



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Over the past two weeks, Commissioners have been listening to arguments for and against the tree preservation ordinance that was introduced at their February 9 meeting. Near the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Bill Paxton announced that the Commission would not be voting on the ordinance. Commissioner Carol Gault says, "When we started hearing the unintended consequences of the ordinance, I think we are doing the right thing." The purpose of the ordinance was to preserve and protect the City's tree canopy and prevent clear cutting of property larger than an acre. However, many realtors and developers say the ordinance would have hindered development in the City. Those for the ordinance say that it would have prevented the clear-cutting of large pieces of property. Those in favor of the ordinance cite the Barkley Woods project where acres of land were cleared east of Interstate-24. Commissioners decided that the ordinance will be redrafted after receiving additional input from residents, developers, and realtors. Planning Director, Steve Ervin, will be working to compile a committee to review options.

Portable Restroom Facilities for Pavilion

In a 1-4 vote (Mayor Bill Paxton voting yes) Commissioners did not approve the emergency ordinance for the purchase of the portable restroom trailers for the pavilion project. The pavilion is to be located on the property at 4th and Executive Boulevard and will house vendors for the AQS Quilt Show. Earlier this month, the property was deeded to Paducah Renaissance Alliance (PRA) from the previous property owner who lives in Tennessee. Four Commissioners voiced their concern that the property was not deeded to the City of Paducah. Steve Doolittle, PRA Executive Director, will begin the process of transferring the property to the City. Instead of purchasing the restroom facilities, which takes several weeks for manufacturing, Doolittle says the City can rent the restroom trailers at a shorter notice.

Background: As the first phase of the pavilion project, in December 2009 the Commission approved the purchase of a 37,800 square foot air dome pavilion from Arizon Structures of St. Louis, Missouri. The second phase of the project was approved earlier this month. It includes the site work, concrete foundations, and utilities to prepare the site for the pavilion installation. Construction of the second phase is underway at the site located at 4th and Executive Boulevard near the Convention Center. The portable restroom facilities are the third and final phase of the project. The pavilion project will be completed in time to house vendors for the 2010 AQS Quilt Show beginning April 21.

Westwood Hills Subdivision Escrow Agreement

Commissioners approved an ordinance executing a Development Agreement and Escrow Agreement with Atlas Tri-State SPE, LLC. Atlas Tri-State is a subsidiary of BB&T. In July 2009 at public auction, BB&T bought the Westwood Hills subdivision property for \$1,333,333.34. As a condition of the sale, the City of Paducah required a Development Agreement by the purchaser so that the subdivision would be finished. The previous developer did not finish utility and sidewalk work in the Westwood Hills subdivision. This ordinance assigns the development agreement to Atlas Tri-State and requires Atlas Tri-State to set up an escrow account in the amount of \$300,000. Once the agreements are executed, Atlas has 90 days to begin the required work and nine months to complete the work after the start date.



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Extension of Loans to GPEDC (vote March 9)

Over the past couple of years, the Greater Paducah Economic Development Council (GPEDC) has been purchasing more than 1000 acres to assemble the Riverport West Industrial Park off Noble Road in the western part of McCracken County. The property would be used for the proposed coal to liquid plant or another large project. To help fund the purchase, the City provided GPEDC two loans totaling \$911,375. GPEDC and the City anticipated that the coal to liquid project would be implemented and the land purchased in the near future. The land purchase would allow GPEDC to pay back the loans. Due to the coal to liquid project moving slowly, the City's loans to GPEDC have now expired. Commissioners introduced an ordinance to extend the date for GPEDC to repay the loans to the City until June 30, 2015.

Quick Highlights:

- Public Information Officer, Pam Spencer, spotlighted two programs offered to City employees: tuition assistance and the employee assistance program (EAP).
- Resolution approved supporting the awareness efforts of the Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census and encouraging the community to participate by completing the 10-question census form when it arrives in mid-March.
- Municipal order approved adding the position of part-time Recreation Supervisor in the Parks Services Department. Allen Treece, former Recreation Specialist, will hold that position until his replacement is hired and trained. Treece is now the Executive Director of the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club.
- Municipal order approved acquiring the public utility easement of 0.06 acre at 3236 Olivet Church Road in the amount of \$3350 for the Olivet Church Road Improvement Project.
- Ordinance introduced (vote March 9) for a Pavement Marking contract with Brehm Striping Company, Inc. The contract is through December 31, 2011 with a one-year extension option. The contract lists the various unit prices for the 24 pavement marking options. Brehm was the only bidder.
- Ordinance introduced (vote March 9) for a contract with Central Paving Company of Paducah for the grinding of tree debris and yard waste. The contract is through December 31, 2010 with three optional one-year renewals. Central Paving was the only bidder and will furnish all equipment, tools, supplies, transportation, and operator for the grinding at \$524.00 per hour at the City's Compost Facility on North 8th Street.

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