

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, February 13, 2017 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, Fred Downey, 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, 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 so no report available. Mayor Stephens reported no progress on our requests for repair of the storm drain on South Main Street and the sign for Narrow Gage Road from prior months. Member Meadows inquired on when we can anticipate the courthouse temporarily moving to Eminence. It was discussed that the bidding process for the remodeling of the building is going on now so we probably won't see any work for a while. Attorney Brammell reported he doesn't believe there is any time frame on the construction.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Subject: Minutes** – The minutes of the previous regular session held on January 9, 2017 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. They had 255 total contacts for the month. Forty-One citations were issued on sixty-four charges. Twenty individuals were arrested on thirty-three charges.

Chief Kemper reported on an accident on South Main which caused three broken utility poles and damage to our fire hydrant. South Main was completely closed for several hours. Sergeant Wells and Officer Bailey worked for about 12 hours assisting the Fire Department in keeping the traffic moving safely. The driver has been charged.

Reported that Officer Parham and Sergeant Wells worked with the Henry County Sheriff's office to serve a search warrant and four individuals were arrested and charged with various drug related charges.

Chief Kemper reported that Officer Bailey made an arrest in the November shooting at the Saloon on Main Street.

Chief Kemper reported they worked with the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Kentucky State Police on a series of stolen vehicles. Four of the vehicles were stolen from Louisville and driven here with one being stolen here and driven to Louisville. All vehicles have been recovered and returned. One adult male has been arrested and one juvenile male has been charged.

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

Mr. McAllister reported they are continuing to work on straightening or replacing any damaged or worn out signs around town.

Mr. McAllister reported they have finished the new tap and relocation of the damaged fire hydrant on Mulberry Road and will be working on the damaged South Main fire hydrant next week. They have been working with Tristan Ridge on the taps for their project. They have repaired a water main break at the intersection of Shawnee Drive & Mulberry Pike.

Mr. McAllister reported that our required Drinking Water Annual Operating Report and our Wastewater Annual Pre-Treatment and Sludge Disposal Report have both been completed and submitted to the state. Reported that the #1 pump at the Coachman's Lane lift station had to be pulled and cleared of debris to prevent damage to the pump.

Reported that they are in the process of confirming inventory and moving all of the repair items to one central location at the backhoe building.

Discussion held on whether we have ever received reimbursement for the damaged Clear Creek fire hydrant with it being reported that we have not heard from the responsible party even though several letters have been sent. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Mason to authorize Mayor Stephens to pursue a legal claim by filing a lawsuit against the responsible party for the damage to the Mulberry Road fire hydrant. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea". Member Meadows suggested that we contact John Lee at Steel Technologies to see if can help with the reimbursement prior to filing the lawsuit.

**Subject: Administrative Office Report** – City Clerk Sandra Doane reviewed the monthly administrative office report with council reporting that her office has collected 94.6% of the 2016 tax billing as of February 8, 2017.

Clerk Doane reported on other receipts for the month including receipt of \$3,161.12 for health insurance subsidy from the State.

Reported on the interest earnings for 2016 at the three banks which totaled \$12,699.66.

**Subject: Quarterly Financial Statement-Budget Comparison** – Mayor Stephens and Clerk Doane reviewed the second quarter budget comparison with Council noting that most everything is right on target. Council asked to review and if any questions to let them know.

**Subject: Fire Department Report** – Member Meadows presented the fire department report for January which shows a total of twelve runs, meeting and special details for a total of 133.5 man hours. Member Meadows welcomed Member Downey to the fire board.

Member Meadows reported that the department has been notified that they must spend the \$19,000.00 state aid money within 90 days or risk losing it. The former chief had been told by someone in Frankfort that it was okay to save this up for a large purchase; however that is apparently not the case now. They will get with Chief Steve Lucas and review the allowed expenditures and decide on something to purchase with these funds that the Department needs.

**Subject: Festivals Update** – Member Mason reported that the committee will be meeting soon to start planning. Member Bell reported that we need to contact the Kosair Shriners and some other groups now as most of them plan out their events six months in advance. Mayor Stephens stated everyone needs to agree to help with Eminence Day or we don't need to do it as three people cannot do this by themselves. Suggestions were made to do this every other year or to start later in the day so as not to lose the crowd.

**Subject: Parks Update** – Mayor Stephens reported we will move the fence around the splash pad when we get closer to opening for the year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Subject: This is Henry County Publication Ad** - Mayor Stephens reported the Chamber has sent out information about advertising in the "This is Henry County" Publication. Discussion held. We did not advertise in this last year. A non-glossy 1/8 page ad is \$85.00 and a non-glossy 1/4 page ad is \$134.00. Motion made by Member Downey and seconded by Member Armstrong to authorize the purchase of a 1/4 page non-glossy ad in the publication for the price of \$134.00. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

**Subject: Offer to Lease Commercial Property** – Mayor Stephens reported he had a person contact him about leasing the farmland at the sewer plant. Mayor Stephens told him we already have it leased. The individual wanted to bring an offer anyway which he did for \$85.00 an acre which would include them doing our mowing. Mayor Stephens reported he contacted the current leaseholders, Danny and Timmy Fitzgerald, who made a counter offer which was higher. The requirements for the land farming of sludge were discussed. Attorney Brammell reported that if there are no requirements on the land that we would probably need to advertise this lease. He also stated he is not satisfied with the wording of the offered lease. Consensus of council not to make any changes at the current time. The requirements for the land will be reviewed and this may be addressed down the road. It was also discussed that it would be impossible for a grain wagon or a combine to get to the property through our road. The current leaseholders have access through adjoining property.

**Subject: Regional Economic Development** – Mayor Stephens reported he has been contacted by Judge Brent inquiring if we plan to participate in funding the regional economic development. Mayor Stephens stated he advised Judge Brent that we thought this was no longer a project and

that we would have to have more information before we decide to participate again. He did not get the information to us but plans to do so by next month.

**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. Clerk Doane reviewed the increases per the CPI sent by DLG. Based upon this the total annual increase for the Mayor would be \$409.44 and the total annual increase for each council member would be \$86.44 for an overall annual total of \$928.08. It was discussed that the increase has not been accepted by the council for a few years.

**Subject: Open Citizen Comments** – Chris Brooke thanked the Council for voting to participate with the purchase of an ad for the “This is Henry County” publication as it allows them to provide copies to be handed out at the state fair county booth.

**Subject: Mayor’s Update** – Mayor Stephens reported on the changes in water/sewer/trash billing which will start this month. He will do a one call when we get ready to mail the new bills. Discussion held.

**Subject: Council – New Business** – Member Armstrong suggested that we start having a police liaison committee meeting on a quarterly basis. Everyone thought this was a good idea. Mayor Stephens asked Member Armstrong to schedule the first meeting prior to the next council meeting.

**Subject: Gifted & Talented School Program** – Mayor Stephens reported he spoke with the gifted and talented children at the school recently and since then he has been approached by two of the students that are interested in receiving information about the City via Instagram instead of Facebook as they feel Facebook is for “old people”. They want to come and present ways Instagram would benefit the City. Council in agreement to allow the children to do a presentation.

**Subject: Tristan Ridge Development** – Mayor Stephens reported he has met with Jody Rucker with Planning and Zoning who realizes the county cannot force Tristan Ridge to install a privacy fence instead of greenery and that all the talk about shutting them down was just not true. Instead of Tristan Ridge waiting on the Mayor to discuss this with the neighbors, they have gone ahead and signed an agreement to put up 220 feet of fence behind the former Berry property and Ed Frederick’s property. Mayor Stephens stated he feels this fence will come out to far into our right of way and will look really bad. He wants council consensus for him to talk to the new owners of the Berry property to see if they are okay with no fence. Discussion held including that an 8’ fence behind just a couple of properties will not be safe and would not stand up against much wind. Council in agreement for Mayor Stephens to pursue discussing eliminating the fence behind the Berry property or at the very least to taper it down as it comes out to a smaller height. The City really has no say in this agreement with the exception of keeping it off our easement and right of way. We are only trying to help the situation. The shrubs would have been the better idea.

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

**Subject: Closed Session** – None needed.

With no further business to be discussed, motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Mason to adjourn. All members present voted “Yea”. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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DRANE STEPHENS, MAYOR  
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

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