

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Flynn
INVOCATION - Rev. William Newell

PRESIDING :

Mayor Edallen York Burtner

PRESENT:

Commissioner JoEllen Reed
Commissioner Shannon Cox
Commissioner Ramsey Flynn
Commissioner Kitty Strode

Interim City Manager Mike Flynn and City Clerk Joy Curtis were present. City Attorney William A. Dykeman was present via conference call.

Upon determining that a quorum was present for the transaction of business, Mayor Burtner called the August 18, 2020 regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

**Request to Close Main Street
Winchester Art Guild
Arts on Main Street Fair**

The request from the Winchester Art Guild to close Main Street from Washington Street to Lexington Avenue on October 3, 2020 for the Arts on Main Street Fair was deferred until the Art Guild received approval from the Health Department due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Request to Close Lexington Avenue
from Main Street to Wall Alley
Small Night Market**

The request from Chad Walker to block Lexington Avenue from Main Street to Wall Alley on October 3, 2020 for a Night Market was deferred until approval was received from the Health Department due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Request to Name Parking Lot
on North Main Street**

On motion by Commissioner Strode, seconded by Commissioner Reed, and with unanimous vote, the Board named the North Main Street parking lot "Parklett on North Main" as a temporary name.

Mayor Burtner noted he had received an email from former Commissioner Kenny Book to name the park after Jimmy Allen.

Save Our Children Rally

The Board reviewed the request from Amanda Todd to hold a rally in front of the courthouse on Saturday, August 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Burtner directed the City Clerk to contact Ms. Todd to inform her she needed to contact the County Judge’s office regarding this matter.

Commissioner Cox made the motion to institute a policy that the City does not vote on street closures unless the request comes before the packets are sent out on the Friday before the meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

**Grant Funding for
Under 319H Program**

Stephanie Blaine, Palmer Engineering spoke regarding applying for grant funds under the 319H Program which requires a 40% match and projects to be on watersheds.

Engineering Tech Stephens reported the Public Works Committee had been investigating complaints about high water on Vaught Road. He noted they found multiple sources feeding in to one location, hitting the same spot at the same time causing massive flooding in the area behind Giovanni’s and further down to KY 627.

Ms. Blaine explained the issue with regard to solutions Palmer Engineering came up with to fix the flooding issues in the Vaught Road area. She noted they used the map from the sanitary sewer study Palmer had done several years ago to work on the area of flooding.

Ms. Blaine noted there were four proposed options to correct the flooding issue:

1. Weir/Orifice south of Robert D. Campbell Junior High School
2. Weir/Orifice south of Robert D. Campbell Junior High School with excavation for detention area
3. Earth Berm south of Robert D. Campbell Junior High School
4. Streamside Pond between Hubbard Road and Country Club Road

Ms. Blaine noted that Palmer Engineering is recommending Alternative #2 with a cost of \$180,000 as it would be the most effective option to reduce peak flood stages. There is a cost to the City of 40% if the 319H grant is awarded. The next alternative recommended would be Alternative #3 with a cost of \$73,000 with a 50% efficacy. Ms. Blaine state this project would serve as a valuable first step in managing the flooding concerns within the Lower Howard’s Creek Watershed.

ORDINANCE S (Second Reading)

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING AN AD VALOREM TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND WATERCRAFT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021

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On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this ordinance passed second reading and was adopted. Ordinance No. 15-2020.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2-93 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 9.7 USE AND PARKING AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN THE CITY LIMITS

On motion by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Mayor Burtner, and with a two to three vote, with Commissioners Reed, Flynn, and Strode voting no, this ordinance failed.

Ms. Debbie Fatkin with Clark County Community Services spoke on behalf of the local organizations that assist the homeless:

“Our coalition of service providers works hard to tackle homelessness and **we are recognized regionally for our impactful work.**

Before COVID Community Services and the Homeless Coalition received a combined amount of \$800,000 in housing funds to serve the needs of those in **our community struggling with homeless.** On Sunday, August 9th, both CCHC and Community Services received notification from Kentucky Housing Corporation that they were awarding our agencies a total of \$534,000 through CARES Act funding to address homeless and housing **insecurity in the coming months.** **These funds were awarded to us because of our work with homeless individuals and families.**

We recognize that the intention of the ordinance amendment is not meant to do harm, but that doesn’t mean the impact of the policy change won’t cause harm. We believe the impact of this policy change and the full extent of the housing and homeless challenges facing our community are not fully understood by the Commission.

For example, if passed, people living in tents have no place to go due to COVID-19. **Both of our homeless shelters are operating at 50% capacity due to community spread of the virus and in an effect to keep the shelters safe for the clients and staff.** **The CDC has told us** “if individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living in

encampments to remain where they are.” **We are providing outdoor handwashing stations, mask and offer showers to provide hygiene resources.**

Successful policy is made when looking across the community broadly, rather **than being reactive to isolated issues.** **We urge you to not vote on this amendment and instead sanction a task force represented by the experts in the community, commissioners and mental health providers.**

We are a coalition of service providers in this community that believe all residents **of Winchester and Clark County have the right to safe and affordable housing.** **We are experts in assisting with housing security and homelessness.** We want to

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be and should be invited to the table and kept in the loop about issues related to homelessness in our community. We would love to see a task force, sanctioned by this Commission and with City representation, be established in lieu of the **policy change**. We all live here, we understand the concerns homeowners have and have the same concerns and want to address those concerns at the same **time finding solutions to assist those struggling with homelessness.**

I have positive stories of individuals that were in tents on private property in our **community**. Both with mental health **issues**. One living in a tent off Lexington Avenue and was brought to our attention when the property owner was **building**. This gentleman has been housed since September of **2017**. The 2nd individual is a Clark County native whose family has struggled to maintain contact with because she was in tents behind 84 Lumber and then behind Peddlers **Mall**. She was housed a year ago and because her family knows where she is has been able to be the support system she to maintain her mental **health**. Both of these individuals were able to stay in their tents while we went through the process of getting them housed.”

Ms. Fatkin noted there was not enough affordable housing in Winchester. She recommended establishing a task force to address the homeless issue and the shortness of affordable housing.

Commissioner Cox voiced his concerns regarding the homeless camp in his neighborhood as his neighbors have been sharing their concerns with him.

Commissioner Reed stated the goal is to have a roof over everyone’s head in this community. She noted the community needs to come together and commit to work together to solve the problem of homelessness in Winchester.

Ms. Michelle Bradburn, Ms. Tish Shupe, and Ms. Terry Davidson were present representing the organizations assisting the homeless.

Tom Hall, Pastor of the Franklin Avenue Church of the Living God voiced his concerns regarding the interactions his parishioners have encountered with the homeless people in the area of his church. He noted there were some who used abusive words to those leaving church.

Deputy Steve Morris, security team with the church, was also present.

Chief Palmer stated if any incidents happens at the church to contact the police department.

ORDERS (General)

AN ORDER APPROVING A REQUEST FROM THE WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES TO RELEASE THE UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 2745

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BOONESBORO ROAD, WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY (GRCHS GYMNASIUM & FIELDHOUSE)

On motion by Commissioner Strode, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-158.

AN ORDER ENTERING INTO A PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY AND WILLIAM & DEATRA NEWELL FOR MAINTENANCE OF CITY PROPERTY

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-159.

Mayor Burtner requested the Newell's to provide insurance with the City as a rider on their homeowner's insurance to protect them and the City from liability.

William and Deatra Newell were present.

AN ORDER AWARDING A BID FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 36 N BURNS AVENUE TO INNOVATIVE DEMOLITION

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-160.

AN ORDER AWARDING A BID FOR SEALING AND ASPHALT REPAIR ON CHURCH ALLEY TO CRAIG ROGERS

On motion by Mayor Burtner, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-161.

Engineering Tech Stephens noted the sealing and asphalt repair was going to be in the two City parking lots that exit onto Church Alley.

PERSONNEL ORDER (Second Reading)

AN ORDER AMENDING THE POSITION DESCRIPTION OF CITY MANAGER (Personnel and Pay Classification Plan)

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Strode, and with unanimous vote, this order passed second reading and was adopted. Order No. 2020-162.

PERSONNEL ORDERS (General)

AN ORDER ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF LINDA PATTEN, SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-163.

AN ORDER ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF KELLY SMITH, FIREFIGHTER III/PARAMEDIC

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Strode, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-164.

AN ORDER ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF LAURA MCKUNE, PTS/EMT

On motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and with unanimous vote, this order was adopted. Order No. 2020-165.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM MAYOR, CITY COMMISSIONERS, CITY ATTORNEY, AND CITY MANAGER

Commissioner Strode:

- Requested to change the September 1st meeting to another date as she would be working the Derby and would not be able to make the meeting.
- Stated there had been a good healthy discussion on homelessness and she supports a task force regarding this issue.

Commissioner Reed:

- She made the recommendation having a drive through Halloween Mania like what will take place during Readi-fest. She noted the cars could go around
- the courthouse and store owners could pass the candy to the children in the cars.
- Noted a constituent recommended having a reverse Christmas Parade where families could drive in the parade and decorate their vehicles, and there could be an event where storefronts could be decorated and citizens could vote on the best windows.

Commissioner Flynn:

- Requested the Board have Mr. Chad Walker in for a work session to discuss the vacant downtown buildings and what Lexington has done regarding this issue.
- Requested the newspaper have something in the paper to remind citizens of the sign ordinance so that people know when election signs can be put out.

Mayor Burtner

- Noted former Commissioner Kenny Book corresponded with the City and stated “When the City sold 31 East Broadway they owners of the property was to install a memorial sign. Stating that it was the location of the first site of an African American Church. They said after they got the remodeling done they would install the sign. Matt was working on this before he left.” Mayor Burtner noted there is an unveiling of a memorial sign on Friday, August 21st at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further business, on motion by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Reed, and with unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Edallen York Burtner, Mayor

Joy Curtis, City Clerk