

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6:15 p.m. at the Eminence City Hall with Mayor Drane Stephens and the following members present: Polly Troxell, Tom Shroyer, Treva Browning, Danny Meadows, and Lee Ann Armstrong. Absent was Member Leo Mason. Also in attendance were Attorney William Brammell, City Clerk Sandra Doane, Police Major O.C. Jones, and Police Officer John Wilson.

Mayor Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance held.

Subject: County Update – Magistrate Scott Bates was unable to attend. Mayor Stephens asked if there were any problems or concerns that need to be discussed with Magistrate Bates. Member Meadows responded that the intersection of Highway 55 and Blackaby Lane is so rough it is difficult to get through. It was suggested to see if the State can at least do a small phase in patch in this area. Member Meadows stated that the area at Mulberry Road and Coachman Lane also needs fixing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Subject: Minutes – The minutes of the previous regular session held on October 10, 2011 were reviewed. Mayor Stephens asked for any additions or changes to the minutes. Member Shroyer pointed out one typo for correction. With no other additions or changes forthcoming, Mayor Stephens stated they would stand approved as presented with the one typo correction.

REPORTS:

Subject: Police Department Report – In the absence of Police Chief Carey Duncan, Police Major O.C. Jones reviewed the monthly activity report with council which showed total contacts of 135 for October. Sixteen individuals were arrested on forty-five separate charges. The Department had eight driving under the influence and one other alcohol related incidents. Mayor Stephens reported that a lot of training is being attended at this time by various members of the department with others having to work extra to cover the shifts. Everyone should be back at the end of the week. Member Meadows stated that there are a lot of juveniles walking the streets late at night and into the early morning hours. Some people have even had their doors knocked on with the individuals running when you go to the door. Major Jones stated that the juvenile curfew is 11:30 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 a.m. weekends without a valid reason to be out. Major Jones stated they would try to look into this.

Subject: Property Ordinance Enforcement Report – No report. Member Meadows asked if the yard on West Broadway with the apparent deer stand and other items in the yard and on the porch could be looked into.

Subject: Police Comments – None.

Subject: Public Works Department Report – In the absence of Public Works Director William Smith, Mayor Stephens reviewed the monthly activity report with council. Mayor Stephens reported that we are going to have to control the phosphorus at the sewer plant so we have purchased an 8' X 10' building that has been wired and insulated to feed the chemical into the plant to remove the phosphorus. We are currently waiting on the state to paint where the islands were removed at the intersection of North Main Street and West Broadway. The islands were removed due to the problem they caused for individuals in wheel chairs and scooters. The roadside trash pickup went well. Mayor Stephens thanked Member Armstrong and Mr. Smith for all their work. Mayor Stephens reported that employee, Troy Popp, did a great job on the concrete floor repair at the Fire Department. We have received our salt for the upcoming winter month's snow removal. Mayor Stephens reported that the park has been winterized and closed for the season. Discussion held as to whether we want to put a portable restroom at the park during the winter. The consensus was not to put portable restrooms at the park at this time, but would re-evaluate it if there are any complaints. Police Major Jones stated we would probably have less vandalism if they were not there.

All the sidewalk work is complete.

Subject: Administrative Office Report – City Clerk Sandra Doane reviewed the monthly administrative office report with council reporting that we have collected 78% of the total 2011 property taxes as of October 31st. Reported we received \$517.95 for the scrap copper and metal off the dismantled trailer.

Mayor Stephens reviewed the first quarter budget comparison with Council reporting that for the most part we are on target at 25%. We are over on sidewalk repair and installation at this time in the Municipal Aid Fund, but anticipate some reimbursement on this which hopefully should bring this back down. Council asked to review the budget comparison and if any questions to get with him or Clerk Doane.

Subject: Fire Department Report – Member Meadows reviewed the Fire Department report with council which showed six total runs and special details in October for 62 ½ total man-hours. Member Meadows invited the Mayor, Council, Attorney, and Clerk Doane to the Fire Department Christmas Dinner scheduled for December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Member Meadows reported that the motion lights installed at the Fire Department should save on electricity as they will not be left on accidentally. Member Meadows reviewed the Fire Department first quarter budget comparison with council with the equipment category being the only area currently over budget.

Subject: Festivals Update – Member Armstrong reported that the school's haunted forest at the Renaissance Faire only had 802 in attendance with less food being collected as compared to previous years of 1,400 to 1,600 attendance. It was still a success with \$3.00 admission being charged. Many complaints were heard about us not providing free hot dogs and drinks this year. Mayor Stephens stated he felt that basically the only advertising done on this was Mr. Banks who was charging \$8.00 admission for his haunted forest. Member Meadows asked what the

City's role in this event should be. Mayor Stephens reported it has just been an event we have co-sponsored with most of the problems this year occurring once Mr. Banks got thrown into the mix. Mr. Frederick of the Renaissance Faire has been met with and we have been assured we won't have these problems next year. Lots of other activities were happening the same night as our festival which probably contributed to some of the low attendance. Also not having it actually on Halloween was a possible factor. There was a lot of confusion, misunderstanding, and conflict with the event this year and the lack of free food was an issue.

Member Armstrong reported that Light Up Eminence would be on December 3rd with Santa arriving at 6:00 p.m. Coloring tables will be available while waiting to see Santa with a contest for best picture. Member Armstrong stated we need a Mrs. Claus. Different classes at the school will be having some booths with hot cocoa, face painting, etc. Member Armstrong asked if the City would be willing to put up the money for the face painting. Consensus of council to contribute \$50.00 toward the face painting. Danny the Dalmatian and Charlie the Cow will be present. Some type of music will be provided. Mayor Stephens stated the Christmas decorations and lights will be put up starting next week.

Subject: Parks Update – As reported above, the park is closed for the season. Mayor Stephens reported we are still waiting to hear on our Land and Water Grant application.

Subject: Community Center Report – Mayor Stephens reported that the Director at the Center has resigned with interviews currently being conducted for his replacement. Attendance is still really good. We are hearing complaints about the center being closed on Saturday and Sunday. Member Troxell stated that center is not being cleaned very good as she had to clean it herself prior to the voting polls being opened.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subject: Open Citizen Comments/Questions – No one present who wished to address the council.

Subject: Amended Sewer Use Ordinance - Mayor Stephens stated we will postpone this until next month in order to give Attorney Brammell ample time to get a summary prepared.

Subject: Updated Dog Ordinance - Mayor Stephens stated he wants council to review this proposed updated dog ordinance for their input. The other cities in the County are being presented with the same ordinance for adoption. Attorney Brammell stated he changed the ordinance as proposed by Animal Control Officer, Dan Flinkfelt as we cannot write this as a felony. Member Meadows asked if there was any way to control the cats. Discussion held including that the animal shelter will not pick up cats. Some of the problems with the feral cats are that some individuals and businesses are feeding them. Attorney Brammell stated we can add something about cats into this ordinance if desired. It was discussed that it costs about \$50.00 per cat to spay or neuter them and that female cats can have up to 35-40 kittens a year. Mayor Stephens asked council to do some research on controlling cats. Clerk Doane offered to send out a global e-mail to all the Kentucky clerks to see what other cities are doing about cats.

Subject: Garbage Franchise – Postponed.

Subject: Mayor's Update –Mayor Stephens reported he is still working on the soliciting policy. Mayor Stephens reminded council of the Christmas Dinner to be held on December 13th. Mayor Stephens reviewed the letter from Insight Communications concerning the cable franchise when Time Warner takes it over. They will have to honor our current agreements so there is no reason to rush in and try to do anything. Attorney Brammell concurs with their letter.

Mayor Stephens stated he would like to try collecting some of the back taxes through small claims court which costs about \$90.00 per claim. He figures there are about 20 that he can reasonably expect to collect. The delinquent tax payer will have to reimburse the City for the court costs. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Troxell to authorize Mayor Stephens to proceed with collection of back taxes through small claims court. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: New Business/Council – Mayor Stephens asked if any council member had anything they wanted to discuss. Member Armstrong stated that effective December 1st all school property will be smoke free and that she commends this policy. Member Armstrong reported that the trash pickup was the same day as the county this year. She encountered lots of speeders that day. Suggested doing a one call next year to let people know that this event is taking place and to watch out for individuals working the event.

Member Armstrong stated she would still like to see the City participate in recycling. She was advised that re-cycling is available through a container at the school which takes papers, plastic, cardboard, cans, aluminum, glass, etc. with no separation required. The container has been moved to the parking lot behind KFC. Clerk Doane was asked if something could be put on the water bills informing people of the recycling and also about Light Up Eminence. Clerk Doane stated she would try and get both on the bills as she has a limited amount of space.

Member Meadows asked if the City could consider putting up the money for paint or provide the labor in an effort to get the buildings on Main Street all painted. Mayor Stephens stated this is his spring project and that he has a couple of façade grant leads.

Member Shroyer expressed his appreciation for all the thoughts and prayers for his wife, Janice, and their family. She is doing better at this time.

Subject: Warrants - The warrants presented for payment were reviewed. Mayor Stephens reviewed some of the non-monthly invoices with council. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Troxell to approve the warrants for payment as presented. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: Closed Session – None needed.

With no further business to be discussed, motion made by Member Troxell and seconded by Member Armstrong to adjourn. All members present voted “Yea”. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

DRANE STEPHENS, MAYOR
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

ATTEST: _____
SANDRA A. DOANE, CITY CLERK
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY