

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2014

6:30 PM

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 Councilman Billy Bradford, 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 June 24, 2014 Municipal Road Aid Public Hearing. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. Vote: 4 ayes; 1 abstention. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilman Bradford made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2014 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Serena Owen – 1086 Henry Street – Ms. Owen reported that the nominations for the Owens Family community hero award are open for youth and adults who give back to the community; she also reported she graduated from the Kenton County Government Academy, and mentioned a barn dance event taking place in Rabbit Hash, Kentucky. Ms. Owen also invited residents to learn more about restoring TANK bus services to Garvey Avenue by attending the meetings each month at the TANK headquarters and plans to post more information on the Friends of Elsmere Facebook page. Ms. Owen also questioned Council about their support for bringing TANK bus service back to Elsmere and reported the next meeting will be held at the end of July to discuss funding options for a possible pilot program. Ms. Owen also thanked the City for the sign promoting City Council meetings. Mayor Lenhof reported that he and Council are in generally in favor of restoring bus service to Garvey Avenue but there still needs to be discussion of where the funding will come from.

Vonda Lyons – 3808 Harvest Way – Ms. Lyons reported some safety concerns in the Turkeyfoot Acres subdivision, especially on Autumn Road, due to speeding vehicles. Ms. Lyons questioned Council if they can enable speed cameras and/or speed bumps to prevent speeding. Ms. Lyons questioned if there is a funding issue and reported there used to be extra patrols in this area. Ms. Lyons requested any suggestions that could help this issue of people ignoring the 25 mph speed limit. Mayor Lenhof reported he will meet with Chief Thames and Alex Mattingly to revisit the use of speed bumps or come up with a solution to address speeding. Mayor Lenhof reported there are two officers in the academy and can only do targeted speed enforcement at present and officers must respond to other calls when needed. Alex Mattingly reported speed cameras can be tricky and can cause legal issues in Kentucky. Chief Thames reported the radar trailer was on Autumn Road for two weeks but was going to be deployed to other streets due to problems with speeding. Chief Thames reported they spend a lot of time on Autumn Road in the mornings and afternoon but will look into using the Highway Safety Grant funds for increased targeted speed enforcement.

Lynn Lawrence – 3791 Autumn Road – Ms. Lawrence reported it is not just cars speeding down Autumn Road, that there are tractor trailers coming from the industrial area that ignore signs at both ends of the subdivision, and also are speeding and running the stop sign located at Harvest and Autumn. Ms. Lawrence reported it is becoming

an issue since she has seen four tractor trailers come through illegally in the last three months. Ms. Lawrence reported a lot of residents are frustrated with vehicles speeding down Autumn Road and are unable to get the license plate numbers. Ms. Lawrence also reported she has personally seen officers, including Chief Thames, in Turkeyfoot Acres doing enforcement. Ms. Lawrence questioned Council if they can look into portable speed bumps or something else to deter tractor trailers from cutting through on their streets since there is not enough room for them. Ms. Lawrence reported she appreciates the response time of the officers and questioned if there can be more patrols in the afternoon when it's bad. Chief Thames reported he will look into coming up with a plan and, if possible, to use the Highway Safety Grant money for enforcement in Turkeyfoot Acres.

GENERAL ITEMS:

Introduction of Officer Alexis Day

Chief Thames introduced Alexis Day, who was recently hired by the City of Elsmere as a Police Officer and is scheduled to report to the Kentucky Police Academy on July 21, 2014. Ms. Day and her spouse were present for the introduction.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported for the month of June there were eleven building and zoning permits issued that included an above ground pool, several HVAC's, a concrete patio and parking lot and an 18,000 square foot warehouse on Powerline Drive by Straight Edge Concrete. Mr. Stith reported there was \$663,770.00 in total construction costs, \$1,974.00 in building fees, and \$310.00 in zoning fees. Mr. Stith also reported he inspected 112 Sanders Drive and updated Council in the issues with this property.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck reported the roadwork contractor is moving exceptionally well on Park Avenue and is making substantial progress. Mr. Erpenbeck also submitted a written report to Council.

Finance Officer/Treasurer Jessica Lucius provided a fourth quarter financial report and reported that there will be more adjustments made in July and August to close out the 13-14 fiscal year. Ms. Lucius also reported that she is expecting the City to have a surplus of around \$5,000 (related to the 13-14 budget), but this is very preliminary and final numbers will determine a lot. Ms. Lucius also submitted a written report to Council.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported she has been working on coordinating employee benefits, liquor licenses have been approved, and will be attending the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Institute from July 28 through August 1.

Code Enf. Officer & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff was not present but submitted a written report to Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported on the upcoming July 10 Public Works, Fire and Police night and the July 17 free swim night at Silverlake. Ms. Donahue also reported the equipment is coming in for the replacement of the Covered Bridge Park play structure and the picnic tables for the new shelter at Rosella Porterfield Park are coming in as well. Ms. Donahue also reported the swing mats have also been delivered. Ms. Donahue also reported there has been good attendance at all of the recent parks events.

City Attorney Tom Miller reported he has been working on a few code enforcement properties with the Mayor and City Administrator Alex Mattingly, various foreclosures and cases that are tied to code enforcement and hopes to get these issues resolved. Mr. Miller also reported he has been working on items of research to bring up at a later date.

Police Chief Thames reported that police recruit Zach Ritchie is in his third week of basic training. Officer Rau has completed a police mountain bike certification and bicycle mechanic course which adds three bike officers to the department and plans to increase bike patrols at night. Chief Thames also reported Officer Tony Embry completed training on S.A.V.E. that focuses on an active shooter situation that provides tactical support to E.M.S. to evacuate victims in these shootings. Chief Thames also reported they plan to conduct a joint training exercise with the Elsmere Fire District. Chief Thames also submitted a written report to Council.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen reported they have been busy with several projects, the Rosella Porterfield shelter installation has been pushed back one week due to the weather and after it is installed, Public Works will complete the smaller items. 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 that the City is looking at a change in overtime policy within the City's Personnel Policies and that this item will be brought up at the next Caucus. Councilwoman Grubbs also reported that City staff received a detailed breakdown of each employee's salary, benefits, and retirement and this information helps show employees all of their City compensation, which includes a good benefits package. Councilwoman Grubbs also reported a mandatory benefits meeting with staff will be held tomorrow.

Adopt-A-Troop Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported she has no information at this time since the adopted troops are at home.

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford had no report.

Code Enforcement Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported Code Enforcement Officer Rich Aliff has been working a lot and thanks him for his work, although, there is still a lot to be done. Councilwoman Neal reported the section near 700 Garvey is still overgrown and questioned the status of the privacy fence on Capitol Ave. since they have been throwing tree limbs and grass clippings over the fenced in area by the cemetery. Alex Mattingly reported there was a stop work order issued and advised the applicable residents that the fence could not be installed in the public right of way. Councilwoman Neal also reported the last house on Henry is only cutting in the area of the chain link fence and not in the area of the extended yard where the weeds and grass have grown high. Councilwoman Neal also questioned on the condition of the curb near the First Baptist Church which is preventing the hearse from entering into the area like they normally do. Mr. Erpenbeck is to review this area with Councilman Bradford.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal thanked Public Works for taking care of the parks and is anxious to see the new shelter installed in Rosella Porterfield Park. Councilwoman Neal reported she has noticed more residents are using the parks than before and encourages residents to continue to use the City's recreational facilities.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene reported a street group meeting was held on June 30 where they discussed the plans for Maple Avenue and the Dixie Highway beautification and sidewalk project. Councilman Greene reported he was not able to attend the pre-construction meeting for Maple Avenue. Discussion occurred about the closing of Maple Ave. block by block for the construction work and emergency personnel being able to get down the street while construction is taking place on Maple Avenue. Councilman Greene also reported the Park Avenue project is coming along quickly and he is receiving positive comments from residents.

Transportation Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported they are working with TANK to get a meeting set up to look for funding options and wanted to let citizens know Council is working hard at it. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith reported the next TANK meeting will be held in July.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reported 112 Sanders Drive is being addressed by the City's Code Enforcement Officer and does have issues. Mr. Mattingly reported this property does not meet the qualifications for an emergency demolition, but there may be other alternatives to explore.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported the City received a letter from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet noting structural deficiencies beneath the Garvey Avenue Bridge (which is owned and maintained by Norfolk Southern

Railroad). Mayor Lenhof also reported the Transportation Cabinet is supposed to send someone out to inspect the bridge which may result in a weight restriction being applied to vehicles using the bridge. Discussion occurred on the possible outcomes of the weight restrictions. Mayor Lenhof also reported they are moving forward with the Planning and Development Services of Kenton County for code enforcement. Mayor Lenhof reported Rich Aliff will continue as Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer and serve as a spotter that will identify blighted properties that will be addressed by PDS. This item will be submitted for Council approval in August.

GENERAL ITEMS CONT.:

Order/Resolution 10-2014 – Authorizing Bids on Foreclosed Properties

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

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 10-2014 as read. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilman Greene had no report.

Councilman Bradford had no report.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith wanted to inform everyone the Kenton County Fair is from July 14 through July 19 and wanted to remind and encourage residents to register as a participant in the Fair.

Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal had no report.

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs had no report.

Councilwoman Bowman was absent.

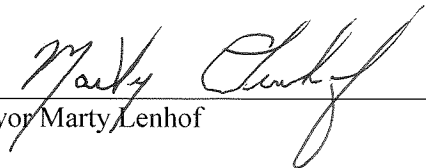
EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Bradford made a motion to enter executive/closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(b) – Deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency, but only when publicity would be likely to affect the value of a specific piece of property to be acquired for public use or sold by a public agency. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Council entered executive/closed session at 7:40 p.m.

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to exit executive/closed session and reconvene regular session. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Council exited executive/closed session at 8:15 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest: 

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk