



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Interim City Manager/Search for Permanent City Manager/Zumwalt Severance

- Jim Mercer of the Mercer Group, Inc. attended the Commission meeting. Mercer is an independent management-consulting firm based in Atlanta, Georgia. Jim Mercer founded the company 29 years ago. Mercer says there are three basic steps for recruiting: 1) get to know the client and the issues they are facing to ensure a good fit; 2) go directly after prospects since the pool of potential candidates is shrinking due to the retirement of baby-boomers; and 3) learn everything you can about a candidate. Jim Mercer says that he will personally conduct the search for Paducah, and it should take 90 to 120 days. Mercer says, "I'm doing other work in Kentucky, and I would know more about your state and the needs of your City." Mercer also is conducting the executive search for a new Executive Director for the Kentucky League of Cities. Each Commissioner expressed what traits they would like to see in the next City Manager. Commissioner Richard Abraham says, "I'm looking for a person who truly understands the city manager form of government and that communication is key." The Commission reviewed five proposals from executive search firms before selecting Mercer. Mayor Bill Paxton says, "The City Commission felt like Mercer stood out in their ability to find a city manager." Jim Mercer will return to Paducah to tour the city, interview the Commissioners, and interview the city directors before conducting the executive search.
- Municipal order approved to transfer \$23,500 from the Commission contingency fund to hire Mercer Group, Inc. to perform the executive search to recruit the City's next City Manager.
- Ordinance introduced to execute a contract between the City of Paducah and Mercer Group, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$23,500 to perform the city manager executive search.
- Ordinance approved for a contract with Jonathan Perkins as Interim City Manager/Finance Director.
- Ordinance introduced to approve the payout settlement for former City Manager Jim Zumwalt. Zumwalt's contract requires certain payments upon employment termination. The payout, including six months salary, totals \$81,070. Zumwalt resigned as Paducah City Manager on March 2.
- A reception for former City Manager Jim Zumwalt will be held Tuesday, March 30, 4:00-5:30 in the atrium of City Hall. The public is invited.

Pavilion Project

Commissioners approved an ordinance transferring the deed for the pavilion property from Paducah Renaissance Alliance (PRA) to the City of Paducah. The property is approximately 1.4 acres located at 600 North 4th Street. In February, the property was a charitable donation to PRA from Forrest Preston, Chairman/CEO of Life Care Centers of America, Inc. Construction is underway to prepare the site for a pavilion that will be used for the AQS Quilt Show in April.

Commissioners approved an ordinance for a change order for the pavilion building. The changes include modifications to the door configurations for exiting requirements. Changes also are being made to the electrical system for emergency backup functions. The change order with Arizon Structures will increase the pavilion cost by \$20,097.



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Winterizing the Executive Inn

Commissioners introduced an ordinance to pay Premier Fire Protection, Inc. of Paducah \$22,041.02 for work to winterize the sprinkler system in the Executive Inn. The work was done in late December through mid-February to winterize more than 5000 sprinkler heads and more than three miles of line in the hotel. The City purchased the hotel in December 2009 and plans to liquidate the furnishings. Winterizing the hotel was necessary to prevent pipes from freezing and flooding the hotel. Also, the International Fire Code requires that the building be equipped with a functional fire suppression system.

Dogwood Trail Presentation

Civic Beautification Board President, Elaine Oehlschlaeger, made a presentation to the Commission about the 46th Annual Dogwood Trail set for April 13-30. The Civic Beautification Board and the Woman's Club are coordinating efforts for this year's event. On April 13, residents are asked to Be Local, Light Up. Oehlschlaeger says, "We are looking for the most beautiful tree, but also the best well lit tree." Awards will be given at City Hall on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. Oehlschlaeger says that there will be more awards than in past years with 6 on-trail awards and 6 off-trail awards. More information about the Dogwood Trail and the Civic Beautification Board can be found on the City's website at www.paducahky.gov.

Quick Highlights:

- Public Information Officer, Pam Spencer, spotlighted the General Investigations Unit of the Paducah Police Department. In 2009, 316 cases were assigned to the unit with a 68.67% clearance rate. In 2008, 367 cases were assigned to the unit with a 48.77% clearance rate. Crime statistics can be found in the Police Department section of the City's website at www.paducahky.gov.
- Boards and Appointments: Jon Perkins appointed to Paducah Power Board during his term as Interim City Manager.
- Municipal order approved to apply for the 2010 Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services Safety Grant in the amount of \$3000 for personal protective equipment and for registration to KMESHA. The grant requires a \$3000 City match.
- Municipal orders approved for the Paducah Housing Authority Five Year and Annual Plan for Section 8 Housing, revisions to the Section 8 Housing Administrative Plan, and revisions to the Section I Housing Utility Allowances. For the utility allowances effective May 1, Section 8 residents will notice a 32% decrease in natural gas, 8% increase in sewer, 15% increase in water, and a 10% decrease in electricity charges.
- Ordinance approved for a change order in the amount of \$4,900 to Atlas Roofing Contractors, Inc. for roofing work on the River Discovery Center, a city-owned building. A decking issue and cracks in the wall shared between the River Discovery Center and Seaman's Church Institute were found and need to be addressed. With the change order, the total project cost is now \$44,400.
- Ordinance approved for three contract addendums with IAFF Local 168 (International Association of Fire Fighters). The contract addendums address transitional duty, using the September Consumer Price Index as opposed to the October CPI, and payroll practices reflecting the incentive overtime pay calculation.
- Ordinance approved for the purchase at a cost of \$20,070 of an additional 2010 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor Pursuit vehicle for the Police Department.
- Ordinance approved for a letter of agreement with FEMA to request the City of Paducah's floodwall to be designated as a Provisionally Accredited Levee. This designation informs property owners that an assessment of the floodwall levee is underway. This designation also provides the City an additional two years to submit all of the necessary documentation to fully comply with the federal regulations of the Flood Insurance Study.
- Ordinance introduced to close a portion of Bough Street located south of Irvin Cobb Drive.



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- Ordinance introduced to accept the grant in the amount of \$76,783 for the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The City's match is \$8531. The funds will be used to purchase a cascade fill system, a thermoimager, and six deluge nozzles.
- Ordinance introduced to execute an agreement between the City of Paducah and Humana for the Smarts Results Program for 2010. The program works to engage the employees in their own healthcare.

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