



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Grant Application for Interpretive Signs for Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

The Paducah Board of Commissioners approved a municipal order to apply for the 2016 Certified Local Government Program grant in the amount of \$15,000. If awarded, the grant would require a \$10,000 match, cash or in-kind services, from the City. The grant is jointly administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Grants Administrator Sheryl Chino explained that the grant request is for the installation of two interpretive signs including landscaping, a viewing platform, and a sidewalk along Paducah's riverfront to educate the public about the certified water route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. On July 29, 2014, Paducah's riverfront became a certified site with the National Park Service for our site along the water route of the Trail of Tears. Between 1835 and 1839, eight contingents of Native Americans passed by Paducah with some spending the night or stopping along Paducah's riverfront. Two of the contingents were Creek, and six were Cherokee. The signs are proposed to be located in the grassy area on the river side of the floodwall near the Kentucky Avenue opening.

Resolution in Support of the Expansion of Premier Fire

By a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Allan Rhodes voting no, the Paducah Board of Commissioners approved a resolution in support of the expansion of Premier Fire, Inc. The company announced in 2014 plans to expand their Paducah headquarters by investing \$300,000 which would lead to the creation of 20 new full-time employees. To assist in this project, the City of Paducah will provide an incentive by rebating a portion of the payroll tax on those new positions for up to five years.

WKCTC Community Scholarship Program Presentation

WKCTC President Dr. Barbara Veazey along with Ashley Wright and Ken Wheeler made a presentation to the Paducah Board of Commissioners regarding the success of the Community Scholarship Program. The Community Scholarship Program motivates students to graduate high school and pursue a higher education by providing each Paducah and McCracken County high school graduate with a two-year tuition scholarship to West Kentucky Community & Technical College provided that each student register for the program, maintain a minimum grade point average and attendance record, and not have major disciplinary problems. Preliminary data indicates that the Program participants are staying enrolled in college longer and are earning higher grade point averages and more college credits when compared to the non-Program students. Annually since fiscal year 2011, the City has provided \$125,000 toward the program with the remaining program funds provided by McCracken County, the Rotary Club of Paducah, Paducah Junior College, Inc., and numerous private sources. Dr. Veazey asked for continued support of the Community Scholarship Program. A fundraising campaign also is beginning to raise \$5 million dollars. It costs \$500,000 each year to fund the tuition for the Program participants currently taking courses at WKCTC.

Edumedics Agreement

For the past two years, the City of Paducah has contracted with Edumedics, LLC for consulting and management services for employees covered by the City's health insurance plan who have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. The Paducah Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance to continue a contract with Edumedics for another two-year term. In the past two years, employee enrollment in the program has increased. At this time, 44 percent of the employees with one or more chronic diseases are enrolled in Edumedics. The program allows an employee to receive one-on-one in-depth consultations with a nurse practitioner regarding their health. Interim Human Resources Director Steve Doolittle says 55 employees are utilizing Edumedics with significant health improvements seen in employees especially those with high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Doolittle says, "We are receiving good feedback from the employees who participate." Based on the current participation, the City of Paducah will pay Edumedics \$4000 per month. The City's participation in Edumedics with the strategy to improve employee health has resulted in discounts from Anthem for the City's health insurance rates. The City has been able to keep the rates flat with no increase to premiums.

Quick Highlights



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- Mayor Kaler presented a Certificate of Appreciation and Duke and Duchess awards to Mike and Debbie Stone to celebrate the long history of the Stone-Lang Company in the Paducah area. It was founded in 1876 as a family-owned drug store. The company now provides medical products and hearing rehabilitation services at its four Kentucky locations.
- Boards and Commissions:
 - Edward Hely reappointed to the Electric Plant Board.
 - Calvin Shanks and Valerie Pollard reappointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Urban Renewal & Community Development Board.
 - Carol Young reappointed to the Nuisance Code Enforcement Board.
 - Jill Gott Wrye and Mark Whitlow reappointed to the Board of Ethics.
 - Beverly McKinley and Jay Page reappointed and Vic Patel appointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board.
- Municipal order approved to apply for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant in the amount of \$15,000. No local match is required. If awarded the funds would be used to purchase equipment for the Paducah Fire Department.
- Ordinance approved amending the lease agreement approved in March 2015 between the City and AT&T. AT&T leases space on the 800 MHz tower located at 510 Clark Street. The amendment corrects the lease payment amount and provides compensation for back rent owed.

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