

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

April 8, 2014

6:30PM

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lenhof called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following members were present:

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

Councilwoman Nancy Bowman was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Neal made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Special Meeting. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2014 Special Meeting. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Daniel Bell – Mayor of Taylor Mill addressed Council regarding his qualifications for Kenton County Commissioner.

GENERAL ITEMS:

Letter of Commendation – Officer Steve Panko, Officer Steve Robinson, Detective Dennis McCarthy

Chief Thames presented a letter of commendation to Officer Panko, Officer Robinson, and Detective McCarthy regarding their exceptional job in the arrest and conviction of a suspect dealing drugs in the community to a juvenile. Chief Thames reported this is a great example of street level police officers doing great things. Chief Thames reported the Police Department was able to seize the black Corvette involved and it will eventually be auctioned with funds being placed in the Police Forfeiture Fund and a portion to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Chief Thames reported the Officers and Detective should be proud of their efforts and quick actions.

Kenton County Judge/Executive Steve Arlinghaus

Kenton County Judge/Executive Steve Arlinghaus addressed Council regarding the commendable acts of Fire Chief Paul LaFontaine in working at the regional command center in March 2012 when the tornados came through Southern Kentucky and Piner, Kentucky. Judge Arlinghaus presented Chief LaFontaine with a reimbursement check for his time and efforts in working at the command center. Judge Arlinghaus also reported Chief LaFontaine is a leader, a good chief and one of the finest in Northern Kentucky.

Andrew Aiello – TANK General Manager – Questions about Bus Service

Andrew Aiello, TANK General Manager, reported he has been communicating with City Administrator Alex Mattingly regarding citizen questions in bringing TANK bus service back into Elsmere. Mr. Aiello reported due to a tight budget, TANK needed to make a reduction in services causing several routes to be eliminated including the Garvey Avenue stop ten years ago. Mr. Aiello reported TANK conducted a five to six year study of the entire system to look at routes and opportunities to grow ridership. Elsmere was not a stop that came out of the study to

continue and there are no immediate plans to add service to Garvey. He also reported TANK needs to put their resources where they get the most ridership.

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Serena Owen – 1086 Henry Street – Ms. Owen made a presentation expressing the need to bring TANK bus service back into Elsmere and the safety and welfare of the citizens walking to the Dixie Highway stop. Ms. Owen also presented Mr. Aiello with a petition of 400 signatures of citizens, workers and visitors who are in support of restoring bus service to Garvey Avenue. Ms. Owen also questioned if the City could advocate for trial bus service since TANK recently gave another area a trial and questioned what will happen going forward. Mr. Aiello reported he understands the services are a need but the main question is if we can get enough ridership on the bus to benefit the most of the community. Mr. Aiello reported TANK is funded by the three county Fiscal Courts which mostly covers capital projects such as facilities and buses; it does not cover operating expenses. This leaves TANK to operate on a tight budget. Mr. Aiello also reported if TANK is to pursue a pilot for a Garvey Avenue stop there would need to be discussions on who would fund the pilot program, scheduling, and when to provide services. Mr. Aiello reported the pilot program in the southern part of Kenton County was one trip per week and doesn't think that would meet the needs expressed by the citizens of Elsmere. He also reported this program did not continue to operate since it didn't generate the funds. Mr. Aiello reported he wishes they could provide service on every street but it is not feasible and they have to put funds where they get the most ridership. He also reported going forward there are two pieces everyone needs to consider; one, that we all must be honest with ourselves on what kind of service it would take to be useful, more trips is more money. And, two, where are we going to find the funds to operate a pilot program. City Administrator Alex Mattingly reported there has been ongoing communication with TANK and Elsmere advocates on the citizen's behalf and it comes down to where the funding will come from and if it's feasible. Mr. Aiello reported the pilot bus service could and couldn't be successful and questions if there can be enough funding and potential ridership to make it work. Mr. Aiello reported there is not enough evidence to put the funding toward the service and there needs to be a discussion on where the funds are going to come from. Mr. Aiello reported the next steps include looking at the service characteristics for it to be a useful service, to calculate the costs of it and how long the pilot would last; recommended for it to last at least three to four months. Councilman Greene questioned if it would include the industrial park in Elsmere and everyone needs to be involved in discussions going forward as the community, churches, businesses, the City and TANK and he believes it will do a lot for our City.

Renee Wilson – 204 Bartlett Avenue, Erlanger – Ms. Wilson reported she is a visitor of Elsmere and also a TANK rider. Ms. Wilson wanted to know what the TANK study consisted of and that she was unaware that a study was being completed. Mr. Aiello reported the study was part of a long range plan which consisted of a steering committee and twenty-five representatives consisting of organizations, counties and cities. Not all cities were included since there are thirty-five cities from three counties. Mr. Aiello also reported there were three separate public meetings held to get feedback and they also analyzed travel plans over the region and population density. He reported Elsmere did not have the highest population density. Mr. Aiello reported the decisions were based on statistical findings and the route was eliminated ten years ago due to low ridership.

Deborah Sapp – 1439 Garvey Avenue – Ms. Sapp reported she believes TANK already had their mind made up prior to coming to meeting and reported the analysis was ten years ago not today. Mr. Aiello reported he will follow the leadership of the City and TANK accepted this requests to speak at the City Council meeting to discuss TANK services.

Mona Smith – 34 Pleasant Ridge Avenue, Ft. Mitchell – Ms. Smith reported she is in support of the bus route since she has family in Elsmere and would benefit from the addition of the stop and utilizes the bus to go to different functions.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported for the month of March, 2014 there were eight zoning and building permits with \$11,400.00 in total construction costs, \$385.00 in building fees, and \$300.00 in zoning fees. These permits included two above ground pools, a deck, a shed, a sign, a fence, two HVAC's and a driveway extension.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck was not present but submitted a written report to Council.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported she has been working in conjunction with Rumpke regarding residents who are greater than 90 days delinquent in submitting payment to Rumpke and starting this week if residents are greater than 90 days their waste collection and recycling service will be terminated until payment is made. Ms. Chaney also reminded residents to have their dogs and cats licensed through the City and Kenton County. Currently, the City has 62 dogs and 16 cats registered. She also reminded residents to obtain their yard sale permits and a surplus auction through GovDeals.com will occur April 14-21 with items of interest including a 1998 Ford Explorer, various office equipment and police equipment.

Code Enf. Officer & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff was not present but submitted a written report to Council. Mr. Mattingly reported citations have increased for the month of March due to a spring cleanup of nuisance issues and addressing other code enforcement issues. Mr. Mattingly also reported the City is handling most of the issues but needs helpful tips from residents as well; residents should contact the city building to report code enforcement problems.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported she is finishing up scheduling baseball fields, and the Easter egg hunt is Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. which has 2,000 eggs to hunt. Ms. Donahue also reported she plans to finish the summer parks schedule tomorrow and will be placed on the website and in the schools.

City Attorney Jeff Otis reported he is filling in for City Attorney Tom Miller who is on vacation.

Police Chief Thames reported the Police Department conducted interviews on March 22 and March 29 which they had 21 candidates to interview and ten candidates will have an another interview with the Mayor and City Administrator on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Chief Thames also reported the sergeant exam is scheduled for May 21. Chief Thames also reported he has noticed more activity with the warmer weather with children playing outside, traffic increasing and people rolling through stop signs. He wanted to remind residents to slow down and pay attention. Chief Thames also submitted a written report to Council.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen reported they have started doing work on the smaller items in the parks and will work on major items later in the spring. Mr. Zerhusen also reported the phase II sign replacement project is complete and plans to order the phase III signs soon. 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.**

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Administrative Liaisons Gloria Grubbs and Nancy Bowman Councilwoman Grubbs reported they are continuing to work on the rental inspection ordinance and right now there is no action taken. Mr. Mattingly reported he has changed the requested items and to let him know if he is misinformed regarding the status. Councilwoman Bowman was absent.

Adopt-A-Troop Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported all troops are at home and happy.

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford had no report.

Code Enforcement Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported that Code Enforcement Officer Rich Aliff and City Administrator Alex Mattingly are doing a good job with code enforcement efforts and that she is seeing a lot of results and is thankful for that.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported there is a lot of mud from water draining in the area where the fence is near the small hill. Ms. Neal questioned if the drainage could be fixed. Mr. Zerhusen reported he has been in contact with Nick Hoffman (whose baseball league uses the fields) to fix the grading issues. Councilwoman Neal also reported there is mud in the area of the grass hill near the playground and shelter area and questioned if the drainage could be fixed. She also thanked Public Works for all of their work.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene reported the annual street group meeting was held on March 31 at 11:00 a.m. at Ray's office. Councilman Greene reported discussion occurred about upcoming projects of Park Ave., Dell St. and Maple Ave., the 2014-2015 budget and the budget amendment. Councilman Green also reported the blacktop that was put down on Maple Avenue looks bad and makes it difficult to drive down and the City should take this into consideration to not bid out to this company again. Councilman Greene questioned if something could be done even though it will be redone in approximately six months. Discussion occurred with Mr. Zerhusen regarding the type and issue with the blacktop. City Administrator Alex Mattingly reported the work on Maple Ave. was the NKY Water District's project and the City has communicated with them that it was displeased with the work that the contractor completed and dissatisfied with the project completion. The water district's contractor is supposed to return to fix some of the issues on Maple Ave.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reminded Council of the April 23 Business Appreciation luncheon at Steinhaus Restaurant. Mr. Mattingly also reported he is working on formulating the budget for next fiscal year, and plans to submit to the Mayor in May, and then the mayor will send it to City Council for discussion at the June Caucus Meeting. He also reminded Council of the two regular scheduled meetings in June. Mr. Mattingly also told Council to let him know if they have any questions regarding the two ordinances on the agenda.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported he has been occupied managing the affairs of the city, including four hours of preliminary budget meetings with department heads today, eleven interviews for open patrol officer positions in the Police Department, and an interview Friday for the Public Works seasonal laborer.

GENERAL ITEMS CONT.:

Ordinance 1675-2014 - Amending Sec. 35.01 Police Department Lateral Hires

City Attorney Jeff Otis performed a summary reading for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1675-2014.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §§ 35.01 THROUGH 35.07 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY THE HIRING PROCESS FOR LATERAL POLICE OFFICERS AND OTHER INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Bradford made a motion to accept Ordinance 1675-2014 as read. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof requested a Roll Call vote. Roll Call – Councilman Bradford – aye; Councilman Greene – aye; Councilwoman Grubbs – aye; Councilwoman Neal – aye; Councilwoman Barnett-Smith - aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1676-2014 - Budget Amendment 2013-2014

City Attorney performed a reading in its entirety for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1676-2014.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ELSMERE, KENTUCKY BUDGET ORDINANCE NUMBER 1668-2013 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014.

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to accept Ordinance 1676-2014 as read. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof requested a Roll Call vote. Roll Call – Councilwoman Grubbs – aye; Councilwoman Neal – aye; Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye; Councilman Greene – aye; Councilman Bradford –aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs wished residents a wonderful and blessed Easter Sunday.

Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal had no report.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith reported the kids are on Spring Break and to watch out for them playing outside and the last day of school is May 30. She also reminded residents to please stop at all stop signs.

Councilman Bradford commended the audience for staying the entire meeting.

Councilman Greene thanked everyone who showed up for tonight’s meeting and hopes the City can get the ball rolling with TANK.

Councilwoman Bowman was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk