

Minutes: City Council Meeting
September 14, 2023
6:00 PM

The Elkton City Council met in regular session at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM with Mayor Arthur Green presiding.

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

Others present: Laura Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer; Robert Toombs, Chief of Police; Jeffrey B. Traughber, Attorney; Chris Orr, Public Works Director; 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 Orr led the Pledge of Allegiance and Laster led invocation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Green called to order the public hearing for the proposed 2023 ad valorem tax rates. Mayor Green stated that the real property tax rate proposed for 2023 is \$0.249 per \$100 in assessment, which is the same rate as last year but higher than the compensating rate for 2023. The corresponding proposed personal property tax rate for 2023 will be \$0.0971, which is a tax rate decrease over last year. Mayor Green called for comments and there were none. Mayor Green declared the public hearing closed at 6:03 pm.

Mayor Green called for review of the minutes of the August 10, 2023, council meeting. There were no changes and Orr motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Brock presented the financial reports and reported the Sewer Improvement Project has been officially closed by Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. The final loan was \$4,134,451 with the city receiving \$1,000,000 in loan forgiveness for a total final loan of \$3,134,451. The loan is over 30 years at 0.5% interest with an annual debt service of about \$118,800 and the first payment will be made in December 2023. Brock also reported she has spoken to at least 10 accounting firms and only one was possibly interested in submitting a proposal to perform the audit for FYE June 30, 2023, however the deadline to submit proposals was September 7th and no proposals were submitted. After discussion, Laster motioned to approve the financial reports, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ORDINANCES

Clerk Brock read first reading of Ordinance 2023-10, "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE UPON THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, MOTOR VEHICLES AND WATERCRAFT WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY, FOR THE YEAR 2023."

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Green presented Resolution 2023-04, "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELKTON ACCEPTING THE GRANT, APPROVING THE GRANT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF ELKTON'S ANNUAL BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS." This resolution is for \$247,899 in grant

funding to complete sewer plant renovations and plans for the North Todd sewer line extension. Orr motioned to approve Resolution 2023-04, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Green reported a special meeting needs to be called for Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5 pm for second reading of the tax rate ordinance and to review bids for the purchase of water and sewer supplies. Orr motioned to approve the special meeting, seconded by Laster, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented a proposed Residential Development Incentive Agreement with Arland Overholt for the development of the “left side” of Riverbend Subdivision including 13 lots. The agreement is like the one approved for the right side of the subdivision and includes the city using future new property taxes generated from the homes from the development to install the 1-inch topcoat after the developer has installed the base aggregate and asphalt to these 13 lots. After discussion, Laster motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Green presented a resolution from the city requesting the Todd County Industrial Foundation name the industrial property located in the city limits the “John Walton Industrial Park” to honor John’s tireless effort on behalf of industrial recruitment and development in Elkton and Todd County. Case motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Orr, and carried unanimously. Mayor Green will present the resolution to the Industrial Foundation at the next meeting.

GRANT AND PROJECT UPDATES

Mayor Green reported there is continued discussion about utility line burial for the West Main Street Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements TAP project.

Mayor Green reported the city is still waiting on guidance from the state on our options to make the drainage repairs to complete the Goebel Avenue TAP.

WBW Engineers should be ready soon to bid purchase and installation of new poles and lighting on ball field three as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund project in the park.

PADD is assisting the city with a Cybersecurity grant that will be submitted to assess vulnerabilities in the city and development an emergency response plan.

The city has received a Pennyrile ASAP grant that will help pay for police officer overtime during Red Ribbon Week.

Clerk Brock applied for, and the city received, a Kentucky League of Cities safety grant that will reimburse the city \$3,000 for the sidewalk repairs performed by Precision Concrete Cutting back in July.

The city is working with PADD to complete an energy resiliency survey to assess essential buildings in the city in case of an energy emergency and may result in funding to install generators in essential buildings. The city will need to identify essential buildings and may include schools and other properties that are used as emergency shelters.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Green reported brick work on city hall and the police department should begin next week. This is maintenance work that needs to be completed prior to any renovations. AW Design is in the process of preparing bid specifications for the renovations.

Mayor Green presented a draft amendment to the purchasing ordinance that would update the amount the city would be required to advertise and bid from \$10,000 to the new state required \$40,000 as well as amend the city’s

requirements for seeking verbal and written quotes. Case stated it was good the city is still requiring quotes for projects under \$40,000. After discussion, it was the consensus to proceed with using the draft proposal to prepare an ordinance for the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Toombs reported the department had 730 calls for service last month, including 30 alcohol related calls. Chief Toombs reported he is donating four old tasers to the Paducah school system. Also, Police Officer Rodney Moberly's contract ending August 30, 2023, was not renewed and he is now working as a School Resource Officer at North Todd Elementary.

Fire Chief Waggoner reported the department is making improvements in preparation for the ISO inspection November 15th. Mayor Green reported he has approved a new Standard Operating Procedure for the fire department after working with Chief Waggoner and Assistant Chief Smith. McReynolds asked how many certified firemen the department had. Waggoner reported one new certification in the last few days, but the total firemen is down to about 15 with about 13 being certified.

Public Works Director Orr reported maintenance worker Travis Power has left the city to work for the Todd County Water District, which offered better pay and benefits. Mayor Green reminded the council that he stated during budget preparation that the city may need to look into adjusting salaries again sometime this year. The department is working on pressure washing and sealing the stone wall at Glenwood Cemetery. Work on the new garage/storage building should be complete next week. Finally, the department is working on sidewalk repairs in the park and should begin other sidewalk repairs in the city soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Leaf pick up in the city will begin October 24 through December 6. Leaves will be picked up on Mondays and Wednesdays and every road will be checked each day.

Pride of the Pennyrile, a regional economic and industrial development gathering will be held September 28th at Lake Barkley State Park if anyone from the city is interested in attending.

CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

Laster reported his church would like to do a service project for the city. Mayor Green stated there may be some work needed in the park.

Powell reported complaints about several properties on College Street. Mayor Green reported the city will follow the code enforcement process on these properties.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mayor Green reviewed dates of upcoming events including the new Hometown Harvest – Farm to Fork Dinner on September 22nd which currently has 185 tickets sold.

Laster motioned to adjourn, seconded by Powell, and carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Arthur Green, Mayor

Laura M. Brock, City Clerk/Treasurer