



# City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at City Hall

## Downtown and Market House Historic District Assessment and Reassessment Moratorium

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance to establish the Downtown & Market House Historic District Assessment and Reassessment Moratorium. This ordinance encourages the repair, rehabilitation, or stabilization of existing properties in the district that are at least 50 years old by providing a program in which the property tax paid to the city would be frozen at the pre-renovation assessment for five years. Planning Director Steve Ervin says, "We are pretty excited to offer this in the downtown area that is seeing so much rehabilitation and revitalization." For a property to be eligible for this moratorium, it must receive more than \$75,000 worth of improvements. This moratorium would not affect the amount of tax paid to the City school system or to McCracken County. This program would be managed by the City of Paducah Planning Department. To be eligible for the program, an application must be filed with the Planning Department prior to the renovations to the building. After the application is submitted, the Property Valuation Administration (PVA) would assess the property. Then, the property owner has two years to complete the renovations unless granted an extension. Once the renovations are complete and reviewed by the Planning Department, then the moratorium certificate will be issued granting five years of City property taxes at the pre-renovation assessment.



## Introduction of Paducah Power System General Manager Gary Zheng

Paducah Power System Chairman Hardy Roberts introduced the utility's new general manager to the Mayor and Commissioners. Gary Zheng began working for PPS on Monday. Zheng says, "I really appreciate having the chance to make a difference." Regarding the effect that the current rates are having on customers Zheng says, "We recognize that. We understand that. We promise to work as hard as we can." Commissioner Richard Abraham says, "What you have been able to do at previous stops in your career is encouraging. I'm glad you're here." Zheng previously served as president and CEO of Lubbock Power & Light in Lubbock, Texas. Zheng holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

## Quick Highlights

- Cindy Sharp, who teaches physical education at Clark Elementary School, talked about the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Clark students are hoping to raise more than \$7000 this year. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the school has participated in Jump Rope for Heart.
- City Engineer-Public Works Director Rick Murphy introduced Eric Hickman to the Board. Hickman recently was hired as the storm water and drainage engineer.
- City Manager Jeff Pederson says site options and a scoring criteria for sites for a new City Hall will be discussed at the March 3 City Commission workshop. Discussions regarding curbside recycling will be held at a workshop later in March.
- Municipal orders approved declaring 603 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 605 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street as surplus city property. Bids were accepted for these two vacant lots with only one bidder submitting a bid. The lots will be sold to Harland Brazier for \$300 each.
- Ordinance introduced for the contract between the City and Peel & Holland Financial Group for the administration of the City's health insurance. The contract amount is for \$71,900 with an additional fee of \$200 per hour subject to a minimum retainer of \$5000 for services requested by the City or the City's legal counsel for issues that arise in connection to employee bargaining, legal matters, disputes, etc.



- Ordinance introduced for a contract with Linwood Motors for the purchase of a ½ ton pickup truck in the amount of \$31,246 for use by the Fire Prevention Division. Bids were accepted for this purchase with Linwood being the lowest, responsive bid.
- Ordinance introduced to make amendments to the zoning ordinance related specifically to signs. The amendments include allowing projecting signs in cases where buildings are within one foot of the properties lines for the B-1 and B-3 zones; changes to the height and size for directional signage for commercial businesses in various zones; allowing awning signs to be the same dimensions as wall signs in the B-2-T zones; allowing awnings to be used as wall signs in several zones; the addition of regulations for the A-1 civic center zones; and the clarification of enforcement procedures.

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