

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 2014

6:30PM

LOCATION: Elsmere City Building, 318 Garvey Avenue, Elsmere, KY 41018

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lenhof called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Councilman Billy Bradford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following members were present:

Mayor Marty Lenhof
Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith
Councilwoman Nancy Bowman
Councilman Billy Bradford
Councilman Tim Greene
Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

GENERAL ITEMS:

Presentation of Historical Seal – Bill Magnus and Jerry Horwitz

Mr. Magnus presented to Council the seal of the former Town of Elsmere. He presented a copy of the embossment and enlarged image of the seal embossment to Council.

Kenton County Circuit Court Judge Candidate – Kate Molloy

Ms. Molloy addressed Council regarding her qualifications for Kenton County Circuit Court Judge.

Erlanger/Elsmere School District – Shawn Neace

Mr. Neace addressed Council regarding a Town Hall Meeting being held on Jan. 29 in the Dietz Auditorium regarding drug prevention and the impact of drugs on the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported for the month of December three building and zoning permits were issued which included a fence on Virginia Bradford Ct., three commercial HVAC units at U-Haul and a change of use permit changing Grand Electric to a carpet cleaning business. Mr. Stith reported a total of \$27,800 in construction costs, \$615.00 in building fees, and \$40.00 in zoning fees. Mr. Stith also reported there were three properties that the Fire Department, Rich and himself went through that have electrical and other issues. They found these issues after the Fire District responded to a call at these properties.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck reported the opening of bids for Park Ave. and the Dell Storm Sewer Project will occur next week. He also reported the water main construction on Park Ave. and Maple will be done sometime in March. Mr. Erpenbeck also submitted a written report to Council.

Finance Officer/Treasurer Jessica Lucius reported income has increased since the City been processing property taxes which shows the increase through December 31. Ms. Lucius also submitted a written report to Council.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported approximately \$340.00 was generated from the Dec. 9th electronic auction of surplus property. She also reminded residents who had their family portraits taken at the Christmas Party to pick up their photos at the City Building.

Code Enf. Officer & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff was not present but submitted a written report to Council. Mr. Mattingly reported Rich has been preparing for the Code Enforcement Board meeting on Feb. 18.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported she will be working with students for the Student Government meeting. Ms. Donahue also reported the next event will be free skating held on Feb. 9 at Jimmy's Rollerdom. In February, she will start planning the Easter egg hunt. Ms. Donahue also reported she has been working on grants for the park and ball fields.

City Attorney Tom Miller reported he is continuing tax collection efforts and liens will be filed and the city will figure out which properties to file suit. Mr. Miller also reported he has been working with city staff with questions regarding abandoned and blighted properties.

Police Chief Thames reported Officer Rau has been released on her own and Officer Metzger is in his second week of field training and will be on his own the second week of February. Chief Thames also reported Officer Markesbery received the Governor's Award for Impaired Driving for 2013 and commended the work Sgt. Cummins did for the D.A.R.E. program. He also reported on the success of the Cops and Kids Program. Chief Thames also reported he has completed a request for destruction of evidence and forfeiture of seized drug money which the Police Department was awarded \$4,093.00. Chief Thames also submitted a written report to Council.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen reported for most of the month they have been dealing with snow removal. He also reported the phase II signs are going up and phase III signs will be ordered. He also reported they have received the encroachment permit to move the signs on Dixie Highway and plans to complete this tomorrow. Mr. Zerhusen also submitted a written report to Council.

Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the Administrative Reports. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

AUDIENCE REMARKS: None.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Administrative Liaisons Gloria Grubbs and Nancy Bowman had no report.

Adopt-A-Troop Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported she has not received any responses to the emails she has sent.

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford had no report.

Code Enforcement Liaison Neal reported Rich is doing his duty and won't be long before Elsmere is the beautiful city it is and appreciates all of his work.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported she looked at all the parks and they are all in good condition for winter and still sees kids playing in them. She also thanked Public Works for keeping the parks clean.

Student Government Joanne Barnett-Smith reported she has made contact with all of the schools but at this time has not heard anything back.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene reported Mr. Erpenbeck took care of everything in his report. Councilman Greene added they are moving along well with Maple Ave.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reported he has been working with the City Attorney on blight and code enforcement issues, specifically trying to creatively speed up the transfer of foreclosures and possible create

legislation to address these issues. Mr. Mattingly also reported he has been working on a grant with the Reds Community Foundation to do field upgrades to Woodside Park.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported he attended a meeting last week with Erlanger-Elsmere School District Superintendent Kathy Burkhardt, to discuss ways students can give back to their communities. Mayor Lenhof also reported the city will look into ways to display the seal that Mr. Magnus has returned to the city.

GENERAL ITEMS CONT.:

Order/Resolution 1-2014 – Re-appointing Candace Street to the Elsmere Code Enforcement Board

City Clerk Jessica Chaney read by title the Order/Resolution.

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 1-2014 as read. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1674-2014 – Amending Insurance Premium Tax Budget Transfer

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a summary reading for the First Reading of Ordinance 1674-2014.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING § 144.06 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO MANDATE ALL INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX PROCEEDS BE DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL FUND, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs was absent.

Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal reported near the U-turn by Mary Smith Cemetery there is still debris and garbage in this area. Questioned if it can be cleared when the weather permits. Councilwoman Neal also thanked Salvadore's Pizza for using the City Building on their menu.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith thanked Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen and the Public Works crew for keeping the roads cleared. She also reported the Water District received over 400 phone calls about residents not having water and was pleased with how quickly they got her water back on. She also reported Butternut Bread has reopened in the same place and thanked them for returning to the city.

Councilman Bradford questioned if there has been a lot of pot holes in the city because of the cold temperatures. Mr. Zerhusen reported the city has been fixing them as quickly as they can although some are appearing overnight. Mr. Zerhusen also reported his crew was regularly working on the icy area of Pebble Creek near the vacant house.

Councilman Greene had no report.

Councilwoman Bowman reported she would like for the city to follow-up regarding the city seal and when a bond could have been issued.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk