

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. at the Eminence City Hall with Mayor Drane Stephens and the following members present: Danny Meadows, Leo Mason, Joey Bell, Tom Shroyer, and Lee Ann Armstrong. Absent was Member Polly Troxell. Also in attendance were City Attorney William Brammell, City Clerk Sandra Doane, Public Works Director Matt McAllister, Police Chief Kevin Kemper, Citizens Jason Moore and Jakob Beckley, and Henry County Local Representative Chris Brooke.

Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance held.

Subject: County Business – Magistrate Scott Bates was absent. No report. Mayor Stephens reported that we found a different sign wording for location on Highway 55 to inform the semi-trucks not to turn onto Narrow Gage Road. We have sent a picture of it to Scott for him to forward to the appropriate person at the state for requested installation.

Subject: Surplus Cruiser Bid Opening – Mayor Stephens opened the following bids for purchase of the surplus 2005 Ford Explorer:

Troy Popp, 1521 Watkins Lane, Pleasureville, KY - \$1,025.00

Jason Moore, 492 Sulphur Avenue, Eminence, KY - \$1,119.00

Discussion held including that the Blue Book value of the vehicle is \$3,600.00. Council asked Attorney Brammell if the vehicle could be listed on Craig's list or sold straight out. Attorney Brammell stated this could only be done if no bids had been received. Since we did receive bids, we can reject them both and re-bid with a minimum price if we wish. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Mason to reject all bids and authorize the vehicle to be re-advertised for sale again under sealed bid with a reserve price of \$2,250.00. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, voting "Yea" were Members Meadows, Mason, Bell, and Shroyer. Voting "Nay" was Member Armstrong. Motion carried.

Subject: Henry County Project Graduation – Jakob Beckley, Henry County High School Senior Class President, was present to discuss their Project Graduation with council and to request a donation. Jakob stated they are trying to raise \$15,000.00 in total to provide a safe alternative to the traditional after graduation parties. The students have to be back to the school at 11:00 p.m. and cannot leave until around 5:00 a.m. He has checked and at least ten of their seniors live in Eminence with 70 of their students having our zip code. New Castle usually donates \$500.00. They have about 160 seniors this year. Motion by Member Meadows to allow payment of \$500.00 toward an invoice on behalf of HCHS Project Graduation. No second received. Member Meadows withdrew his motion. Motion made by Member Mason and seconded by Member Armstrong to

approve \$250.00 toward an invoice for HCHS Project Graduation. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

OLD BUSINESS:

Subject: Minutes – The minutes of the previous regular session held on January 11, 2016 were reviewed. Mayor Stephens asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. With no additions or changes forthcoming, Mayor Stephens stated they would stand approved as presented.

REPORTS:

Subject: Police Department Report – Police Chief Kevin Kemper reviewed the monthly activity report with council. Chief Kemper reported they had 273 total contacts for the month. Twenty-four citations were issued on thirty-five charges. Nine individuals were arrested on fourteen charges.

Chief Kemper discussed the King Street and Main Street properties belonging to Thelma Smith. An offer has been extended to her to tear down both properties. The only citations written on the properties was for grass, so if nothing is done to correct the problems at both houses, he will proceed with writing all the citations for all the problems that exist. She sells these properties on contract for deed and then wants to claim she is not responsible. Both her and any tenants were issued citations.

Subject: Public Works Department Report – Public Works Director Matt McAllister reviewed the monthly activity report with council.

In addition to normal activities, Mr. McAllister reported that three water main breaks were repaired this past month with one taking all night to repair. A few more auto read meters have been installed on several streets in the Mulberry area. Member Shroyer inquired about the water main break in front of the Post Office. Mr. McAllister stated there is a lot of junk in the ditch with this main. A 60 pound boulder was pushing up on the line this time. They had to go through about 10 inches of blacktop and about 10 inches of concrete to get to the line.

Reported that repairs had to be performed on the skid steer and the bucket truck with it requiring a new fuel pump.

Reported that the damage to Shawnee Road has been discussed with the County with it scheduled for repairs in the spring.

Mr. McAllister reported that our sewer plant does have a few warranty issues that have been brought to our engineer, Dave Derrick’s attention. These include rust on the airlines and one of the covers is taking on water. Dave has talked to Dave Stinson about these issues with repairs to be made. The warranty expires the end of the month. Member Shroyer asked if written documentation has been made. Mr. McAllister stated that pictures and emails have been sent documenting the problems.

Mr. McAllister reported the existing drain and supply lines at the Park should be okay for use on the splash pad project. There is an electrical line that will have to be moved. The repairs to the existing chlorine building at the Park are underway.

Subject: Administrative Office Report – City Clerk Sandra Doane reviewed the monthly administrative office report with council reporting that the 2015 tax bill collection is at 94.7% at February 4, 2016. Total 2015 unpaid as of same date is \$18,876.36. Reported on insurance premium tax and occupational tax collection for January, both of which are around \$34,500.00.

Clerk Doane reported we have received \$1,748.78 for the HB 413 payment and that she has requested and received reimbursement for the body armor grant in the amount of \$2,660.00.

Clerk Doane reported that Debra Baer has been hired as the full-time replacement for Rhoda Arington as Utilities Clerk/Receptionist with her starting date to be February 16th.

Member Meadows asked about the status of the amnesty program approved a few months back. Clerk Doane stated nothing has been done on this due to the illness and death of Ms. Arington and that we will try and get this going again soon.

Subject: Financial Statements – Mayor Stephens and Clerk Doane presented and reviewed the quarterly budget comparisons with Council. Member Shroyer asked about the security system cost in the Parks budget. Mayor Stephens stated this is due to the new system we were trying temporarily. This will have to be revised when we do other changes. Mayor Stephens asked council to review in more detail and if any questions to let him know.

Subject: Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-15 – Mayor Stephens and Clerk Doane presented the audit for the fiscal year ending 6-30-15. Council stated they would prefer waiting until next month to approve the audit. Mayor Stephens and Clerk Doane touched briefly on the new requirement to include the state's unfunded amount of the retirement as a liability on our books.

Subject: Fire Department Report – Member Meadows presented the monthly fire department report showing nine total runs and special details for approximately 30-1/2 man-hours for January. Member Meadows reported that for the first time during a meeting in over nine years a call for assistance can in. The only act of business performed was to appoint Steve Lucas as the new Fire Chief effective February 1, 2016. Becky Lucas and Jeremy Lucas will both be doing some of the required training now.

Subject: Festivals Update – No report. Mayor Stephens stated he does plan to break the festivals committee members up by events as suggested.

Subject: Parks Update – Mayor Stephens reported the committee has met with the company to finish the selection of colors and features for the splash pad project. The tentative opening date is Memorial Day with the only problem possibly being the permitting process from the State. There is also a question on how long the concrete and paint need to cure before the splash pad is used. Council in agreement that we will need to develop rules and regulations as well as hours of use for this new feature.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subject: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Attorney Brammell held the first reading of an ordinance amending the planning and zoning ordinance to add Section 605 to allow the enforcement officer to assign an appropriate zone for a requested permitted or conditional use request as there is not a non-exhaustive allowed list in existence and to add Section 1105 which sets a fee for sign permits.

Subject: Annual Compensation Increase-Mayor/Council - Mayor Stephens stated this is the time of year that the Department for Local Government sends the allowed CPI for adjustment of Mayor and Council salaries. Based upon this the total annual increase for the Mayor would be \$136.48 and the total for each council member would be \$28.80 for an overall total of \$309.28. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Armstrong not to accept this allowed increase. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: Alcohol Ordinance Amendment – Attorney Brammell held the first reading of an amendment to the alcohol ordinance which will allow businesses selling alcohol to remain open on New Years’ Eve after midnight until 1:00 a.m. with no alcohol to be sold after midnight.

Subject: Open Citizens Comments/Questions – No one present who wished to speak.

Subject: Mayor’s Update – Mayor Stephens stated he has been approached about the City purchasing a table of eight for \$400.00 or a table of ten for \$500.00 from the Eminence Education Foundation. Attorney Brammell stated this would still benefit individuals so he does not feel this would be appropriate to do.

Mayor Stephens asked if anyone was able to attend the McDonald’s grand opening in Indiana that we were invited to last month. No one was able to attend.

Subject: Council New Business – Member Armstrong stated she would like to see the City’s home page updated as she feels it is bland, dry and uninviting. There are probably several students who could assist with this. Clerk Doane stated she is sure that our current webmaster will be glad to do this for us and that she has always done work as requested to try and keep the cost down. Council in agreement to ask our current person to make some changes. Mayor Stephens agreed and stated he would work with Ms. Meyer on doing this update.

Member Mason asked if the new cruiser was able to be updated with all the needed features. It was reported that it has been but it has no cage. Mayor Stephens stated this is probably a good idea as it can be used for group travel to meetings and other places. We will not, however, be purchasing this vehicle brand and style again due to the problems with getting the equipment installed properly.

Subject: Warrants - The warrants for payment were presented and reviewed. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Shroyer to approve the warrants for payment as presented. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: Closed Session – None needed.

With no further business to be discussed, motion made by Member Shroyer and seconded by Member Meadows to adjourn. All members present voted “Yea”. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

DRANE STEPHENS, MAYOR
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

ATTEST: _____
SANDRA A. DOANE, CITY CLERK
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY