

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL
September 9, 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 Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal, 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 August 12, 2014 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Neal made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 Public Hearing. Councilman Greene seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 Special Meeting. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

GENERAL ITEMS:

Fire Chief Paul LaFontaine – Reporting Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the Fire District

Chief LaFontaine presented to Council the proposed real property, personal property and motor vehicle and watercraft property tax rates for the Elsmere Fire District for 2014-2015. This presentation is required by KY House Bill 1, which instructs special tax districts to report their proposed tax rates to the largest legislative body in their applicable district.

Order/Resolution 18-2014 – Accepting Donation of 433 Dell Ave. from Wells Fargo Bank.

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

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 18-2014 as read. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Order/Resolution 19-2014 – Authorizing the Transfer of 433 Dell Ave. to HONK for Economic/Housing Development Purposes.

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

Councilman Greene made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 19-2014 as read. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Proclamation Honoring the 2014 Community Heroes

Mayor Lenhof read and presented the Proclamation honoring the 2014 Community Heroes. Mr. Neil Smith, Mr. Richard Kallmeyer, Council Member Ms. Mary Lou Neal, Sgt. Todd Cummins and Sgt. Matthew Morrison were present for the reading of the Proclamation.

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Serena Owen – 1086 Henry Street – Ms. Owen thanked City employees for addressing the curb at the First Baptist Church, discussed the TANK bus route initiative, and recapped the 2014 Erlanger/Elsmere community reunion. Ms. Owen also presented Council Member Mary Lou Neal with a Community Hero Award and City Clerk Jessica Chaney with an Outstanding Service Award.

Mamie Grayson – 3661 Pondside Court – Ms. Grayson thanked the City for starting the curb project so quickly at the First Baptist Church. Ms. Grayson also inquired about the status of the closure of the right of way near the Mary Smith Cemetery. City Administrator Alex Mattingly reported that the City Engineer is working on writing a property description of the proposed closure area, and that further action would be imminent.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Building Inspector Bill Stith reported on the building and zoning permits that were issued for the month of August. Mr. Stith also reported a demolition has started at 204 Shaw and he addressed the issue of possible residential use at the grocery store on Cross Street.

City Engineer Ray Erpenbeck provided updates on the Park Avenue and Maple Avenue reconstruction projects. Mr. Erpenbeck also discussed the challenges of the Dixie Highway curb and sidewalk repair due to the Northern Kentucky Water District's project involving relining water mains. Mr. Erpenbeck also provided an update on the schedule of the Dixie Highway Beautification Extension Project. Mr. Erpenbeck also submitted a written report to Council.

City Clerk Jessica Chaney reported she has been obtaining information from businesses for the Heritage Day Celebration and coordinating the City's involvement with this event and is preparing for the upcoming property tax billing.

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 park events for August and September. Ms. Donahue also reported she met with Councilwoman Barnett-Smith and Councilwoman Neal to discuss the 14-15 fall and winter park event schedule and other items for the parks.

City Attorney Tom Miller provided Council with a status update regarding properties located at 112 Sanders Drive and 428 Buckner Street.

Police Chief Thames reported on the two police recruits currently at the Kentucky Police Academy, the police department attendance/involvement at the community reunion, and the block party at Tichenor Middle School. Chief Thames also reported on the recent training received by the TSA in how to identify potential terrorist threats, a meeting regarding the Erlanger-Elsmere School District's emergency plan, and a lockdown drill conducted at Dorothy Howell Elementary.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen reported on the street sweeper bid opening and the corresponding repairs. Mr. Zerhusen also provided an update on the upcoming concrete work starting from Garvey Avenue to Powerline Drive. Discussion also occurred regarding the price of road salt and the work to be done on the curb by First Baptist Church. Mr. Zerhusen also submitted a written report to Council.

Councilwoman Neal made a motion to approve the Administrative Reports. Councilman Bradford 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. Councilwoman Grubbs was absent.

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

Economic Development Liaison Billy Bradford reported that City Administrator Alex Mattingly and he recent met for a tour of the Elsmere section of NKY Industrial Park and other areas with new or proposed business activity.

Code Enforcement Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported the City is continuing to get problem properties cleaned up. Discussion also occurred regarding the new partnership with Planning and Development Services of Kenton County for joint code enforcement efforts.

Parks and Recreation Liaison Mary Lou Neal reported they are working on the parks and recreation schedule of events for the rest of the year and also mentioned the compliments that she had been receiving about the shelter at Rosella Porterfield Park.

Streets Liaison Tim Greene discussed the curb and sidewalk repair on Dixie Highway and other current projects.

Transportation Liaison Joanne Barnett-Smith reported that the TANK pilot bus route that partially runs along Garvey Ave. will begin in January and is the result of cooperation among several government entities: the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky, the City of Elsmere, the Erlanger-Elsmere School District, Kenton County and the City of Erlanger. Discussion also occurred in regards to the price of the bus fares.

City Administrator T. Alex Mattingly reported that the City Engineer, the Police Department, Public Works, and he have been formulating action to minimize issues and ensure public safety along Dixie Highway during the curb and sidewalk repair project. Mr. Mattingly also reported that a letter was mailed to businesses owners on Dixie Hwy. prior to the upcoming construction, which provided pertinent information on the project and contact information for complaints and comments.

Mayor Marty Lenhof reported Elsmere is hosting the Kenton County Mayors Group meeting on September 20 and reminded those in attendance about the Heritage Day celebration occurring on September 21 at Depot Park in Erlanger. Mayor Lenhof also added that the current construction situation on Dixie Hwy. is unavoidable because both projects (the City's curb and sidewalk repair and the Water District's water main relining) must be completed by December in order for Dixie Highway to be resurfaced by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet sometime in Spring/Summer 2015.

GENERAL ITEMS CONT.:

Order/Resolution 20-2014 – Approving Comcast to Charter Communications Transfer

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

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 20-2014 as read. Councilman Greene seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Order/Resolution 21-2014 – Authorizing Funds for TANK Pilot Route

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

Councilman Bradford made a motion to accept Order/Resolution 21-2014 as read. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1682-2014 – Amending Personnel Policy – Overtime

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a summary reading for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1682-2014.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CITY OF ELSMERE
PERSONNEL POLICIES RELATED TO OVERTIME.**

Councilwoman Neal made a motion to accept Ordinance 1682-2014 as read. Councilwoman Bowman seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof requested a roll call vote. Roll Call – Councilwoman Bowman – aye; Councilman

Bradford – aye; Councilman Greene – aye; Councilwoman Neal – aye; Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye.
Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.

Ordinance 1683-2014 – Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Tax Rate

City Attorney Tom Miller performed a reading in its entirety for the Second Reading of Ordinance 1683-2014.

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, 2014 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.

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith and Councilwoman Neal requested it to be on record that there is no increase in the tax rate from last fiscal year.

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to accept Ordinance 1683-2014 as read. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof requested a roll call vote. Roll Call – Councilwoman Neal – aye; Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye; Councilwoman Bowman – aye; Councilman Bradford – aye; Councilman Greene – aye.
Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs was absent.

Councilwoman Mary Lou Neal had no report.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett-Smith had no report.

Councilman Bradford thanked City Administrator Alex Mattingly, the Erlanger Elsmere School District Board and the City of Erlanger for their efforts on the TANK bus route.

Councilwoman Bowman had no report.

Councilman Greene had no report.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

Councilwoman Bowman 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 7:38 p.m.

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to exit executive/closed session and reconvene regular session. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Council exited executive/closed session at 8:34 p.m. No action taken.

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to initiate negotiations on behalf of the City to acquire real property at 810-A Bedinger Street owned by Grants Park, LCC for the purpose of

expanding Woodside Park and, if those negotiations fail, to initiate eminent domain proceedings for this property for the same public purpose. Councilwoman Neal seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof requested a roll call vote. Roll Call – Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – aye; Councilwoman Bowman – aye; Councilman Bradford – aye; Councilman Greene – aye; Councilwoman Neal – aye. **Vote: 5-0. Motion carried and so ordered.**

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.** Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

Jessica Chaney, City Clerk