

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

August 13, 2013

6:30PM

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lenhof called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Billy Bradford made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2013 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Nancy Bowman made motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2013 Special Meeting. Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members presented voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

GENERAL ITEMS:

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools

Superintendent Kathy Burkhardt introduced the new principal of Howell Elementary School, Michael Goodenough. Mr. Goodenough reported he wants to continue a great relationship between the City and the Erlanger-Elsmere School District. He wants what is best for the students at Howell and wants the school to be a pillar of the community. Burkhardt and Goodenough extended the invitation for attendance to the community receptions for the new additions to both Lloyd Memorial High School and Howell Elementary School. The first day of school is 08/14/2013.

Kenton County Commissioner - Kris Knochelmann

Attended council meeting to open the door for continued discussion between the City and Kenton County. Commissioner Knochelmann reports he has the entire community's interest at heart and encourages elected officials and citizens to reach out with any concerns or questions.

Ash Street Business Signage Presentation

Bob Elliot representing Ernie's Garage conducted a presentation regarding the Ash St. non-lighted business signage. Mr. Elliot reported all businesses have agreed upon the signage using Elsmere's logo and colors. Mr. Elliot would like to purchase the sign and continue upkeep as needed for the City of Elsmere. It will be an outright donation to the City of Elsmere from the businesses located on Ash Street. It's an approximately \$2,500.00 businesses investment that they are doing for the signage. The company that will manufacture the signage is from Taylor Mill, KY. Mr. Elliott addressed concerns from councilmembers regarding the visibility around the sign at the intersection of Ash St. and Garvey Ave. especially noting making a right-hand turn from Ash St. onto Garvey Ave.

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Lynn Lawrence, 3791 Autumn Rd. – Ms. Lawrence questioned what is going on with the tree and landscaping program for the Turkeyfoot Acres subdivision and what will be the time frame for residents to request trees. She is concerned that the money is coming from the Homeowners Association. She also questioned why the city removed the original trees when the sidewalks were replaced. Ms. Lawrence questioned if there is a guarantee that residents will take care of the trees planted. Ms. Lawrence reported she would like to get the Turkeyfoot Acres subdivision cleaned up especially where the former pool used to be. She also stated that if residents do not want a tree, then how is it fair for the money to be spent on a tree program.

In response, Mr. Mattingly stated residents will have a specific timeframe where they can request trees. Residents will receive a mailer explaining the tree program and an application to indicate if they are interested in receiving a tree or larger bush. Mr. Mattingly stated residents will have approximately one month to decide and respond with what type of tree they would like off of a city provided list. The original trees were removed due to damage to the sidewalk and right-of-way; the trees originally planted were not the correct type of trees. Mr. Mattingly reported the city has been in contact with area nurseries developing a list of the correct types of trees. In process of the installation the city will need to get a temporary easement from residents. City Attorney, Mr. Miller added the city cannot spend city funds on private property in most circumstances; therefore, they are not able to clean the area that Ms. Lawrence is requesting. Mr. Mattingly stated the city has received several requests from residents in Turkeyfoot Acres to replace the trees and the ones who originally lost a tree will get first priority.

James Gronefeld, 3764 Feather Ln. – Mr. Gronefeld questioned where the Homeowners Association money went and how is the city going to guarantee the trees are not placed in areas that will damage sewer lines. Mr. Gronefeld reported he is upset about the tree program and feels it is a misuse of their money.

Mr. Mattingly explained that City Council was given the exclusive authority from a court order to use the funds and the use of these funds has to be within Turkeyfoot Acres. He also stated residents have the option to get a tree and when planted it will be in areas that will not impact or cause easement issues or damage to sewer lines. Councilwoman Grubbs stated people were upset when trees were taken down and are excited to get the trees back. She also stated it's an option to improve the appearance and add beautification to the Turkeyfoot Acres subdivision. Councilwoman Bowman stated it's not the Homeowners Association's money it is the city's money; it occurred when the approximately \$7.00 Sewer fee was eliminated and at that time the funds came to the city. She also stated the city was very vocal about receiving ideas for utilizing the money and tried to accommodate viable requests.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported for the month of July there were 6 zoning and building permits with \$29,350.00 in total construction costs, \$370.00 in building fees, and \$250.00 in zoning fees. Stith reported a new owner of 458 Buckner has remodeled the home and is impressed with the improvements since the property was formally on the condemned list. Reported construction has started on three new homes on Shadowridge Dr.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck submitted a written report to council. Reported Garvey Ave. road construction is well underway; signs for detour routes are posted.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported the week of July 29 – August 2 she attended the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Institute completing the first year of a three year institute. Chaney reported she learned a lot of information pertaining to human resources, conducting effective meetings, record keeping and code enforcement. In compliance with the animal control ordinance the City has a new licensing plan for cats and dogs. Residents can come to the city building to pick up their new tags that will expire August 31, 2014. For residents with current licenses that expire on December 31, 2013; they will receive a new license for a prorated amount.

Code Enf. Officer & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff was not present but submitted a written report to council. Councilwoman Grubbs questioned if we have issued any citations or fines to properties with repeated violations. Alex Mattingly reported the city wants compliance from property owners for not mowing their grass or other

violations, and that fines are a last resort in many cases; as with all cities, Elsmere is struggling with foreclosures as well.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported in the month of July two events were hosted at Rosella Porterfield Park with more than 60 people in attendance. August 22 at Terrill Park they are having an evening with Magician Victor Phillips. Sun Rock Farm will be at Covered Bridge Park on September 12th. Movie night at Woodside Park is on September 20th.

City Attorney Tom Miller reported approximately 50 final demand letters with be going out for delinquent property taxes through certified mail. They will have an amount of time to send payment; if no payment is received, the City will file liens against the property.

Police Chief Thames Chief Thames was absent. A written report was submitted. Sergeant Todd Cummins was present. Sgt. Cummins reported an arrest was made possible by an observant neighbor. He advised residents to contact the police if and when something looks strange to them. Sgt. Cummins reported we received a letter that commended Officer Michael Wright's for his attendance and input at the Job Task Analysis regional focus group. Officer Wright finished his paramedics training as well so he will be doing in-house training for 1st aid and CPR training. Sgt. Cummins reported Officer Margaret Rau will graduate from the Kentucky Police Academy on Sept. 13th and Officer Michael Metzger will graduate sometime in February.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen submitted a written report. Zerhusen reported it is concrete season for the Public Works Department, which includes working on Shadowridge and Pebblecreek drives. Also, they have been working on the parks recently since there has been a lot of rain. Also, Mr. Zerhusen plans to look into the weeds growing in through the sidewalks at Eastern Ave.

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

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Administrative Liaisons Gloria Grubbs and Nancy Bowman had no report.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene had no report.

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford had no report.

Adopt-A-Troop Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith had no report.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal reports that everything looks great.

Code Enforcement Liaison Neal had no report.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reported that James Fausz was in attendance to answer any questions pertaining to the proposed goals and objectives to the Kenton County Comprehensive Plan. Also, he reported that the City is starting to implement the projects approved in the 2013-2014 budget. Also, the City is handling multiple code enforcement issues. It is best for residents to contact the city with complaints and mentioned that residents are able to call back to check on the status of the issue reported.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported the City has received a letter from Judge/Executive Steve Arlinghaus confirming that the City of Elsmere has been exempted from the 911 parcel fee for the 2013 county tax bill. Also, he reported that Elsmere is hosting the Mayor's group meeting on Saturday, August 17th at 9:00 am and encouraged city council members to attend. In addition, the City has a table reserved for Friday, August 16th block party at Tichenor Middle School.

GENERAL ITEMS CONT.:

Ordinance 1666-2013 – Tax Rate Ordinance

City Attorney Tom Miller performed the First Reading of Ordinance 1666-2013 in its entirety.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELSMERE IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF ALL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ELSMERE THAT IS SUBJECT TO TAXATION FOR CITY PURPOSES BY THE USE OF THE ANNUAL COUNTY ASSESSMENT THEREOF BY THE PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR OF KENTON COUNTY; AND, LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX THEREON FOR THE CITY'S PURPOSES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS JULY 1, 2013 AT THE RATE OF \$.223 DOLLARS FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED SO ASSESSED OF REAL PROPERTY AND AT THE RATE OF \$.169 DOLLARS FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED SO ASSESSED OF PERSONAL PROPERTY; AND PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT AND COLLECTION OF SUCH TAXES AND PENALTIES AND INTEREST THEREON; AND DESCRIBING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH TAXES SO COLLECTED SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND USED.

Ordinance 1665-2013 Adopting Goals and Objectives for County Comprehensive Plan

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a summary reading for the First Reading of Ordinance 1665-2013.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE PROPOSED STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR A NEW KENTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Order/Resolution 17-2013 – Guidelines for the Turkeyfoot Acres Tree and Landscaping Program

City Clerk Jessica Chaney read this order/resolution by title.

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 17-2013 as read. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. Roll Call - Councilwoman Bowman – aye, Councilman Bradford – aye, Councilman Greene – aye, Councilwoman Grubbs – aye, Councilwoman Neal – aye, Councilwoman Barnett-Smith - aye. **Vote of 6-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1663-2013 – False Alarm Ordinance

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a summary reading for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1663-2013

AN ORDINANCE CREATING § 130.06, “ERRONEOUS ACTIVATION OF SECURITY ALARMS/FALSE ALARMS,” AND RELATED PENALTIES.

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to accept Ordinance 1663-2013 as read. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. Roll Call – Councilman Bradford – aye, Councilman Greene – aye, Councilwoman Grubbs – aye, Councilwoman Neal – aye, Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye, Councilwoman Bowman – aye. **Vote of 6-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1664-2013 – Salary Scale Update

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a summary reading for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1664-2013.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PAY PLAN FOR THE NON-ELECTED CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ELSMERE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS 83A.070(2).

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to accept Ordinance 1664-2013 as read. Councilman Greene seconded the motion. Roll Call – Councilman Greene – aye, Councilwoman Grubbs – aye, Councilwoman Neal – aye, Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye, Councilwoman Bowman – aye, Councilman Bradford – aye. **Vote of 6-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith had no report.

Councilwoman Bowman had no report.

Councilman Bradford had no report.

Councilman Greene had no report.

Councilwoman Grubbs had no report

Councilwoman Neal thanked everyone for their condolences related to the loss of her son. Also, Ms. Neal reported that her daughter and granddaughter were impressed with how the lawn and city building looked since it has been a few years since they saw it last.

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 7:57 pm.

Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk