



## City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

### **Resolution to Request Governor to Call Special Session to Address Pension Issues**

Commissioners approved a resolution to petition Governor Beshear to call a special session of the Legislature to address reform of the State's pension system for City and County employees. Butch Callery, the Mayor of Covington, has contacted Kentucky cities asking for the resolution of support. For Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the City of Paducah is required to make a \$3.7 million contribution to the pension system to assist in funding the pensions for previous City employees. If no changes are made to the pension system, the City's contribution will increase dramatically in the future. The Kentucky General Assembly adjourned April 15, 2008 without passing legislation that would provide cities and counties relief regarding the pension system.

### **Increase for Solid Waste Fees**

Commissioners approved a municipal order to increase the solid waste fees for residential and commercial collection by 7.5%. For a resident, the monthly charge increases from \$15.35 to \$16.50. The fees for out-of-city residents for the compost yard and fees for special services are also being increased. The fee increases take effect July 1, 2008. This increase will generate approximately \$279,000 in additional income. During the May 22 budget workshop, Commissioners and Public Works staff discussed that the fees would need to be increased to keep the solid waste department operating in the black. The fee increases are needed due to operational costs and the soaring cost of fuel. Even with the fee increases, the City of Paducah's collection charges are 21% lower than a private waste service in the area. The Solid Waste Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is \$4.3 million with a projected revenue with \$4.2 million (which includes the fee increases). The fee increases allow the Solid Waste Department to almost break even.

### **Accept Bid for Ice Skating Rink (vote on June 24)**

An ordinance was introduced to accept the bid from Magic Ice, USA in the amount of \$92,500 for a temporary ice rink for this winter in downtown Paducah. Magic Ice will provide and help set up the rink and provide the ice skates and an ice repair machine. The City has a one year contract with Magic Ice that is renewable for three years at the same price. During this past winter, Downtown Development Director, Steve Doolittle, and Parks Services Director, Mark Thompson, visited a similar ice rink in Owensboro, Kentucky.

### **Quick Highlights**

- Mayor Paxton presented a proclamation to City Horticulturist, Kathy Keeney, that proclaims June 9-15 as Paducah Garden Week.
- Resolution approved to apply for 2008 Preserve America Grant through the National Park Service. The application calls for a "Renaissance Area Master Plan" to develop a plan to link and manage the growth of the LowerTown neighborhood, the historic downtown area, and the riverfront. The application seeks \$150,000 which would require the City to match the amount in cash and in-kind donations.
- Basil Drossos and Bill O'Brien appointed to Paducah McCracken County Joint Sewer Agency Board; Dr. Patrick Withrow appointed to Paducah McCracken County Senior Citizens Board of Directors



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- Municipal Order approved for Police Department to submit a grant application to Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for \$500,000. The money would be used for the Bomb Squad. No local match is required for this grant. Paducah has one of five bomb units in the State.
- Commissioners approved an ordinance to purchase radio dispatch consoles for the E-911 Center from Motorola for \$176,188.80. The City has been budgeting for this expenditure.
- Commissioners approved an ordinance to change the name of South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Marine Way. The street name change involves the area from Kentucky Avenue to Tennessee Street.
- Ordinance introduced (vote on June 24) to approve premiums from the Kentucky League of Cities for Workers' Compensation (\$331,239), Liability Insurance (\$527,026), and Property Insurance (\$110,558).
- Ordinance introduced (vote on June 24) to approve Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget. See [www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov) for the budget draft.
- Ordinance introduced (vote on June 24) to extend a six-month loan to GPEDC for purchase of property at Riverport West Industrial Park. In September 2007, Commission and Fiscal Court approved loans of \$600,000 each for the purchase of property in Riverport. The time to begin repaying the loan would be extended through September.
- Parks Service Director, Mark Thompson, updated the Commission on the status of the greenway trail. The section from the skatepark at Noble Park to County Park Road (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles) will have an official ribbon cutting ceremony in July. Design is being finalized for the stretch from the Brookport Bridge to the Expo Center (1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles). That stretch could be complete by the end of 2008. The City has applied for a grant to complete the section from Noble Park to U.S. 45. Notification of the grant award should be in September or October.
- Downtown Development Director, Steve Doolittle, updated the Commission on the Quilt Show and the planned renovations to the Executive Inn. Doolittle says that the Quilt Show organizers have an alternate city selected. The alternate city has given the Quilt show organizers until June 27 to let them know if they plan to stay in Paducah or move the show to the alternate City for the 2009 Quilt Show.
- Commissioner Gayle Kaler stated that the 2008 Kentucky Recycling Housing Hazardous Waste and Mercury Management Grant applied for in April was delivered to the correct State office one day past the deadline. The grant application arrived in Frankfort on time. However, at no fault of the City of Paducah, the application was not delivered to the appropriate office on time.

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