



# City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at City Hall

## **Property Tax Levy Public Hearing and Ordinance Introduction (vote October 14)**

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance setting the real estate and personal property taxes for fiscal year 2015. A property tax levy public hearing was held at the beginning of the Commission meeting. The City's real estate tax levy is proposed to remain at 25.5 cents per \$100 assessed value. The revenue generated by the property tax is the City's second highest revenue source behind the payroll tax. The proposed rate of 25.5 cents is only slightly more than half of what the rate was twenty years ago in fiscal year 1995. At that time the real estate rate was 43.8 cents per \$100 assessed value. Since 1995 the City has made a conscious effort to lower the rates. In a survey of 18 Kentucky cities taken last fall, Paducah's tax rate is less than the group's average of 26.1 cents. The City's Compensating Rate, the rate that would keep the revenue at the same amount as this year, is 25.0 cents per \$100 assessed value. Kentucky Revised (KRS) Statutes permits a city to adjust the compensating rate upward by not more than 4 percent. With the proposed 25.5 cents, the City would be taking an amount less than the 4 percent allowed by KRS.

Also on the tax bill, residents may notice a change in the amount going to the Paducah Independent School District. Recently, the school board raised its tax rate by 0.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The school district's increase equals a \$2 increase on the tax bill for a home assessed at \$50,000. The ordinance also outlines the levies for the Paducah Independent School System and the Paducah Junior College. For example, a home assessed at \$50,000 in the City of Paducah and in the Paducah Independent School District will generate a property tax bill of \$521.50.



## **Downtown Hotel Update**

Paducah Riverfront Development Authority Executive Director Steve Doolittle and hotel developer David Puckett provided an update on the downtown hotel project. Puckett says the design plans are about half complete with work to design the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components underway. Puckett adds that the loan for the hotel will close next month with a groundbreaking to occur shortly thereafter. Puckett also showed a computer image of the exterior of the hotel.

In addition to the hotel design underway, Doolittle is working with local firms on the plans for the renovation to the former Showroom and Kincaid's lounge. The project is expected to be placed out to bid in December with work to start in January and be completed in time for the AQS QuiltWeek™. One of the major components of the Showroom project is the addition of a large suite of restrooms to service the new exhibition space.

## **Contract for Services for Paducah Transit Authority**

The Mayor and Commissioners approved an ordinance for a contract for services between the City and the Paducah Transit Authority. In the contract, the City will provide \$215,000. Paducah Area Transit System (PATS) Executive Director Arthur Boykin was invited to the meeting to provide a general overview of the services provided by PATS. PATS has a staff of 48 drivers and a budget of \$3.7 million with \$1.9 of that amount federally funded. Boykin says Paducah is unusual to have a fixed route service since its population is less than 50,000. He commends the City for developing the service. He says 147,000 individuals used the PATS fixed route service last year. The hours for the fixed routes on Monday through Friday are 8 a.m.



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until 5 p.m. Boykin says those times are difficult for some folks providing the example of a student trying to get to an 8 a.m. class. He adds that PATS used to offer extended hours, but budget constraints led to the trimming of the hours. PATS does offer a demand and response program (dial-a-ride) where people can call and prearrange transportation from 5 a.m. until 8 p.m. That program is more expensive to the customer but helps fill a transportation need without competing with local cab operators. Boykin invited the Paducah Board of Commissioners to tour the PATS facility and ride the routes.

### **Quick Highlights**

- Municipal order approved to apply for the Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services Safety Grant. The grant request is for \$3000 which requires an equal match from the City. The Police Department is requesting from KLC the reimbursement of reaccreditation fees (\$2,159.81) while the Parks Department is requesting funds for the purchase of engineered wood fiber for the playgrounds at Kolb and Stuart Nelson Parks (\$840.19).
- Mayor Gayle Kaler recognized the Paducah Police Department for receiving the Enterprise Cities Award through the Kentucky League of Cities in the Public Safety category. The City will receive the award at the KLC brunch on Friday. The award is for the Department's efforts to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving through the Don't Be In-text-icated program.
- The ribbon cutting for the Ohio River Boat Launch and the Greenway Trail project is October 22 at 2 p.m. The event will start at the Ohio River Boat Launch at North 6<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, and then a Paducah Trolley will take folks to the Greenway Trail.

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