



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Transportation Alternative Program Grant Application for Broadway and Jefferson Street Project

The Paducah Board of Commissioners approved a municipal order to apply for a Kentucky Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant in the amount of \$488,560. This grant would require a City match of \$122,140. The grant application is due September 30 with notice of award next spring or summer. If awarded, these funds would be used to complete a traffic study, a signing and pavement marking plan, and the engineering, design, and construction for a project that would convert Broadway and Jefferson Street from one-way to two-way roads. The project also would include the addition of dedicated bike lanes on both streets. As part of the study, the replacing of traffic signals with four-way stops on four Broadway intersections (5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th Streets) and two Jefferson Street intersections (6th and 9th Streets) will be considered. Planning Director Steve Ervin says, "It is envisioned that the aforementioned improvements will increase mobility between downtown and neighborhoods, will increase the livability of residents within those neighborhoods, and will increase the economic health of the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods." Ervin adds, "Paducah has an up-and-coming bike culture that will grow if provided facilities."

All of the recommendations considered for implementation were outlined by author and planner Jeff Speck. The City contracted for Speck, the author of Walkable City, How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at A Time, to tour Paducah in August 2014 and provide recommendations on Paducah's walkability, pedestrian and street connectivity, and appearance. According to Speck, bikes help slow traffic and new bike lanes are a great way to use excess road width currently dedicated to oversized driving lanes. Driving lanes that are 12 feet wide, like in much of downtown Paducah, encourage higher speeds than lanes that are ten feet wide. He adds that when properly designed, bike lanes make streets safer for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Regarding one-way streets, Speck says they have a history of damaging retail districts due to intimidating out-of-towners and frustrating local citizens due to the driving in circles to get to the desired destination. Ervin says that according to the National Main Street Center a survey of 25 cities that converted their main streets experienced significant reductions in vacant buildings. Speck adds that four-way stops are often safer than signaled intersections since drivers must stop and have eye-contact. Several of Speck's recommendations correlate with the recommendations of the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee which was recreated in response to the National Citizen Survey conducted by Paducah in 2013.

Approve Purchase of Body Worn Cameras

The Paducah Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance for the purchase of 65 body worn camera units in the amount of \$105,540 from Taser International. This is a sole source purchase since Taser International is the only company providing cloud storage for the data. Over the past several months, the Paducah Police Department has been testing and reviewing body worn cameras to answer questions about camera durability, capabilities, and lifespan and technology concerns such as file storage, retrieval, and retention. The department also has been looking at policies regarding when the cameras would be used. Police Chief Brandon Barnhill made a presentation about body worn cameras at the September 1 meeting. He said, "It's a simple idea to put a body camera on an officer, but it has very complex ramifications." Recent incidents regarding the use of force by police officers continue to attract national and international attention and have increased the discussion regarding the cameras. Chief Barnhill said a body worn camera can provide an officer's point of view, provide defense against false claims, and protect the reputation of the professional officers. He acknowledged there are concerns including the possibility of a decrease in the willingness of citizens to talk to police if they are worried about being recorded. According to Chief Barnhill, "Relationships are key to the success in any community and in policing." Chief Barnhill also provided some statistics about the Paducah Police Department. Only 1 percent of arrests in Paducah involve force. In 2014, the Department had 2516 arrests with 26 resulting in a use of force beyond routine handcuffing.

Quick Highlights

- Mayor Gayle Kaler presented a proclamation to Palmer Stroup and Meg Hancock proclaiming September 16 as Storytelling Day. Mayor Kaler also named Stroup a Duke of Paducah.
- Shirley Thompson appointed to the Paducah Human Rights Commission.



Pam Spencer, Public Information Officer
City of Paducah • P.O. Box 2267 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002
270/444-8669 • Office 270/443-5058 • Fax
Website: <http://paducahky.gov> Email: pspencer@paducahky.gov

- Resolution approved for a declaration of official intent to reimburse temporary advances made for capital expenditures. This resolution is in support of any financial advances made prior to the issuance of a bond which is expected to be issued later this fiscal year.
- Municipal order approved declaring the city-owned properties located at 622, 626, 630, and 634 South 12th Street and at 1115 Ohio Street as surplus property and accepting the bid of \$1 to transfer the parcels to Aaron Prather.
- Ordinance approved for the contract with Mitchell Construction LLC to construct a single family residence at 1606 Harrison Street for \$154,360 in the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood.
- Ordinance approved for a subordination agreement between the City of Paducah and Community Financial Services Bank for the property at 533 Madison (Smedley-Yeiser). The City will subordinate its re-conveyance rights in the property so that CFSB has the first mortgage interest. The property was originally conveyed to the new owner with the requirement that the project be substantially completed within one year or the property would revert to the City. This subordination agreement would have the property revert to CFSB.
- Amendments to Chapter 126 of the Code of Ordinances approved are as follows:
 - Amendments to Chapter 126-76 of the sign ordinance to allow for electronic message signs in the B-2 zone (downtown business zone), to permit perforated signs in various zones, to permit signage in a residential zone for a cemetery, and to permit the expanded use of sandwich board signs.
 - Amendments to Chapter 126-108 of the downtown business townlift zone to incorporate guidelines for residential uses of downtown buildings.
- Amendments to Chapter 126-83 of the landscape regulations regarding fences on corner lots were not approved.
- Ordinance approved accepting the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$22,500. The funds will be used to reimburse for overtime hours associated with traffic enforcement activities through the Police Department. No local match is required.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 22) approving the sale of city-owned surplus property located at 421 North 5th Street to Adam Moyers and Brandi Harless for \$1. This is the final city-owned structure in LowerTown.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 22) accepting the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Accountability Grant award in the amount of \$10,912. The funds will be used to purchase 19 body worn cameras for the Paducah Police Department. No local match is required.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 22) accepting the U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant award in the amount of \$12,644.54. The funds will be used to purchase bulletproof vests for the Paducah Police Department. A 2015 LEPP grant will provide the matching funds.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 22) to approve the payment in the amount of \$22,500 to the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Visitors Bureau in support of the 2015 Rayovac FLW Series tournament which is to be held October 29-31 at the Ohio River Boat Launch.

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