



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at City Hall

Police/Fire Fighters' Pension Fund Presentation

Former Fire Chief Leon Dodge who serves as chairman of the Police and Fire Fighter Pension Fund (PFPF) Board made a presentation to the Mayor and Commissioners regarding the City's pension plan for police and fire fighters. This is the plan that closed to new members in 1988. Dodge asked the City Commission to consider a 2 percent raise for the plan's 60 members. Each year the City and the Board review the fund to determine if it has enough resources to afford pension payment increases for the plan recipients. The last time the members received cost of living increases was in 2008. In 2005 the City issued a \$6.1 million general obligation bond to fund the pension fund's unfunded liability. City Manager Jeff Pederson says, "Even after the bond, the City has had to appropriate funds from the annual budget to meet obligations." The City refinanced that bond last month yielding approximately \$365,000 in savings in interest payments over the remaining life of the bond. Pederson says the City may be in better shape now than in previous years to consider pension payment increases. An increase will be brought before the Commission at an upcoming meeting. The plan was created in 1956 to provide retirement, disability, and death benefits for police and fire fighters and their beneficiaries. Once the plan closed to new entrants in 1988, members at that time had the choice to transfer to the State plan or remain in the City's plan. Annual actuarial studies of the pension plan are posted on the City's website at www.paducahky.gov.

Kentucky Avenue Rehabilitation

State Representative Gerald Watkins attended the City Commission meeting to announce that the State has approved \$3.7 million to repair Kentucky Avenue between 12th and 16th Streets. An additional \$500,000 will be used to repair the intersection of KY 1322 and U.S. 62 in McCracken County. Rep. Watkins says, "It's a done deal. The Governor has approved the projects. It's good to have a relationship with the Governor's office to get things done."

Engineering Services for the Riverfront Phase I-B Project (vote in August)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance for a contract with Bacon, Farmer, Workman Engineering & Testing for engineering services for the Riverfront Phase I-B Project. The contract is to revise the project plans and specifications incorporating recommendations from the Paducah Riverfront Development Authority (PRDA) and agreed upon by the Commission. The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$90,340 which also includes professional assistance during the bidding process. Once the plans are finalized, they then must be approved by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet of Local Programs. Once approved by the State, then the project can be placed out to bid with the expectation that the project will be advertised this fall/winter with construction of the gangway and transient dock to start in late January. In September 2013, PRDA was given the assignment to review the project elements. After holding 10 meetings the PRDA Board decided that the project should be completed to the desired elevation but some items should be eliminated from the project with other items either reduced in scope or delayed in their implementation. Currently, much of the rock base and the 12 steel pilings for the gangway have been installed for the project. (See the April 1 City Commission Highlights for PRDA's recommendations.)

Upper Story Residential Grant Program (vote in August)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance establishing an Upper Story Residential Grant Program. Property owners within a defined area in historic downtown will be eligible to apply for financial assistance to create new upper story living spaces in new or existing buildings. The grant shall not exceed 20 percent of the construction costs or a maximum of \$15,000 per Upper Story Residential Rental Unit. This program will be through the City of Paducah Planning Department with the Urban Renewal & Community Development Agency (URCDA) to oversee the allocation of funds up to \$60,000. For projects that exceed an allocation of \$60,000, the project will be forwarded to the City Commission for approval. Planning Director Steve Ervin says he already has had a few property owners interested in the program. City Manager Jeff Pederson says, "Upper story living and populating a downtown are the keys to a downtown. This program fits hand in glove as one of the main components of downtown revitalization."

Quick Highlights



Pam Spencer, Public Information Officer
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- Kyle Johnson made a presentation to the Mayor and Commissioners regarding his Eagle Scout Service Project. Johnson organized the McCracken County Humane Society's Pals and Paws Day Camp held June 16-20 for students ages 12-15. During the camp, the students were paired with a dog to learn about proper care, grooming, and clicker training techniques. Mayor Gayle Kaler says, "I admire young men working toward becoming Eagle Scouts. You are the future leaders of our nation."
- Mayor Gayle Kaler announced the good news for the community that the Department of Energy has awarded the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) cleanup contract for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant to Fluor.
- Fire Chief Steve Kyle recognized the retirement of Capt. Daryl Tubbs. Police Chief Brandon Barnhill recognized the retirements of Capt. Don Hodgson, Capt. Shawn Maxie, Capt. Mark Roberts, and Training Officer Rob Estes. Chief Barnhill also announced the promotions, effective August 1, of Capt. George Johnson, Capt. Wes Kimbler, and Sgt. Matt Smith.
- Boards and Commissions: Jim Smart reappointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Joint Sewer Agency; Jipaum Askew-Robinson reappointed to Municipal Housing Authority; and David Mast appointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority.
- Municipal order approved for the Assignment and Reaffirmation Agreement between the City, County, and Paducah Economic Development (PED) regarding the lease of the city-county owned facility at 5400 Commerce Drive in Industrial Park West (also known as the I-24 Park). The facility is being leased to Genova Products. This municipal order reaffirms PED's obligations as outlined in the agreement with all parties including the payment of the base rent until September 1, 2015 and an environmental assessment of the property. Michigan-based Genova Products is locating a plastics manufacturing facility in the 100,000 square-foot building which will bring 125 jobs to the area.
- Ordinance approved accepting the grant award in the amount of \$8271 from the Law Enforcement Service Fee Grant for the Paducah Police Department to operate a DUI enforcement program.
- Ordinance introduced (vote in August) accepting the proposed premiums from the Kentucky League of Cities for Workers' Compensation, Liability, and Property Insurance coverage. The total cost of all premiums is \$951,770.62. The Convention Center Corporation will reimburse the City \$33,447 for coverage of the Convention Centers.
- Ordinance introduced (vote in August) to approve the intent to annex the property located at 2711 New Holt Road. The property owner L&H Properties is requesting the annexation. Independence Bank plans to construct a new banking facility at this location just south of Lowe's. After the intent to annex is approved, a public hearing will be held with the Planning Commission to assign zoning with an annexation and zone change ordinance to be introduced to the City Commission following the public hearing.
- Ordinance introduced (vote in August) to amend the ordinance approved in May accepting the Heads Up Don't Be In'text'icated Grant from the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety. The grant amount has been increased from \$21,000 to \$24,000. No local match is required. The funds will be used to continue the program the Police Department offers with the help of Hillary Coltharp who was seriously injured in 2007 in a collision caused by her texting while driving.
- Ordinance introduced (vote in August) for the documents to settle the claims and life estate associated with the property located at 5065 Concord Avenue. The property was purchased by the City from Betty Owens last year for the Olivet Church Road Improvement Project with the agreement that Mrs. Owens would have a life estate on the property. On December 9 a fire erupted at the property destroying the home and its contents. This agreement is the result of negotiations between the City, Betty Owens, and the insurance carrier, Allstate Insurance.
- All of the demolition has been completed on the Noble Park Lake Bank Stabilization Project, and the sheet piling is being installed. The lowering of the lake for the project exposed a concrete wall around the remnants of Duck Island. The contractor will raise the concrete wall by two feet to make the island less susceptible to erosion for the Duck House currently in storage.
- The concrete underpass for the Greenway Trail project is installed. The contractor is backfilling around the structure.
- City Manager Pederson and Mayor Kaler met today with Judge Executive Van Newberry and Deputy Judge Executive Doug Harnice regarding animal sheltering. Pederson says he expects negotiations to begin in the next couple of weeks between the City, County, and the McCracken County Humane Society regarding animal shelter services.
- Live on the River is Thursday evening with Dallas Remington taking the stage at 6 p.m. and Tyler Barham at 7 p.m. Live on the River is free concert series held on select Thursday evenings on Wilson Stage at the riverfront.

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