



## City Commission Meeting Highlights

### Tuesday, October 19, 2010

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#### **Employment Agreement with Jeff Pederson (vote Oct. 21)**

The Mayor and Commission introduced an ordinance for the employment contract with Jeff Pederson as the City's next city manager. A called Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 1:00 p.m. to vote on the ordinance. Mayor Bill Paxton says, "I think it's a good contract." Commissioners voiced their support of the terms of the contract. Mayor Paxton adds, "We are very excited about Mr. Pederson coming to Paducah. We think he's going to be a great city manager for the next several years." In the contract, Pederson will receive a base salary of \$135,000 plus benefits. The Mayor and Commission interviewed Pederson in closed session on October 8. An announcement was made October 15 letting the public know that Pederson had accepted the position as city manager. Pederson will set his starting date with the city and sign the contract during his visit to Paducah on October 24-25. Pederson currently is the City Administrator for Grand Island, Nebraska. Finance Director, Jonathan Perkins, is serving as Interim City Manager.

#### **Property Tax Levy**

Commissioners approved an ordinance setting the real estate and personal property taxes for fiscal year 2011. To be transparent, a public hearing was held October 12. The City's real estate tax levy will remain at 25 cents per \$100 assessed value. That rate is the same as the rate set for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010. 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%. 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, an increase of \$13.00 as compared to last year's bill.

#### **Intent to Annex Property Owned by Paducah Power, P&L Railroad, and TVA (vote Oct. 26)**

The Mayor and Commission introduced an ordinance to approve an intent to annex for 173.7 acres of land at the southern extent of Paducah's city limits. The area includes property owned by Paducah Power, Paducah & Louisville Railroad, and Tennessee Valley Authority. The property extends from Bechdolt Road south to Interstate-24, west of Poole Road, and east of Schneidman Road. Once this ordinance is approved, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on November 1 and proceed with the process of changing the zoning to heavy industrial. In November, the City Commission will vote on the final annexation process and the zone change. The annexation will bring the Paducah Power peaking plant into the City limits.

#### **2011 City Health Insurance Premiums**

Commissioners approved a municipal order setting the City's health insurance premiums for 2011. The City will change to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield as the third party administrator rather than Humana. Deputy Finance Director Adrienne Gleeson says, "Anthem's network is a larger network with richer discounts." The rates and plan offerings will not change for 2011. Interim City Manager Jonathan Perkins say, "This the second year in a row that we have not raised rates. That's unheard of." Perkins praised the employees for making wellness a priority and being good consumers. The



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City will change to Delta Dental for the voluntary dental plan. The plan is slightly more expensive compared to the current rate but not as expensive as it would be if the City stayed with Humana. The voluntary vision plan will be through Avesis with a slightly lower premium.

### **American Cancer Society Presentation**

American Cancer Society Community Representative Stephanie Elder made a presentation to the Commission about the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. In 2010, the McCracken County Relay for Life raised \$300,190, which will be used for research, a support line, lodging, and patient programs and services. For fiscal year 2010, the McCracken County agency served 276 cancer patients. The 2011 McCracken County Relay for Life will be Friday, May 13 at Carson Park. The kickoff meeting will be 5:30 p.m., November 4 at 12 Oaks Baptist Church. To form and register a Relay for Life Team sign up at [www.relayforlife.org/mccracken](http://www.relayforlife.org/mccracken). By 2015, the American Cancer Society has the goals of lowering the number of people dying of cancer in half; reducing the occurrence of cancer by 25%, and improving the quality of life of all those affected by the disease.

### **Tree Voucher Program Update**

Planning Director Steve Ervin updated the Mayor and Commission on the proposed use for the remaining funds available from the tree voucher program. 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 Planning Department stopped issuing vouchers on July 1, 2010. The tree voucher program allowed residential property owners to receive a \$25 voucher for use at a participating nursery toward the purchase of a desirable tree. The project including vouchers and advertising was allocated \$32,500 in City funds plus a \$250 private donation. Approximately a third of the project balance is available for reforestation efforts. Ervin provided the Commission with a list of the various public agencies that have been contacted that would benefit from reforestation. The agencies include the Parks Department's Noble Park project, Barkley Regional Airport, Paducah School System, Murray State University's Paducah campus, and reforestation along Pecan Drive near the new bridges. Ervin recommends reimbursing each agency after work is completed.

### **Signs in the Right-of-Way**

Commissioner Gerald Watkins discussed the City's policy on removing yard signs that are placed in the City's right-of-way or on private property without approval. Several political and realty signs have been removed by the Inspection Department due to their location in the right-of-way or due to their being a traffic hazard. Commissioner Watkins has talked with the Inspection Department about what to do with a sign once it is removed. Signs will be placed in the basement of City Hall for two weeks so that the owner can collect them. After two weeks, the sign is subject to disposal.

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