

Council Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2015

The monthly meeting of the City Council of Audubon Park was held as a special meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 3340 Robin Road, to provide for an early start time. The following were present: Mayor Dorn Crawford and Council Members Joanne Bader, Nancy Zinner, Darrell Shelton, Tony Williams, Lindsey Breen and Laura Stevens. Also present were Police Chief Douglas Sweeney, City Attorney Steve Emery, City Engineer Clint Channell and City Clerk Janette Mercer.

Call to Order

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Joanne Bader made a motion to enter executive session to discuss legal matters as provided in KRS 61.823. Nancy Zinner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Attendees other than the Mayor, Council and City Attorney were excused.

Mayor Crawford called the meeting back to order, upon conclusion of the executive session, at 7:00PM. He introduced Steve Magre, recently appointed to replace Jim King as Metro Council member for the 10th District. Mr. Magre gave a brief synopsis of his career and his plans for the 10th district.

Opening Public Comments

Pete Becker, 3105 Chickadee – Mr. Becker asked if there was any new information on the pending litigation against or on behalf of the City. The Mayor replied the closed session was to update the new councilors on pending cases, but there were no new public developments to report.

Engineer Report

Mr. Channell has contacted LG&E in reference to the entrance lighting and the lighting in Henderson Park. His plan is to present to the Council and Mayor a cost estimate for keeping the entrance lighting electric, versus the cost to convert to gas, by March. Mr. Channell has continued to track the road conditions and any new potholes created by the last snowstorm. He did note he is completing a year as the City Engineer the first of March, and needs a replacement for professional and family reasons. He will deliver all of his documentation and the data base for tracking the road conditions to the city. There was some discussion about sinking ground in Henderson Park.

Financial Report

The Mayor started the conversation on the financial report and asked if there were any questions. Joanne Bader asked if the line item 5500-00, City Hall – Repairs and Maintenance, reflected the cost of the City's computer upgrade. The Mayor replied yes. She questioned line item 5720-00, Professional Services – CPA, confirming that not all of the expenses for this services have hit the report. The Mayor indicated that we are now paying hourly for an Accountemps bookkeeper, at about a third of the cost of the previous consultants. She asked about the \$468.31 entry in line item 6185-20, Public Safety Auto Insurance. The Mayor explained the police department was buying and selling cars, causing the insurance premiums to change and that was the net amount due. Her last question was about the figure \$303 of sanitation revenue. The Mayor replied we collected one late city tax and that is the accompanying fee for sanitation services.

Tony Williams recommended line item 5720-00 Professional Services – CPA be raised; he felt the \$8,000 was too low. Joanne Bader noted the time to make that recommendation would be during budget meetings. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the financial report. Joanne Bader made a motion to accept the report as presented. Nancy Zinner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Police Report

Chief Sweeney reviewed the police report. He reminded everyone this is the time of year for stolen cars. Chief Sweeney asked everyone not to start your cars and leave them unattended. The police report is included as part of these minutes.

Forest Board Report

The Forest Board did not submit a report this month.

Unfinished Business

The Mayor presented the January 1st meeting minutes for approval. Laura Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes. Tony Williams seconded, and the motion passed with five in favor and one abstaining (Joanne Bader abstained, having missed the meeting). Mayor Crawford presented the January 20th meeting minutes for approval. Laura Stevens and Joanne Bader offered some editorial corrections. Joanne Bader made a motion to approve the minutes with the given corrections. Darrell Shelton seconded, and the motion passed with 4 in favor and two abstaining. (Nancy Zinner and Lindsey Breen abstained, having missed the meeting).

Laura Stevens reviewed the action item list. All of the items on the list were discussed, and target completion dates updated or closed. Lindsey Breen made a suggestion about item 63, Audubon Park's Newsletter being delivered electronically by email. Ms. Breen suggested an email service that her company uses to capture the email addresses. Joanne Bader asked Lindsey to obtain the specifics about the service and present at the next meeting. Mr. Williams distributed a sample budget planning calendar. He feels this would be a good tool to keep the Council on track as well as a guide. A copy of the sample budget calendar and the action item list are included as part of these minutes.

New Business

Mayor Crawford started the discussion on budget issues, noting we have, in particular, an approaching March 23 deadline to declare any changes in insurance taxes. He had two handouts for the Council to consider. One of the handouts listed some of the needs of the City, and the other handout discussed some of the factors to consider potential tax rates. There were lengthy conversations about raising money, insurance taxes and property taxes. The Mayor asked the Council to take the 2 documents home and come to the next meeting with some recommendations. The Mayor asked the City Clerk to give the first reading of "An Ordinance Imposing License Fees upon Insurance Companies for Business Conducted within the Corporate Limits of the City of Audubon Park."

Mayor's Report

The Mayor noted all boards with the exception of the Code Enforcement Board have conducted initial meetings with the current membership. Joanne Bader noted that the Garden Club is having a meeting

on Monday, March 9th at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The Garden Club would like to have all the city officials and other members of the different boards here to introduce them to the residents.

Public Comments

Pete Becker, 3105 Chickadee – Mr. Becker noted that insurance premiums always goes up, they never go down, so we are going to draw more anyway.

Laura Kelty, 3242 Cross Bill – Ms. Kelty noted that there are 81 cities within the Metro Area and Audubon Park is the third highest insurance tax rate. She does not think it is a fair tax.

Nancy Zinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joanne Bader seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next scheduled meeting is set for March 16, 2015.



Attested



Approved