



## City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

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### **Property Tax Levy: Public Hearing and Ordinance Introduction (vote Oct. 19)**

After a public hearing, Commissioners introduced an ordinance to set the real estate and personal property taxes for fiscal year 2011. The public hearing was in the interest of transparency. Since the City's proposed tax rate is not changing, a public hearing is not necessary. The City's real estate tax levy is proposed to remain at 25 cents per \$100 assessed value. That rate is the same as the rate set for fiscal year 2008, 2009, and 2010. Interim City Manager Jonathan Perkins says, "Retaining the rate of 25 cents per \$100 is fiscally prudent. By not raising the rate, it shows our concern for our citizens during challenging economic times." Since FY1995, the City's real estate tax rate has dropped from 43.8 cents to 25 cents per \$100 assessed value.

The ordinance also outlines the levies decided by the Paducah Independent School System and the Paducah Junior College. Compared to last year, the tax rate will remain the same for the Paducah Junior College (1.8 cents per \$100 assessed value). The Paducah Independent School District is increasing its rate to 71.1 cents per \$100 assessed value. This is an increase of 3.3 cents or 5%. In other words, for a home assessed at \$100,000 in the City of Paducah and in the Paducah Independent School District, the property tax bill will be \$961. This is an increase of \$13.00 as compared to last year's bill.

### **PRA Board Presentation**

In light of upcoming amendments to the Paducah Renaissance Alliance ordinance including a reorganization of the board, Mayor Bill Paxton expressed the primary goals of PRA are to bring in and support businesses in downtown and recruit and support artists in LowerTown. Mayor Paxton says the existing structure of PRA is not working as well as it could. The ordinance amendments will be introduced at a future Commission meeting. PRA board member Patience Renzulli spoke on behalf of the board thanking the Commission for their recent individual meetings with the board members. Renzulli says it has become clear the PRA board has failed to communicate its successes over the past two years. Since January 2010, more than 20 new businesses and residences have opened in the Renaissance area. Renzulli praised PRA's new website [www.paducahalliance.org](http://www.paducahalliance.org) which averages 2000 visitors per month. Renzulli then listed several of PRA's successes including 32,000 copies of the Renaissance brochure and map distributed in four states, the hosting of numerous special events, informational hotel wrappers at 10 local hotels, a billboard seen by more than 18,000 drivers per month, the distribution of 50,000 copies of the Holiday Shopping Guide, the affordable art show, farmer's market, newsletter, marketing campaigns, and the Great American Main Street Award. Mayor Paxton added, "Paducah is a unique community because we have great volunteers. They are smart volunteers. They are enthusiastic volunteers."

### **Fountain Avenue Project: Homeowner Rehabilitation Forgivable Loans**

Commissioners approved an ordinance for the Fountain Avenue Homeowner Rehabilitation Forgivable Loan Program. This program is for existing residents who meet certain qualifications in the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood. The forgivable loan will help homeowners rehabilitate their homes in accordance to the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Plan adopted by the City Commission. To qualify, the Fountain Avenue resident must have owned the residence in April 2007, the time of the adoption of the Revitalization Plan, and meet all income and application



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guidelines. The Planning Department will work to get the program information to homeowners through newsletters, mailings, public hearings, and with the help of the Midtown Alliance. The City Commission will review the program each year to determine whether to continue it.

### **Contract Renewal for Seasonal Ice Rink**

Commissioners approved an ordinance to renew the one-year contract with Magic Ice USA, Inc. for the seasonal ice rink to be located in downtown Paducah. The rental of the rink costs \$92,500. This will be the third year for the ice skating rink. The rink is the same size as last year's rink and will be open November 12 through January 2. It will cost \$5 per person to skate, which includes the skates. Applications currently are being accepted online for skate guards and an ice rink manager. Visit [www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov) to apply.

### **Agreement for New Traffic Signal at Intersection of U.S. 62 and Pecan Drive**

Commissioners approved an ordinance for an agreement between the City of Paducah and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways for the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of U.S. Highway 62 and Pecan Drive. This is the intersection in front of WKCTC's Emerging Technology Center. The traffic signal and installation is estimated to cost \$100,000. The City will pay half the cost with the State paying the other half and any amount if greater than \$100,000.

### **Quick Highlights:**

- A public hearing was held for the Jackson House Elevator System Project. The City of Paducah, on behalf of the Jackson House, is requesting a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant through the Kentucky Department for Local Government to improve the Jackson House's elevator system. Any funds required for a local match would be the responsibility of the Jackson House II, the legal not-for-profit entity that owns the apartment building for senior citizens located at 301 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The project would involve renovating the building's two existing elevators and constructing a new elevator and entrance on the southwest corner of the building.
- Municipal order approved transferring the encroachment agreement for the right-of-way property adjacent to 2200 Beiderman Street.
- Municipal order approved to apply for the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Violence Against Women Act Program grant. If awarded, the \$60,000 grant would help the Police Department develop and strengthen law enforcement, prosecution, and services in cases involving domestic abuse through the hiring of a Domestic Abuse Response Officer. No local match is required.
- Municipal order approved appointing Planning Director Steve Ervin and Community Development Planner Charles Doherty as authorized signatories for the Kentucky Housing Corporation GAP Financing Pool. The program requires two people to sign requests for funds.
- Municipal order approved appointing Budget and Human Resources Administrator Adrienne Gleeson as the Coordinator of Title VI and Section 504. Both of these regulations address the prevention of discrimination.
- Ordinance approved amending the City's contract with the Fraternal Order of Police to allow officers to bid on shift assignments every six months rather than annually.
- Ordinance approved for an encroachment agreement with Signature Homes of Paducah for a subdivision sign and water irrigation system in the Westwood Hills Subdivision. The brick sign will be located on Westwood Boulevard. The irrigation system will be in the boulevard from Pines Road to South Central Avenue.
- Ordinance approved for a contract with North American Salt Company for the purchase of rock salt to be used to de-ice the City's roadways. The unit cost for the delivery of the rock salt is \$62.38 per ton. North American was the low bidder.



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- Ordinance approved for a five-year contract with Republic Services (CWI) for the disposal of solid waste.
- Ordinance approved for the purchase of body armor for the Police Department. Each body armor unit costs \$600, which will be funded through a Homeland Security grant.
- Former Commissioner Robert Coleman addressed the Commission about plans for a Korean War memorial. A board of veterans has organized to work on the memorial. The group has asked the City and County to each provide \$15,000 toward the memorial's cost.

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