



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Robert Coleman Spraypark and Noble Park Baby Pool Update

Parks Services Director Mark Thompson says the Robert Coleman Sprayground may be operational by this weekend. Work has been ongoing to repair malfunctioning valves. The baby pool at the Noble Park Pool will remain closed for several more days due to a burned out pump motor. Thompson hopes to reopen it late next week. Last week, the fountain in Dolly McNutt Plaza was drained and cleaned to remove a build-up of algae. Thompson says that after Labor Day, staff will turn off the fountain and work to improve the filtration system. At this time, Parks crews are adding chemicals by hand on a daily basis to keep the fountain clean.

Task Force to Study, Evaluate, and Address Poverty in Paducah/McCracken County

Kristin Williams and Georgann Lookofsky made a presentation to the Commission about the creation of a task force to study, evaluate, and create a plan to address poverty in Paducah/McCracken County. Lookofsky says 26.8% of Paducah residents live in poverty. She adds that 36.5% of children under the age of 18 live in poverty in Paducah. Lookofsky says, "We have an obligation to understand what is driving people to poverty. We have an obligation to take action." Williams adds, "And we'll suggest strategies of breaking the generational poverty that you see in every community." The United Way of Paducah-McCracken County created the approximately 40-member task force entitled *Impact Poverty*. Commissioner Gerald Watkins, Police Chief James Berry, and Section 8 Director Danny Fugate will represent the City of Paducah on the task force. The creation of the task force is a follow-up to research done by John Williams, Sr. who made a presentation about the subject to the City Commission in November 2009. *Impact Poverty* will start this month collecting, interpreting, and analyzing existing data related to poverty that is unique to our community. The group will meet monthly and hopes to present findings and a 10-year plan by next summer. A Steering Committee will guide the task force. Its members include John Williams, Sr., Judge Cynthia Sanderson, McCracken County School Superintendent Nancy Waldrop, Paducah City School Superintendent Randy Greene, Michael Byers representing the Paducah Chamber Board of Directors, Georgann Lookofsky, past chair of the United Way, Kristin Williams facilitator for the process and, Ashley Wright, United Way Executive Director. Mayor Bill Paxton says, "This community is doing a lot of things right but if we are ever going to reach full potential we are going to have to address poverty." For more information about the *Impact Poverty* task force, contact the United Way of Paducah-McCracken County.

Introduction of Chad Chancellor

Greater Paducah Economic Development Council (GPEDC) President Chad Chancellor introduced himself to the City Commission. Chancellor replaced Wayne Sterling who recently retired. Chancellor says, "I think this is a good time to get involved in economic development. I really believe the nationwide economy is going to change in a year or so." Chancellor adds that he is impressed with Paducah's variety of access including river, interstate, and railway. He also is excited about Riverport West.

Economic Development Incentives for H.T. Hackney (vote June 22)

H.T. Hackney, a wholesale U.S. distributor with 117 Paducah employees, has plans to expand its operations in Paducah by building a new office and warehouse facility on 23.42 acres in Industrial



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Park West. As an incentive, the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) will sell the property for \$1.00. The company is currently located on Shelbourne Street in Paducah. Commissioners introduced an ordinance for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with H.T. Hackney. In the MOU, the City would provide H.T. Hackney with the following economic development incentives: funds to offset the cost of utility extensions and permits and a rebate in property taxes for five years after a certificate of occupancy has been issued by the City inspector. In exchange for the incentives, H.T. Hackney would build a new facility and work to hire an additional 25-40 new employees within five years.

Economic Development Incentives for Paducah & Louisville Railway (vote June 22)

Paducah & Louisville Railway (P&L) has proposed establishing a new headquarters by constructing a building in downtown Paducah. The location for the new headquarters is property owned by the City located at the intersection of Marine Way (formerly 2nd Street) and Clark Street. Commissioners introduced an ordinance for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with P&L. After building the new headquarters, P&L would move its 46 employees from its current location on Kentucky Avenue to the downtown location and relocate a minimum of 12 full-time employees to the downtown Paducah headquarters for at least two years. P&L also is conveying property to the City for the greenway trail. In return, the City will convey a portion of the downtown property to P&L and will build a parking lot for use by P&L and the Carson Center. The City will provide a \$350,000 grant and will work to relocate utilities underground near the new headquarters. P&L President Tom Garrett says, "We are right now in the design process and hope to break ground late this summer." Garrett anticipates moving into the new headquarters late next year.

Professional Services Contract Related to Liquidation and Demolition of Executive Inn

Commissioners approved an ordinance for a contract with Peck, Flannery, Gream and Warren Architects, Inc. to provide the necessary services and construction documents for the liquidation and demolition of the Executive Inn. The contract amount is in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. The liquidation/demolition bid opening will be June 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Noble Park Parking Lot Reconstruction Project

Commissioners approved an ordinance for a contract with Central Paving Company for the Noble Park Parking Lot Project. On May 7 three sealed bids were open with Central Paving submitting the low bid in the amount of \$463,000. This summer the parking lot next to the Noble Park poolhouse in addition to the road next to the amphitheater will be reconstructed to improve the drainage and safety. The pool will remain open during the summer. The groundbreaking for the parking lot project will be Thursday, June 10 at 2:30 p.m. at the Noble Park amphitheater.

City of Paducah, Carson Center, and Paducah & Louisville Railway

Commissioners approved an ordinance for the second addendum to the lease and construction agreement between the City of Paducah, the Carson Center, and the Paducah & Louisville Railway (P&L), Inc. The agreement is for the Carson Center to release its lease on the property located on Marine Way (Second Street) between Clark and Adams Streets to the City of Paducah. The release of the property will allow the City to convey part of the property to P&L for the construction of its new main office building. The City will also construct a parking lot for use by P&L and the Carson Center. As part of the agreement, P&L will provide the Carson Center a charitable donation of \$10,000 each year for the next ten years.

Paducah Water Mixed Inflationary Rates (vote June 22)

The Paducah Waterworks Commission requests a change in how Paducah Water's rates are determined each year. The Waterworks Commission has the authority to adjust the rates using the Consumer Price Index (Southeast Urban Region) to fund inflation and operation increases. To better reflect Paducah Water's costs, the Waterworks Commission would like to use a Mixed Inflationary Index instead of the Consumer Price Index. Paducah Water General Manager Glen Anderson says, "[The Consumer Price Index] just didn't keep up with our actual inflationary costs."



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The Mixed Inflationary Index uses a formula that takes into consideration the Construction Cost Index, Consumer Price Index, Utility Index, and the Chemical Manufacturing Index. The City Commission introduced an ordinance to change the rate procedure to use the Mixed Inflationary Index instead of the Consumer Price Index. Anderson says Paducah Water does **not** intend to raise rates for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Amend Façade Loan Program with Paducah Renaissance Alliance (vote June 22)

Commissioners introduced an ordinance to amend the façade loan program that the City has with Paducah Renaissance Alliance. The façade loan program provides loans to property owners to refurbish the facades of their historic buildings. The funds are loaned at a 2% interest rate for a maximum of seven years. Also, up to 25% of the loan amount may be forgivable upon timely payments and the successful completion of the project. The ordinance increases the loan amount that can be provided to a single business from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Graffiti Concern

Commissioner Gayle Kaler is concerned about the amount and type of graffiti that she has noticed around Paducah. She says there are five graffiti emblems in her neighborhood alone. Kaler says, "I do not want this to start in Paducah. I want us to find out who's doing it and put a stop to it." Police Chief James Berry says, "I will say some of this graffiti is gang-type graffiti, but there is no confirmation of any type of gang in Paducah." Berry adds, "It's something we won't tolerate." Kaler recommends for a property owner who is a victim of graffiti to document it and then paint over it as soon as possible.

Quick Highlights:

- Awards: Mayor Bill Paxton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Skip Griffin. Duke of Paducah awards were given to Joe Lawrence, Richard Myrick, and Bawn in the Mash. A Duchess of Paducah award was given to Guelda Wooldridge.
- Fire Chief Steve Kyle introduced fire fighter recruits Nick Noland, Adam Larson, Tim Orange, Wayne Hansen, and Josh Reeves. They are starting their 20-week training program.
- Boards and Commissions: Paul King and Louis Lovera reappointed to Historical & Architectural Review Commission (HARC)
- Ordinance approved to pay American Environmental Services, Inc \$27,080.70 for the hazardous waste collected on the April 10, 2010 Spring Clean Up Day.
- Ordinance approved for a change order in the amount of \$143,640.45 with Larry Smith Contractors, Inc. for the floodwall pipe rehabilitation project. The change order increases the project amount to \$1,908,245.73.
- Ordinance approved to purchase four digital in-car cameras from L-3 Communications for the Police Department in the amount of \$19,180.
- Ordinance approved for a memorandum of understanding with the FOP changing the consumer price index date from October to September to assist with health insurance enrollment.
- Ordinance approved for the payment in the amount of \$26,000 to Premier Fire Protection Corporation for work on the Executive Inn hotel in 2009. Premier had filed a mechanics lien of \$61,762 of which the City paid half in December 2009 through the hotel closing process. The \$26,000 payment was negotiated between Premier and the City.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 22) to purchase property located at 1437 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and 1214 North 14th Street for a total sum of \$33,500 from Myra Henderson and Sandra Neal. In exchange for the property, a federal lawsuit filed by the owners against the City will be dismissed. The City plans to revitalize the property as part of the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood Project.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 22) to approve the premiums totaling \$941,716 from the Kentucky League of Cities for Workers' Compensation (\$285,923), Liability Insurance



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(\$521,089), and Property Insurance (\$134,704). This is approximately \$18,000 less than last year's total premiums.

- Ordinance introduced (vote June 22) to purchase the property at 431 Park Avenue in the amount of \$25,000. The property and small unoccupied home owned by Robert L. King is inside the floodwall and surrounded the City of Paducah and Convention Center Corporation property. The property is adjacent to the convention center parking lot.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 22) for a contract with Florence & Hutcheson Consulting Engineers to provide engineering and design services in an amount not to exceed \$91,800 for the greenway trail from U.S. 45 to Noble Park.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 22) for the fiscal year 2011 City of Paducah budget. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2010. Budget ordinance and budget draft located at www.paducahky.gov/paducah/city-budget. Commissioner Gerald Watkins says, "We've got a strong budget, a balanced budget, and no tax increases. We're in good shape."

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