

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. at the Eminence City Hall with Mayor Drane Stephens and the following members present: Danny Meadows, Polly Troxell, Leo Mason, Tom Shroyer, and Lee Ann Armstrong. Absent was Member Joey Bell. Also in attendance were City Attorney William Brammell, City Clerk Sandra Doane, Public Works Director William Smith, Police Chief Kevin Kemper, Jay Hoffman with Wet & Dry, Economic Development Representative Steve Dale, and Henry County Local Representative Chris Brooke. Arriving late was citizen, Earl Lawson.

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

Pledge of allegiance held.

**Subject: County Business** – In the absence of Magistrate Scott Bates, Mayor Stephens reported that Magistrate Bates did get the signs put up warning semi-truck drivers that “no thru trucks” are allowed on Narrow Gage Road; however the signs are too far into the road and are too small. Scott has called Shelby County Magistrate Billy Hedges and they have moved the signs out, but they are still too small. Scott and Mr. Hedges are working with the State on getting a special sign made which will be larger and more specific that will be placed prior to the semis making the turn onto Narrow Gage. We will also be asking John Lee at Steel Technologies to include the message on the manifests for trucks coming to their facility not to turn on Narrow Gage off of Highway 55. Discussion held on possibility of putting a sign at Clear Creek Road for semis not to turn right onto Mulberry Road and also a sign at the factory entrance for them not to turn left out of the factories as they are getting hung up that direction as well.

Member Mason asked about the ditches along Mulberry Road and whose responsibility it is to clean them out so they will flow freely. It is the citizen’s responsibility in front of their homes.

**Subject: Tank Repair/Painting Bids** – Jay Hoffman with Wet or Dry was present to discuss the bids received for the tank repair and painting. Mr. Hoffman reported that we opened three bids on March 25, 2015 with the low bidder being C & S Quality Services, LLC out of Lawrenceburg, KY in the amount of 194,565.00 for over coating or 278,230.00 for total removal. Mr. Hoffman recommends just over coating versus the total removal. Total removal creates a lot of liability and we will get 20 years of service by doing just the over coating. Mayor Stephens asked about interior pitting. Mr. Hoffman stated there is a provision in the bid specifications for repair of this for a set price which would be an additional cost that would be pro-rated based upon actual percentage of pits fixed. He does not feel that we will have much of a problem with pitting. We have budgeted a total of \$240,000.00 for the project which includes the 12% of contract price for Wet or Dry and some extra for the possible additional repairs. Mr. Hoffman stated he has worked with C & S previously and recommends to go with them as low bidder.

Motion made by Member Meadows to accept the low bid of \$194,565.00 from C & S Quality Services, LLC to overcoat the water tower. Motion seconded by Member Shroyer. On a call for vote, all members present voted "Yea".

This should be about a five week job with payment not to be made until July 1, 2015. Council requested contractor to start as soon as possible.

Mayor Stephens asked for a written contract from Mr. Hoffman.

Questions asked about draining the tank for repairs. Public Works Director Bill Smith stated we have a valve to drain the tank and that we would depend on Henry County Water District to provide sufficient pressure to feed our system. We would just have no tank volume in case of a fire. His biggest concern is having no pressure relief as the district could over pressurize our system. We can put valves on hydrants to protect against blowouts. He does not anticipate a drop of pressure. They have never overflowed our system at the tank.

Mr. Hoffman asked about the color for our tank and suggested staying away from white. He will get a color chart to us. Mr. Hoffman also cautioned against allowing anyone to place an antenna system on our tank as it creates a lot of hassle, headaches, and possible damage.

**Subject: Countywide Economic Development** – Steve Dale with the countywide Economic Development (or Kentucky Connected as it is called) was present to discuss this project. Mr. Dale gave some background that we were one of the smallest agencies in the state but that we cover one of the biggest areas. Their website is kentuckyconnected.com and they serve six communities. Their initial four things to do was to get new industry, serve the existing industry, work with Mom/Pop businesses, and have a trained and prepared workforce. Originally they have been awarded an appropriation from the legislators of \$1.2 million to convert I-71 to six lanes. They are currently working with existing industries thru a visitation program to discuss how to help them and if they might have any venders that might want to move here. They do passive marketing and use the state and existing industry along with conferences and phone calls. They have joined the Kentucky Association of Economic Development and are exploring other options. They also use existing realtors. If Carrollton passes tomorrow, all the counties within our area will be Work Ready Counties. This is a long term race and not a sprint. Mr. Dale was asked about his budget. He stated he receives \$15,000.00 from each County plus some donations. The economic downturn has hurt communities with the giving of land and buildings away.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Subject: Minutes** – The minutes of the previous regular session held on March 9, 2015 were reviewed. Mayor Stephens asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. With no additions or changes forthcoming, Mayor Stephens stated they would stand approved as presented.

**Subject: Ordinance Updating Pay/Compensation Plan** – Attorney Brammell held the second reading of an ordinance updating our pay/compensation plan which is done annually to remain current on our salary scales. Motion made by Member Troxell and seconded by Member Mason to adopt the ordinance as read updating the pay/compensation plan. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

## **REPORTS:**

**Subject: Police Department Report** – Chief Kevin Kemper reviewed the monthly activity report with council. Chief Kemper reported they had 249 total contacts for the month. Twenty individuals were arrested on thirty-five charges. There was one ordinance violation.

**Subject: Public Works Department Report** – Public Works Director William Smith reviewed the monthly activity report with council. Mr. Smith reported they had a water main break on Short Street. Reported that we have contracted for blacktop repairs for the many break areas from recent months and will also be repairing speed bumps at this time along with the trail. His department will be repairing yards that were torn up during these breaks too. We did not experience any issues with water during the fire at Robinson’s Farm Equipment.

Mr. Smith reported that the WWTP expansion project is complete other than cosmetic work. It is recommended by the engineer to hold out \$20,000.00 for this work. The plant itself is functioning as it should.

Mr. Smith stated he has received a call for water and sewer maps for Main Street which hopefully means that are working on the plans to widen North Main.

**Subject: Administrative Office Report** – City Clerk Sandra Doane reviewed the monthly administrative office report with council, reporting that approximately 95.9% of the 2014 tax bills have been collected as of April 7, 2015. The total outstanding 2014 base tax bills is \$14,579.10.

Clerk Doane reported that the counter receipts program for the office and a replacement computer for the Public Works Department have both been installed.

Clerk Doane gave statistics on our website visits. For 2013 we had total visits of 20,599 with 12,324 unique visitors; for 2014 we had total visits of 26,057 with 15,644 being unique visitors and year to date for 2015 we have had 7,744 visits with 5,512 being unique visitors.

**Subject: Fire Department Report** – Mayor Stephens reviewed the Fire Department report with council which showed nine total runs and special details in March for total man-hours of approximately one hundred eight-five, a lot of which were on the Robinson’s Farm Equipment fire. Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for the great job done on this fire by all of our departments and other surrounding departments. The whole community came together on this with businesses donating food and drinks for the personnel and we even had an employee of the reformatory help with traffic.

**Subject: Festivals Update** – Member Troxell reported that the next committee meeting to discuss Eminence Day would be Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Subject: Parks Update** – Mayor Stephens stated nothing new to report.

**Subject: Citizen Concern** – Earl Lawson was present to discuss that his water service has not been turned back on at his home on Merriweather Avenue and that he refuses to pay a bill for service that is not available. Mayor Stephens asked if the leak has been fixed and tried to explain that the bill was for the service prior to the turn-off due to leaking. Mr. Lawson stated he doesn't know if the leak is fixed as he cannot check it due to water being off. Per our employees it is still leaking. Mayor Stephens stated he did as he promised after Mr. Lawson's last visit but Mr. Lawson was not home as agreed to previously. Mayor Stephens told Mr. Lawson he would personally come up and turn it on for him to check the leak if he would let him know when he would be there but we would not leave it on if it is still leaking.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Subject: Audit Agreement** – Mayor Stephens reported that our agreement with our auditors expires after the upcoming audit so he asked for a new proposal from them. Their proposal for the next three years did not increase at all. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Mason to accept the audit proposal from Richardson, Pennington, and Skinner as presented for the fiscal years ending 6-30-16, 6-30-17, and 6-30-18. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

**Subject: Limited Land Lease** – Council reviewed the limited land lease with Tim Fitzgerald to land farm at the Wastewater Treatment Plant which was required prior to our council meeting. The only changes was the addition of Danny Fitzgerald to the agreement for insurance purposes and the subjection to Council approval. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Troxell to approve the limited land lease retro-active to March 23, 2015 with Tim and Danny Fitzgerald as signed by Mayor Stephens. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

**Subject: Resolution Approving Wastewater Treatment Project Expenses** – Council reviewed a resolution to approve invoices on the wastewater treatment plant project payable to Pace Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$161,780.00 and payable to Derrick Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$16,174.02. Both invoices will be paid from local funds. Discussion held on whether the \$20,000.00 previously mentioned that is being withheld from Pace until the punch list is completed is a sufficient amount. Mayor Stephens stated he is also concerned that he did not see this request for payment prior to the meeting. Motion made by Member Shroyer and seconded by Member Meadows to approve Resolution No. 2015-003 as presented approving the invoices for payment contingent upon the Mayor's satisfactory review that all is in order with the pay requests. On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

**Subject: Open Citizen Comments** - Mayor Stephens asked if anyone was present who wished to address Council. No one was.

**Subject: Mayor's Update** – Mayor Stephens reported that it was impossible to complete the Rails to Trails grant application within the time restraints with public hearings and other requirements so he instructed Member Shroyer to discontinue his work on this. We will just use our own money to do repairs on the trail at this time.

Mayor Stephens reported he has been approached by some fifth graders at school who want to start a community garden at Coach D Park. He asked them to come to the next meeting. Discussion held including that individuals not maintaining their plots or cleaning up in the fall would be a concern. Consensus was that Council supports this project but not at Coach D Park, but would be open for them to look at the sewer plant as an alternative site.

Mayor Stephens reviewed a layout of the insurance auto auction site with Council which shows double fencing and greenery being installed. The layout also showed other branches' buildings.

**Subject: Council New Business** – Member Shroyer expressed concern with basketball goals being out in the streets. There are two on Spring Oak that are being played at full court. This creates a traffic and safety issue. Police Department asked to get these removed from the streets.

Member Shroyer also expressed concern with motor bikes and mopeds on the trail. Our ordinance states no motorized vehicles allowed. Police Department asked to address this problem.

Member Shroyer asked Henry Local Representative Chris Brooke if he has seen the recent article in the Courier about Eric Bachelor as concerns a new hotel. Eric is formerly from Eminence.

**Subject: Warrants** - The warrants for payment were presented and reviewed. Mayor Stephens reported that we will have an invoice soon for a new Scag mower as the engine blew in the current one which would cost about \$3,500.00 for a new motor which would have to be retro-fitted. The decision was made to just purchase a new mower which allowed for a \$1,800.00 trade-in. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Mason to approve the warrants for payment as presented. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

**Subject: Closed Session** - Member Troxell made the motion to go into closed session for possible litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1c). Motion seconded by Member Meadows. On a call for vote, all members present voted "Yea". (8:10 p.m.)

Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Mason to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. (8:19 p.m.) On a call for vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

With no further business to be discussed, motion made by Member Troxell and seconded by Member Meadows to adjourn. All members present voted "Yea". Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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DRANE STEPHENS, MAYOR  
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

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