



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Tree Voucher Program Update

Planning Director Steve Ervin updated the Mayor and Commission on the tree voucher program. The Planning Department stopped issuing vouchers on July 1. The vouchers are good through June 30, 2011. The tree voucher program was set up in March 2009 to help private property owners replace the downed or damaged trees after the January 2009 ice storm. The tree voucher program allowed residential property owners to receive, through the Planning Department, a \$25 voucher for use at a participating nursery toward the purchase of a desirable tree. The project was allocated \$32,500 in City funds plus a \$250 private donation for the vouchers and advertising. To date, 950 out of the 1250 vouchers have been issued. At this time, the program has a balance of \$7530 (300 trees). Ervin provided the Commission with three options for the remaining funds:

- ❖ Take applications from public/private schools to assist with grounds maintenance by purchasing desired trees;
- ❖ Open the application process up to businesses; or
- ❖ Transfer funds to the Parks Department to assist in purchasing trees for City parks including Noble Park around the new parking lot project.

After discussion, the Commission asked Ervin to develop a plan to divide the trees between the City parks and other areas. The Commission mentioned the median on Jefferson, the Barkley Woods area, and the airport as good locations to add trees.

Paducah Renaissance Alliance New Website Demonstration

Paducah Renaissance Alliance (PRA) Marketing Manager Jessica Perkins showed the Mayor and Commission the newly launched website for PRA. The website, www.paducahalliance.org was designed by 1187 Creative. Some of the features include a map and directory, list of annual events, membership information, information on volunteering, business recruitment, available properties, and information about the Renaissance Area Master Plan. Perkins says, "It will be a good tool to promote the community." Perkins also provided the Commission with a copy of a map that is available at the PRA office, the CVB, hotels, rest areas, and other locations. There are 32,000 copies of the map circulating across the State.

Market Square Mornings Presentation

As a representative for businesses around Market Square in downtown Paducah, Artist Jeff Spicer presented the Commission with a proposal for Market Square Mornings. The proposal is to close the streets along Market Square on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. to have a street fair. The street fair would include cooking demonstrations, health screenings, artist demonstrations, and music. This would promote local food producers, artists, and businesses in the area. Spicer expects an informational website to be launched next week. Market Square Mornings tentatively is scheduled for September 4 through October 23.

Quick Highlights:

- Ordinance introduced (vote July 27) to begin utilizing the property tax module of the Sungard Public Sector software package. At this time, the City is using a 1989 software package for property taxes. The City currently uses other modules of the Sungard software package. Sungard proposes the cost for licensing, training, and upgrades at no more than



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\$98,675.25. Using this software module will eliminate the duplication of accounting work leading to higher efficiency in the Finance Department. It also paves the way for on-line property tax payment in the future.

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