



## City Commission Meeting Highlights

### Tuesday, January 26, 2010

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#### **Grant Application for Riverfront Video Security Project**

Commissioners approved a municipal order for the City to apply for the 2010 Port Security Grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. There is no local match requirement. The grant request is for \$25,000 to purchase five additional video cameras along with the necessary fiber optic network equipment and the electrical power for the Phase II Video Camera Project on the riverfront. Information Technology Director Greg Mueller says the new cameras will be installed near the Carson Center and near the future boat launch facility. Mayor Pro Tem Gayle Kaler who enjoys walking along the riverfront says, "It does make you feel safer to know that if anything happens, it's recorded." This grant application is a partnership between the City of Paducah and the Paducah Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit. In May 2009, the City accepted a similar grant award in the amount of \$24,822 for the first phase of the camera project. The initial grant award was used to purchase five cameras for the riverfront from the Executive Inn to Kentucky Avenue. The cameras are capable of panning, tilting, and zooming. Plus, the camera views are available to law enforcement personnel on their computers in their vehicles.

#### **Grant Application for Bomb Squad Equipment**

Commissioners approved a municipal order for the City to apply for the 2010 Port Security Grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The grant request is for \$125,000 to purchase equipment including a small robot capable of accessing a vehicle, an all-terrain vehicle and an incident response vehicle for the Paducah Police Department's Bomb Squad. Police Chief James Berry says, "It gives us more flexibility." There is no local match requirement.

#### **Purchase New Bomb Robot and Upgrade Existing Robot**

Commissioners approved 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.

#### **Paxton Park Proposal**

Mayor Bill Paxton announced that Todd Butts, owner of Drake Creek Golf Course, had approached the City Commission and the Golf Commission with an economic development proposal for Paxton Park Golf Course. Mayor Paxton says, "The Commission has agreed we are going to keep things with the Golf Commission and Danny Mullen." Mayor Paxton thanked Butts for his proposal and interest in Paxton Park. As a result of this proposal, the City Commission is requesting the Golf Commission provide more comprehensive reports and an evaluation of Golf Director Danny Mullen's contract. The Golf Commission plans to improve the marketing of Paxton Park. For the past few years, the City has provided some funding for Paxton Park. The City Commission has



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decided not to provide additional funding at this time. Commissioner Richard Abraham says, “I’m looking forward to seeing them move forward. Let’s give [the golf commission] a chance to see what they’re doing and alleviate the taxpayers support of the course.” Commissioner Gerald Watkins says, “Everyone can’t afford to join a country club. I think it’s important that we have a municipal golf course.”

**Quick Highlights:**

- Public Information Officer, Pam Spencer, spotlighted the programs offered at the Paducah-McCracken Senior Center.
- As a supplement to the resolution approved at the December 15, 2009 Commission meeting, Commissioners approved a resolution that allows the City to spend money on projects now that will be funded through the upcoming bond. This resolution adds a list of tax-exempt capital projects that were include in the fiscal year 2010 budget.
- Boards and Commissions: William Gore and Jim Wheeler reappointed to Water Works Board; Randy Warmath reappointed to Electric Plant Board; and Jill Gott Wrye reappointed to Board of Ethics.
- Ordinance approved an ordinance to purchase five 2010 Police Interceptor Pursuit vehicles from Paducah Ford, Inc. at a total cost of \$109,287.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Feb. 9) to approve the contract for services between the City of Paducah and the Convention Center Corporation. This contract reflects the Commission’s approval on December 15, 2009 to provide \$75,000 from the Commission Contingency Fund for the Convention Center Corporation’s (CCC) operation of the Julian Carroll Convention Center and the Expo Center.

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