

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2013

The regular scheduled meeting of the City Council, City of Audubon Park, was held on Monday, March 18, 2013, at 3340 Robin Road with the following present: Mayor Michael Scalise along with Council Members Joanne Bader, Nancy Zinner, Vince Osbourn, Mark Stevens, Al Huber, and Cary Campbell. Also present were Police Chief Jeffrey Cox, Deputy Police Chief Ronald Jones, and City Clerk Stephanie Lee along with City Attorney Patrick McElhone. Assistant City Attorney Jonathan Leachman was absent from the meeting.

Call to Order: Mayor Scalise called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: Mayor Scalise asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from the previous month. Nancy Zinner mentioned a comment made by Mayor Scalise that she said should have stated the Garden Club is mostly composed of Audubon Park residents. Mayor Scalise said he did not say that in the last meeting, but he agreed to have it stated tonight as the Garden Club being composed of Audubon Park residents and elsewhere as requested by Nancy Zinner. She also went on to question a comment made by Vince Osbourn regarding utilizing the word spent, spend, or spending in reference to the Budget. A correction was made from spent to spend as requested. Al Huber made motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Joanne Bader seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Scalise said Jim Bottom with Louisville Emergency Management called; and he said he was running a little bit late tonight.

Kenny Hinton with Norton Audubon Hospital - Award: Kenny Hinton (Manager of Security for Audubon Hospital) recognized Detective Sergeant Ray Patterson with a certificate for the outstanding work he did in helping to catch and to pursue the prosecution of suspects in a recent case that had occurred at the hospital as well as other various locations. He went on to add that Audubon has one of the best Police forces in the Country.

After a round of applause, Detective Sergeant Patterson spoke briefly about the case; and Mayor Scalise also commented on the case thanking him for all of his hard work.

Al Huber questioned the possibility of doing a letter to send to various hospitals regarding safe placement of personal items, and Detective Sergeant Patterson suggested placing purses in the trunk of locked cars or by using locks on lockers in the hospitals.

Police Chief Cox reiterated that the subjects are still suspects at this time pending upcoming court dates. He also went on to say Detective Sergeant Patterson does an excellent job and has several contacts with his many years of Police service.

Public Comments: The following is a list of people who spoke and a general summary of what they had to say:

1. Gene Stotz, 3330 Robin Road – mentioned the Garden Club is coordinating the Brightside Cleanup for this year. He said it is scheduled for April 13th at 9 A.M. (saying it normally lasts approximately an hour and a half or so). He commented about already having bags, gloves, etc. He said it will be noted in the Newsletter, and he said the group will meet on Audubon Parkway near Preston. He said last year they cleaned up on Preston from Rosemary almost to Hart on both sides of the street.
2. Jim Head, 1112 Audubon Parkway – questioned as to where a person can get one of the large, green garbage cans; and he commented about not seeing very many people using them. He also mentioned the garbage containers in the parks needing to be repaired or replaced as well.

Mayor Scalise said he thinks the first garbage bin is free from Waste Management, and he said there is a charge for any cans after that (approximately \$2.00 per month). In response to the garbage containers in the parks, he said they are going to stain and seal some of the containers while replacing the wood on the one in Curlew Park (he thinks).

Financial Report: The information submitted on the Financial Report showed the figures through the month of February. Al Huber made motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Mark Stevens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Scalise mentioned speaking to the Auditor regarding the proposed changes from the meeting last month, and he said he had agreed on changing the accounts (transfers between accounts). He said the Auditor is going to show him and the Treasurer how the change needs to be made.

Vince Osbourn said he would like to see if a line can be added on the Financial Spreadsheet showing the revenue and the expenses for the month in order to show a profit or a loss.

Mayor Scalise said he's not sure if they are locked into the current format until the end of the fiscal year or not, but he said he will check into it.

Cary Campbell questioned voting on the report until the changes are made, and Mayor Scalise said they are just accepting the report as presented with there not being any significant differences.

Nancy Zinner questioned the KLEFPF entry on the Spreadsheet; and later, she also questioned the differences in the Profit/Loss Sheets to the Balance Sheet with it balancing to the penny.

Mayor Scalise briefly explained the money the City gets from the State of Kentucky to supplement Officers' pay. In regards to the profit/loss issue, he said that varies from month to month with some months bringing in more income.

Chief Cox added that certain standards have to be met in obtaining funding such as training, etc.

Police Report: Chief Cox read the Police Report for the month of February. A copy of the said report is made a part of these minutes.

Chief Cox briefly explained the new report saying it has been broadened to help with a better view of things. He mentioned his being available for questions via email or by stopping in to see him at City Hall.

Joanne Bader inquired about the holdups listed on the report; and Chief Cox said a lot of times, it is a business on Preston. He mentioned there have been a few occurrences involving people on Preston at the bus stop.

Mark Stevens asked about the graffiti along Preston Highway, and Chief Cox said the Code Enforcement Officer along with Sergeant Detective Patterson have gotten with the businesses along Preston.

Mayor Scalise said he has talked to the owner of Apex, and he said he is going to take care of it.

Joanne Bader questioned as to how they know the graffiti is not gang related.

Chief Cox said after checking with Louisville Metro and looking at the signs, he said it doesn't appear that way right now (explaining the various scenarios involved).

Mayor Scalise briefly touched on the recent media coverage with regards to break-ins in Audubon, and he said there were actually only two in Audubon (one with nothing taken and one with items already recovered).

Chief Cox agreed saying the media had said the Audubon Park area with using Audubon as the backdrop for their footage.

Mark Stevens questioned the media contacting the Police Department for information, and Chief Cox briefly explained how Louisville Metro shares information with the media on a daily basis.

Jim Bottom with Louisville Emergency Management – Code Red Short

Presentation: Jim Bottom gave a lengthy presentation regarding the Code Red emergency and non-emergency notification system they offer. He said they have not had as many people sign up for it as they would like to have. He explained their database, hazmat or other possible incidents in the area, drastic or real emergencies, non-

emergency notifications, the safe area here, signing up via on-line or by calling 311, a weather component available, sign up choices available, changes of information for vacation, the City of Louisville website (www.louisvilleky.gov), Metro Safe and Emergency Management (EMA) links, barricaded suspects in homes, calling of homes involved in incidents, information remaining in the database (timeframe), notifying them of any changes, adding of cell numbers or unlisted numbers, drills, location, training, tours available, etc.

Cary Campbell inquired as to if the systems is free, and Jim Bottom agreed saying it is free to the residents.

Joanne Bader asked if emergency notifications are given to residents if they are signed up or not; and Jim Bottom said the only problems they seem to have is if a person has an unlisted phone number, recently changed number, or if they are using various other companies (Insight, Vonage, etc.) for phone service.

Forest Board Business: Gilbert Zinner passed out copies of the Forest Board Report dated March 18, 2013 to the Council and Mayor for their review. He said there is an Arbor Day Community Tree Planting Day scheduled for April 20th from 10 A.M. until Noon in Henderson Park if anyone is interested in coming out to help. He also mentioned the Garden Club has received a matching grant from Pfizer for \$1,000.00 for trees. He said there are six streets with several Ash Trees on them from Hess to Audubon Parkway where these trees will be going. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the planting of trees (various locations), Emerald Ash Borer, saving or removing the trees, treatment of trees, courtesy notices to homeowners, safety issues, the battle and support needed, City parks and easements, statistics, loss of trees, manpower, property owners, education, benefits, new recruits for approach, grading conditions of trees, the permit process, good versus bad trees, various tree sizes purchased, storms and damage, etc.

Cary Campbell inquired about the Council helping with the Forest Board's efforts, and Mr. Zinner said he has a list of people for them to talk to. He also later mentioned obtaining smaller trees to plant to cut cost as well. Cary Campbell said this is a big issue for him, and he said he thinks he has been at a lack of information.

Joanne Bader said she thinks if something is free versus costing money, people will be more receptive. She added that they need to set up some sort of fund at some point for tree plantings. She later added that she thinks they should focus more on the easements for plantings due to the lack of canopy as opposed to more plantings in the parks.

Rick Meffert, 1203 Valley, commented about issues he has had with trees on the utility easement behind his house. He said they need to be trimmed with the possibility of storms and outages.

Mayor Scalise said LG&E was in the Park last Fall looking at trees and doing trimming/removal work. He mentioned an Arborist that was working with the homeowners, and he said he can get her contact information for him.

Unfinished Business: Mayor Scalise mentioned Municipal Order Number 001, Series 2013, A MUNICIPAL ORDER UPDATING AND REVISING THE PERSONNEL/CIVIL SERVICE POLICY MANUAL.

At the request of Mayor Scalise, Deputy Chief Ron Jones explained the proposed changes and about getting with the various Council Members to discuss the issue and any concerns they may have had. He highlighted some of the changes involved such as holidays, floating holidays, hours holidays are based on, usage of time, annual vacation leave, maximum accrual, cap of time, effective date of the policy, approval authority, two-weeks notice of departure, termination for cause, sick leave notification, attendance, longevity pay, taxes, bereavement leave, redefining of family member, working hours, salary employees, defining cause, paying out of leave time, number of employees, possible future changes or revisions, retirement, etc.

Al Huber made motion to accept the Municipal Order making amendments to the policy. Cary Campbell seconded, and a short discussion took place regarding changes down the road. Al Huber called for the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

Joanne Bader mentioned the Reach Alert notification system as presented by Ken Weber at the meeting last month. She commented about meeting with Marks Stevens, Vince Osbourn, and Ken Weber regarding the idea; and she said they would like to put a letter in with the upcoming Newsletter for distribution to the residents. She said it is a “pilot program” to see if the people like it, and she said the cost of the program is minimal. She said she and another Council Member had given up their salaries with this being Budget neutral. She said it is going to have to be a word of mouth marketing campaign. She said residents can call Ken Weber to obtain information on signing up. She said there are other things specific to Audubon that Code Red doesn’t offer such as the Garden Club Festivals, Garden Tour, and various City events, etc. She commented about the Newsletter only being delivered to homes two times per year. She mentioned Cary Campbell had spoken with Ken Weber and obtained a discounted rate of \$1.00 per household, per year.

After an inquiry by Mayor Scalise, Pat McElhone said they should make a Resolution of the Council for approval.

Vince Osbourn reiterated about the project being a “pilot program” being reviewed after the first year trial run.

Joanne Bader made motion for a Resolution to approve the project for one year as a trial “pilot program” as described. Mark Stevens seconded, and there was a lengthy discussion regarding the program such as similarities to or differences with the City of Louisville’s program, spending of funds on projects other than for City purposes, revenue generators of the Park, no parties or yard sales, no weather alerts, road closures or power lines down, meeting notifications, parades, selection of notification, Forest Board or Garden Club functions, block parties, no private functions, specific City incidents,

personalized/localized notifications, City only functions, message limits per year, Administrators of the program, crime alerts being offered currently, free services offered versus services charged for, anticipated participation in the program, program cost, getting the word out about the program, test period cost, being a small City test site, reduced rate, the current Budget and salaries, the upcoming Budget, getting the information out with the upcoming Newsletter, authorization to sign the contract, explanation and feedback on Facebook, Newsletter delivery, the Audubon Police Bulletin, email databases available, crime alerts and releasable information, success rate, giving out email address information, third party involvement, improving communication between residents and the City, management, website information, events or activities only, Dogwood Festival, information already submitted and available in the Newsletter, failure due to lack of participation or success with participation, giving it a year trial, doing this now versus September, a possible two year trial, brochures, etc.

Cary Campbell said he agrees about communication, but he said he wonders if there is a better way of doing it for the price. He later added that he is concerned as to how many people are actually going to sign up for the program. He also mentioned the Forest Board needing funding for trees, etc. He also voiced his concerns with only talking about this for a month to try to get this moving, and he said they may need another six months or so to get things going.

Al Huber questioned possibly putting the information out to see how many residents would be interested prior to actually having it put into place.

Vince Osbourn said there is really little to no risk without any financial risk, and he said he thinks they should try it. He later reiterated that Administrators will need to be decided upon.

Mark Stevens agreed with Al Huber, but he said he thinks the participation rate will increase over the year versus pre-signing up for the project. He commented about people spreading the word from resident to resident. He later added they will need to have this ready to accept members as soon as the letter goes out.

Al Huber called for the question, and Mayor Scalise said he thinks they need to vote to get a sense of the Council.

Patrick McElhone questioned about the effective date. He (as well as Chief Cox) later inquired as to how this is going to be put into the current Budget.

Mayor Scalise said he thinks that will have to be decided between himself and Ken Weber with the review of the contract. He added he thinks it will be under General Government (possibly a City Hall Expense). He mentioned the two Council Members that do not take a salary.

Joanne Bader said they can potentially have it effective on April 1st, but she said it can be worked out on the contract. She mentioned delivering the letter with the Newsletters

once they are ready. She later said they need to make sure the contract says they can cancel at any time (with still having to pay for the current year the City is in).

Mayor Scalise said he will try to get a two year contract at the reduced rate at an effective date as quickly as the details can be worked out. After a short discussion, the vote was taken with the Resolution passing with all of the Council Members voting for the project except Cary Campbell who abstained.

New Business: There was not any “New Business” to report at this time.

Mayor’s Report: There was not a report by the Mayor at this time due to issues being covered earlier in the meeting.

Vince Osbourn mentioned the lights on top of the pillars at the entrances.

Mayor Scalise said he has looked at the lights, and he said they are working the way they should. He said the one at Oriole and Hess appears to be malfunctioning, but he said they do have a spare. He said the City is saving money by not having electric lights, and he said he thinks they are saving approximately \$600 per year. He said he thinks the Council should take a look at them to see what they think (as a reflection of what they are doing). He mentioned the street would have to be dug up in order to connect the electric back to the ones at Preston.

Mark Stevens questioned the type of lights that were there versus alternatives for cost savings.

Vince Osbourn said he thinks they need to think about it.

Vince Osbourn made motion to adjourn the meeting. Al Huber seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTESTED

APPROVED