



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at City Hall

Resolution in Support of Kentucky House Bill 1 – Local Investments for Transformation (LIFT)

The Mayor and Commissioners approved a resolution in support of House Bill 1, Local Investments for Transformation (LIFT) Kentucky. If approved by the Kentucky General Assembly, LIFT would amend Section 181 of the Kentucky Constitution to allow a local government the option of levying a local option sales tax of no more than one percent. The local sales tax would be for a specific, voter-approved project and would have a pre-determined end date. Commissioner Richard Abraham says, “This would give us an option to get things done and a way to pay for it without issuing bonds and going into debt.” More than three dozen other states allow local citizens to vote for or against a project that would be paid for by a temporary local option sales tax. At this time, Kentucky does not allow communities the option of a local sales tax. Commissioner Sandra Wilson says, “It’s a great tool for every community in Kentucky. A lot of cities and communities are for it, statewide.” The Kentucky League of Cities estimates that based on Paducah’s population and sales receipts, a one percent local option sales tax could generate \$15.9 million per year. Commissioner Allan Rhodes notes that this option would be especially beneficial to Paducah since it is a hub of regional activity. Commissioner Rhodes says, “Paducah is number 15 in Kentucky cities based on its population; yet, we are number five in the collection of sales tax.”

Quick Highlights

- Hardy Roberts reappointed to the Electric Plant Board.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a grant through the Kentucky Certified Local Government Program for historic preservation education funds. The grant request is for \$3795 which would require a local in-kind match of \$2530. If awarded, the funds would be used to employ an intern to create a GIS database/inventory of commercial historic property and archaeological resources in the City.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a Keep America Beautiful-Cigarette Litter Prevention grant in the amount of \$10,000. The grant does not have a local match. If awarded the funds would be used to raise awareness of the impact of cigarette littering, place ash receptacles in the downtown area, and distribute portable ashtrays to smokers.
- Ordinance approved accepting the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Law Enforcement Protection Program grant in the amount of \$9310. The funds would be used to purchase body armor vests for the Paducah Police Department. No local match is required.
- Ordinance approved for Change Order #1 with Harper Construction, LLC in the amount of \$17,123.27 for the Greenway Trail project. Harper was approved in September 2013 to construct the 1.2 mile segment of trail between Noble Park and U.S. 45 including the underpass. The original contract amount was \$672,502.45. This change order finalizes the project with the final contract amount at \$689,625.72. The change order is due to final adjustments in quantities with the additional cost mainly due to additional handrails and backfill.

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