



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

2010 Census

Public Information Officer, Pam Spencer, spotlighted the upcoming 2010 Census and the efforts to inform the public and urge citizens to complete the census questionnaire. A Complete Count Committee has been created to help get the word out about the importance of the census. Committee members include representatives of the City and County governments, Housing Authority, Paducah Independent School District, and the McCracken County School System. Other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and WKCTC are encouraged to help inform the public about the ease of completing the 10-question census questionnaire. During the afternoon on March 3, the Census Road Tour vehicle that has interactive panels explaining the census questionnaire, census history, and other information will be parked at the McCracken County Library. The questionnaire along with a postage-paid envelope will be mailed in March 2010. Census Day is April 1. Recruiting Assistant Ginny Cochran addressed the Commission about the need for more local census employees. If you are interested in a part-time position, call 866-861-2010. For more information including a copy of the slide presentation from the Commission Meeting, visit www.paducahky.gov and click on "2010 Census" at the top left corner of the homepage.

Creation of Sports Park Naming Rights Panel

At the January 5, 2010 Commission meeting, Parks Services Director, Mark Thompson, presented the Commission with a plan to provide naming rights and sponsorships for the Paducah sports park. Thompson also recommended the creation of a committee to oversee the naming rights and sponsorship guidelines and provide recommendations to the Commission for final approval. At this meeting, Commissioners approved a municipal order to establish the Sports Park Naming Rights Panel. The panel members will be two Paducah City Commission members, the chief project fundraiser, and two private citizens. The Parks Services Director will serve as a staff liaison. The panel members will be named at a future meeting. The panel will be in charge of reviewing the numerous opportunities for sponsorships and naming rights such as the park as a whole, athletic fields, shelters, concession buildings, playgrounds, trails, and fishing piers. The paid sponsorships and naming rights would be used to offset the park development costs, create a maintenance fund, honor private citizens or corporations, and provide an identity to the park. In December 2009 the City Commission approved the purchase of 165 acres on Sheehan Bridge Road to be developed as a multi-use sports park. Soccer advocate David Hutcheson is leading the private fundraising effort.

If anyone would like to donate money to be used for the Paducah sports park, please send your donation to

Paducah Sports Park Fund
Parks Services Department
P.O. Box 7265
Paducah, Kentucky 42002-7265

Approval of Grant for Greenway Trail

Commissioners approved an emergency ordinance accepting the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Transportation Enhancement Program grant award in the amount of \$500,000 to be used for Phase



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III of the greenway trail. The grant requires \$200,000 in local funds. The grant is from 2008. The Commission delayed approval of this grant until the purchase agreements were made between the City and the property owners of land that the City needs to acquire for this section the greenway trail. Now that the City and property owners have agreeable purchase prices, the Commission can accept the grant award. The funds will be used to construct approximately 4,546 feet (0.86 mile) of new trail on top of the earthen floodwall, construct an underpass beneath U.S. Highway 45 and a crossing at State Highway 305 (Cairo Road), and purchase necessary property. Phase I of the greenway trail is open between Noble Park and Stuart Nelson Park. It's 1.75 miles in length. Phase II will be constructed soon between U.S. 45 and the Expo Center in downtown Paducah.

Purchase New Bomb Robot and Upgrade Existing Robot (vote January 26)

Commissioners introduced an ordinance to purchase a new bomb robot and upgrade the existing bomb robot for the Police Department's Bomb Squad. The total cost for the new robot and upgrades is \$188,445 which will be funded through an existing Homeland Security grant. Sgt. Will Gilbert of the Paducah Bomb Squad explained that in comparison to the Police Department's current robot, the new robot will be able to get into closer quarters. It also will be faster, easier to maneuver, and stronger with the ability to lift 125 pounds (current robot can lift 25 pounds). The upgrades to the existing robot include a RAFT system (rail attached flexible tool). The RAFT system allows for different types of tools to be installed on the robot such as window breakers, lights, and fork lifts. Another upgrade to the existing robot will be a towing system so that the robot can pull a small trailer. The Paducah Police Department's Bomb Squad is a regional unit. The next closest bomb squads are SEMO, Carbondale, and Owensboro.

Quick Highlights:

- Mayor Pro Tem Gayle Kaler and Commissioner Richard Abraham voiced their thoughts on the recent death of Jane Myre who contributed greatly to this community.
- Engineering-Public Works Superintendent Chris Yarber and United Way Marketing Director, Lisa Heine, updated the Commission on the City of Paducah's 2009 United Way campaign. Though payroll deductions and events such as Fire House Chili, the City of Paducah raised \$10,664.47 for the United Way. The City exceeded the previous year's donations. Heine says, "I think it speaks volumes that you not only met your goal, you exceeded it."
- Josh Shelby and Suzanne Churchwell invited the Commission to the charter reception for the new Paducah Business Lions Club chapter. The organization was chartered in November 2009 and has 34 current members. The reception will be January 30 at Rolling Hills Country Club.
- Municipal order approved for the Police Department to apply for \$24,950 in funds through the KY Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to be used for underage drinking enforcement. No local match is required.
- Municipal order approved to appropriate \$18,000 from Commission Contingency Fund to pay half the costs of pauper burials during fiscal year 2009-2010. According to Kentucky Revised Statutes, pauper burials are the responsibility of the McCracken Fiscal Court; however, the City has traditionally helped the County pay half the costs. For fiscal year 2008-2009, the City paid \$15,500.
- Municipal order approved accepting 0.1128 acres of property from Paducah & Louisville Railroad. The property is for Phase III of the greenway trail (U.S. 45 to Noble Park).
- Municipal order approved acquiring nearly 154 square feet of property at 3351 Olivet Church Road for \$400 as right-of-way for the Olivet Church Road Improvement Project. City Engineer-Public Works Director Rick Murphy says that there are eight more small parcels that the City will be acquiring before the project starts. He hopes the utility work can begin in spring or summer.
- Commissioners approved an ordinance authorizing a contract in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for architectural and engineering services from Peck, Flannery, Gream & Warren.



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The services are for the pavilion's bid specification documents and for upcoming work to prepare for the installation. The City is purchasing a 37,800 square foot pavilion to be used for the AQS Quilt Show and other events.

- Ordinance introduced (vote Jan. 26) to purchase five 2010 Police Interceptor Pursuit vehicles from Paducah Ford, Inc. at a total cost of \$109,287.

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