Mediacom has now decided they may negotiate.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

McReynolds reported several people in town last weekend visited the cemeteries and were impressed with the looks of the new addition to the cemetery after all the trees were removed.

Case reported he received a call reminding the city to pressure wash and seal the stone wall at Glenwood Cemetery.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mayor Green reviewed dates of upcoming events including the new Hometown Harvest – Farm to Fork Dinner on September 22nd.

Orr motioned to adjourn, seconded by McReynolds, and carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer