

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 2014

6:30PM

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lenhof called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs, 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 Gloria Grubbs
Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Serena Owen – 1086 Henry Street – Ms. Owen thanked the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) for exploring restoration of bus service to Garvey Ave. in Elsmere. Ms. Owen reported herself and others were in attendance at the most recent meeting at TANK's offices which she reported was productive. Ms. Owens reported she is completing a door to door survey to find out specific needs for ridership and plans to present the statistics from all the surveys at the next meeting. Ms. Owens also requested a sign to be posted each month advertising City Council meetings, a formal city committee to meet with TANK, and that the City consider appropriating funds for TANK bus service.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported for the month of April there were eight building and zoning permits issued with \$20,677.00 in total construction costs, \$710.00 in building fees, and \$340.00 in zoning fees. These permits included three fences, an above ground pool and deck, and a remodel of the former Kentucky Motor Service building to a grocery store.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck reported that the Park Avenue reconstruction is underway and the Maple Avenue reconstruction project will go out to bid next month. Mr. Erpenbeck also submitted a written report to Council.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported the City received positive feedback from the Business Appreciation Luncheon and spring newsletters were mailed to residents at the end of April. Ms. Chaney also reported the dates of the city wide yard sale and the spring clean-up week.

Code Enf. Officer & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff was not present but submitted a written report to Council. Mr. Mattingly reported the City is aware of a number of properties with high grass and encouraged residents to call the city building to report violations. Mr. Mattingly also reported on the process of issuing Code Enforcement citations.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported she gave each Council member a copy of the Summer Parks Program and the next event is the magic show at Rosella Porterfield Park.

City Attorney Tom Miller reported on the status of 428 Buckner Street. This property was determined to be a public safety hazard and was set for demolition. Demolition was halted because of a court ordered injunction, and

is now being moved towards foreclosure sale. The City has actively worked to try to get the issues at this property resolved and the property transferred to a different owner or demolished.

Police Chief Thames reported he is in the hiring process for the three vacant positions; David Lillich has been hired as the lateral police officer. Chief Thames also reported that he hopes to have the second police officer candidate at the Kentucky Police Academy in June and the third one in July. He also reported the sergeant's exam is scheduled for May 21. He also updated City Council on the Arnett DARE graduation, roll call training and the spring firearms training. Chief Thames also extended the invitation to Council to attend the Police Memorial Services in Covington on May 15 and reminded residents about the May 26 Memorial Day Parade. Chief Thames also submitted a written report to Council.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen was not present, but submitted a written report to Council.

Councilwoman Neal made a motion to approve the Administrative Reports. Councilwoman Grubbs 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 discussions have occurred regarding the costs of health insurance and looking into different alternatives to contain these costs.

Adopt-A-Troop Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported that the adopted troops are home safe.

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford reported it was good to see attendance at the business luncheon and is sorry to hear Steinhaus Restaurant is leaving Elsmere. Councilman Bradford also reported he hopes the new grocery store at Cross and Garvey is successful.

Code Enforcement Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported she has been going around the City seeing a lot of improvements and hopes to continue to see the City being cleaned up each day. Councilwoman Neal also thanked Code Enforcement Officer Rich Aliff and the Public Works Department for their work.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported she checked all of the parks and Public Works has worked on the issue at Woodside Park near the fenced in area. Councilwoman Neal also reported the property behind Rosella Porterfield Park has several trees that appear to be rotting five to ten feet up and has concerns of them harming people in the park.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene thanked City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck for his report updating Council on upcoming street projects. Mr. Greene asked Mr. Erpenbeck if there is any movement on the curbs in front of the U-Haul on Dixie Highway and if a temporary fix is possible. Mr. Erpenbeck reported he is in the process of putting the plans together to address curbs on Dixie Hwy. and hopes for it to be bid out in June. Mr. Erpenbeck also reported he will look into this area for temporary fixes but there are limitations on what can be done.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reported the Dixie Hwy. curb project has been delayed because the City requested more reimbursement from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and is now receiving twice as much funds. Mr. Mattingly also reported 436 Buckner Street was on the docket at the most recent Code Enforcement Board hearing and the Board gave the property owner a limited time to rehab or sell the property. If no progress is seen at this property, the City will move to the next step of the enforcement process. Mr. Mattingly also reported the property owner has done some remediation of the graffiti and has secured the structure. Mr. Mattingly also reported the NKADD salary survey results are available if Council members would like a copy. Mr. Mattingly also reported on the easement agreement with the Erlanger Elsmere School District for Rosella Porterfield Park.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported City staff and he have been working on the 2014-2015 budget. He also reported the TANK meeting was productive and the next meeting will be held in June.

GENERAL ITEMS:

Executive Order 2-2014 – Appointment of David Lillich as Police Officer

Mayor Lenhof summarized the Executive Order appointing David Lillich as a Police Officer.

Executive Order 3-2014 – Appointment of Gary Hamilton as Seasonal Laborer

Mayor Lenhof summarized the Executive Order appointing Gary Hamilton as Seasonal Laborer. However, Mr. Hamilton subsequently resigned for medical reasons.

Executive Order 4-2014 – Appointment of Zachary Ritchie as Police Officer

Mayor Lenhof summarized the Executive Order appointing Zachary Ritchie as a Police Officer.

Order/Resolution 6-2014 – Acceptance of Erlanger-Elsmere School District Easement – Rosella Porterfield Park

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

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 6-2014 as read. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 6-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Order/Resolution 7-2014 – Surplus Property

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

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 7-2014 as read. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 6-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs had no report.

Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal reported Mr. Strutman contacted her for permission to enter the Mary Smith Cemetery after seeing a no trespassing sign. Councilwoman Neal also reported individuals are now able to use Google to view the monuments in Mary Smith Cemetery.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith reported the kids only have twelve days of school left and to please watch out for children playing and to have a safe summer.

Councilman Bradford reported he attended the open house for Mary Smith Cemetery and the cemetery leaders are making progress with mowing and it was a nice meeting. Councilman Bradford reported he enjoyed attending the TANK bus meeting and they are making progress.

Councilman Greene made comments about City Council member attendance at the recent TANK meeting. Discussion occurred regarding quorum issues and the possibility of forming a committee or liaison for the TANK meetings.

Councilwoman Bowman had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Greene made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.** Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk