



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at City Hall

E-911 Center Update

Paducah Fire Chief Steve Kyle and Paducah Police Chief Brandon Barnhill updated the Mayor and Commissioners on the research underway to determine if contracting with Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 1 in Mayfield to provide E-911 dispatch services would be a good choice from financial and community safety standpoints. Chief Kyle serves as board chairman for the Paducah-McCracken County Emergency Communication Center. After KSP made its May 2014 presentation to the McCracken County Fiscal Court about the possibility of providing the service, the E-911 board began its research. Chief Kyle says, "We have been extremely cautious. We have good service and want to gain enough information to make an informed decision."

KSP Post 1 already provides dispatch services for Graves County and recently added Mayfield's call volume. However, the agency has not taken on the dispatching for an E-911 service center with a call volume as great as Paducah-McCracken County's. Chief Kyle says, "This is a very important issue for our community. In my belief, probably the most important service provided for the community."

The Paducah-McCracken County E-911 Center has 18 dispatchers and operates with a \$1.6 million budget. The revenue from landline and cell phone taxes generates approximately \$640,000 with the City and County using their general funds to supplement the operation using a funding equation based on call volume. The City has approximately 60 percent of the call volume.

KSP proposes hiring 10 dispatchers to handle the call volume at an annual cost of \$698,000. However, Chief Kyle and Chief Barnhill estimate the annual cost for Paducah-McCracken County actually to be nearly \$1.3 million due to the need to maintain and provide local connections that would allow for dispatching to originate from Graves County. There also is an estimate of a little more than \$2 million which would be needed during a two-year transitional period if the dispatching moved to KSP. KSP is also requesting that a building be constructed in Graves County to handle the additional dispatchers hired. Also, a microwave tower would need to be sited and constructed to link the counties.

Regarding the staffing discrepancy, Chief Kyle says, "We have trouble believing they [KSP] can absorb our call volume with just 10 dispatchers." Chief Kyle and Chief Barnhill have requested information from KSP regarding the formula used to calculate what KSP believes is the appropriate number of dispatchers. They have not received that information yet.

At this time Chief Kyle and Chief Barnhill say there are too many unknowns, inadequate information, and loss of services for them to recommend a transition to KSP for dispatching. Some of the service losses that would occur if a transition was made to KSP include the loss of the integration with GIS, the loss of being the communication back up for the DOE property, the loss of the ability to communicate with public works agencies, the loss of direct access to audio files of calls, the loss of a direct computer link for Paducah Fire Department (which aids in data collection, incident reporting, and payroll), the loss of the 24-hour monitoring of public safety cameras located throughout the community, and the possible reduction of the Fire Department's ISO rating.

Chief Kyle says, "This is a tough issue to discuss. I'm not interested in offending KSP. I'm interested in making sure our community has the best service it can have." Chief Kyle adds, "We are not going to bring you [the City Commission] a half proposal. Chief Barnhill and I are going to give you as much information as possible. We still believe there are major underlying questions that involve costs that we can't answer at this time." Commissioner Richard Abraham says, "With a transition of this magnitude, I definitely need all the information to make a decision. I'm not interested in lowering the standard." The next meeting of the full E-911 board will be January 15.



Floodwall Murals Annual Report

Ro Morse who serves on the mural advisory committee updated the Mayor and Commissioners on the floodwall murals. Morse says plans are being finalized for the 2015 painting and maintenance season. She will return to the City Commission next month to share the plans and seek financial support for the annual maintenance. For fiscal year 2014, the City contributed \$18,750 toward the maintenance. Paducah's history is portrayed along the downtown floodwall on more than 50 panoramic murals created by renowned artists Robert Dafford, Herb Roe, and other Dafford muralists. In 2014 Trip Advisory selected Paducah's murals as the most popular travel attraction in Kentucky. To see a video of the murals and to find out where to purchase a commemorative book, visit www.paducahwalltowall.com.

Most Popular Tourist Attractions in America

According to *TripAdvisor.com*, these are the most popular travel attractions in each of the 50 states based on the "TripAdvisor Popularity Index," which takes into account "quality, quantity, and recency" of reviews written by the site's users.



Parade

Quick Highlights

- Mayor Gayle Kaler presented a Duke of Paducah to Paducah-McCracken Convention & Visitors Bureau Sales Director Fowler Black. Black recently was recognized by *Groups Today* Magazine as one of the top ten people of the next generation who make a difference in the group travel industry with their creative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.
- Mayor Kaler recognized the Paducah Tilghman High School Speech Team.
- Mayor Kaler recognized the Paducah School Board and proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month.
- Glen Anderson reappointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- Motion approved to elect Commissioner Allan Rhodes as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Paducah. Commissioner Rhodes received the highest number of votes in last November's City Commission election.

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