

CITY OF BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY
WORKING SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
3/05/2019
5:00 PM

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heaton and the following Councilmen:

Councilman Joe Buckman
Councilman David Dones
Councilman Betty Hart
Councilman Franklin Hibbs IV
Councilman Bill Sheckles
Councilman Roland E. Williams

Others present: City Attorney Audrey Haydon, City Clerk Mary Riley, Chief Financial Officer, Tracy Hudson, Police Chief Kim Kraeszig, Police Major Kevin Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief Todd Spalding, City Civil Engineer Jessica Filiatreau, Nelson County Gazette Reporter Jim Brooks, Kentucky Standard Reporter Randy Patrick, and Reporter Matt Gordon from PLG-TV. New Police Officer Brian Jennings and his family, Fire Department Captain Trevor Mattingly and his family and Fire Department Lieutenant Kevin Grayson and his family.

Mayor Heaton called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance take a moment to recognize the loss of Councilman David Dones' mother over the weekend. He expressed his condolences on behalf of all City personnel.

Mayor Heaton then announced that it was Councilman Sheckles' birthday and offered his congratulations.

MINUTES

THE MINUTES FOR THE 2/26/2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING WERE APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF POLICE OFFICER BRIAN JENNINGS

Police Chief Kraeszig introduced Officer Jennings and provided an overview of his background. Police Officer Jennings thanked the Mayor and Police Chief Kraeszig for this opportunity to serve the community and indicated he planned to do so with pride and integrity.

Mayor Heaton administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Brian Jennings which was followed by congratulatory applause.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL DUE TO PROMOTIONS

Assistant Fire Chief Spalding introduced Trevor Mattingly who was being promoted to the position of Captain, along with Kevin Grayson who was being promoted to the position of Lieutenant.

Each Fire Fighter was called forward and the Mayor administered the Oath of Office individually based on rank.

The Fire Fighters introduced their families that were there for support and those in attendance offered congratulatory applause.

Not all Fire Fighters that were to be sworn in that evening were in attendance due to an accident that occurred at the Barton Distillery. Assistant Fire Chief Spalding provided a brief update on the status of the incident.

FINANCE – BUDGET WORK UNDERWAY

CFO Hudson indicated that the budget projections are due from the department heads by mid-March. She and the Mayor will spend from that time to April to meet and discuss the figures. She anticipates having the budget to the city council by May 1st which will allow discussion throughout the month of May with the adoption of the budget in June of 2019.

FINANCE – PENSION INCREASE

Mayor Heaton indicated that the \$200,000 pension increase this upcoming budget year would take the City to approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in pension contributions each year. This anticipated amount is part of the phase-in program that was developed to avoid the annual lump sum payment plan that would have equated to eight hundred thousand (\$800,000) this year followed by another eight hundred thousand (\$800,000) the next year and the next year. The Mayor feels confident that Bardstown can meet its obligation since the recent growth of the community has expanded the tax base and allows us to offset this payment.

FINANCE – EXPENSE FOR NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Heaton explained the the City has not received any firm numbers by the architects but he anticipates a renovation cost for the new Fire Department of approximately five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). This expense will be incurred in the next fiscal year. CFO Hudson indicated that the cost would likely be funded through an in-house loan since the General Fund does not pay interest; however, if the costs exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), the City may need to seek a bond since the utility fund could not carry that financial burden.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Heaton compared the healthcare plan the City currently has to other cities across Kentucky who experience a substantial price increase each year. Since the City of Bardstown is self-insured, we don’t experience those annual price spikes. In addition, the cost-per-insured has decreased from approximately twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) per insured to eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per insured. He attributed part of that decrease to the wellness program the City has implemented that requires annual health screenings, in addition to the change last year to the Workmans Compensation provider.

The Mayor then referred to a spreadsheet he had created and distributed to the council that outlined the revenue and expenses of each department through January 2019, including the “trending” percentage of each department. Both he and CFO Hudson explained each line item and answered questions from the council.

COUNCIL UPDATES / COMMENTS

Councilman Hart reminded those in attendace of the meetings being held that night with the organizations United for Recovery and the PATH Coalition. She and Police Chief Kraeszig will have a separate meeting with their representatives prior to the meeting that is open to the public. She hopes to report on the results at the next council meeting.

Councilman Hibbs shared that Fire Department Assistant Chief Spalding recently invited him to watch a rope rescue demonstration by fire department personnel. He was quite impressed and commended the staff on their skills.

Councilman Sheckles reported there was a Safety Committee meeting next Thursday. There are certain restaurant and bar owners who would like to talk to the committee about extending their hours of operation.

Mayor Heaton pointed out the invitation the council had to the Civil War Museum to see their new display entitled: The Grand Replica “H.L. Hunley” – Civil War Submarine on March 23, 2019 at 6:00pm.

MAYOR’S REPORT – MURAL POLICY PROPOSAL

Mayor Heaton indicated there were locations in the City that could handle a non-commercial mural and since billboards are prohibited, it is important that establish a process to beautify and not commercialize the town. This year, the City will adorn a water tower with the new City logo and a welcome message and he believes there are other ways to establish and expand our brand. More information will come as a policy is developed and plans are made to utilize murals in our community.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:53 PM. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BUCKMAN AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 6 TO 0.

CITY OF BARDSTOWN

J. Richard Heaton, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary Riley, City Clerk