



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Flooding Update

City Engineer-Public Works Director Rick Murphy briefed the Commission on the latest with the Ohio River flooding. Murphy announced the latest projection from the National Weather Service shows the Ohio River cresting in Paducah on Tuesday, May 3 at 53 feet. That is two feet lower than the crest projected yesterday. If the Ohio crests at 53 feet, it will match the flooding seen in 1950. As a visual, if the City of Paducah did not have a floodwall, a flood stage of 53 feet would mean that water would be three feet deep on Broadway. At this time Paducah has installed 37 of its 47 floodgates. Murphy will monitor the forecast. The final floodgates are necessary to close only if the Ohio is projected to crest higher than 53 feet. Murphy explained that the work to build a protective levee around the Julian Carroll Convention Center and the Expo Center is continuing. The revised forecast means the protective levee under construction will not need to be built as high as expected, but the City will be prepared to go higher if necessary. City Manager Jeff Pederson says the Convention Center has flood insurance and that the City is maintaining documentation in case the preventive measures qualify for FEMA reimbursement. Murphy also explained that water seepage through the floodgates is normal and expected. Murphy says, "The seepage structurally has no effect on the gates." Mayor Bill Paxton thanked the hard work by the City staff in installing the floodgates. Mayor Paxton says, "It just shows what a good group of people we have working for the City." Pederson says the City and County have been working together to make sure that citizens and property are safe. Pederson says, "There's a lot of good coordination and cooperation out there."

Live on Broadway Presentation

Karson Kelly and Jeff Spicer provided the Mayor and Commission with the preliminary plans for the Live on Broadway events which will start on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and run through the end of July. The event is 7-10 p.m. on Saturday evenings in downtown Paducah. Spicer says for this year to expect additional lighting, valet parking on a golf cart, an inviting entryway into the downtown, and street cafes with musical entertainment. Spicer says there will be five categories of entertainment: visual arts, performing arts, music, vendors, and interactive events. Kelly and Spicer were hired by Paducah Renaissance Alliance (PRA) to organize this year's event. Paducah Renaissance Alliance Interim Director Jessica Perkins is working on a regional advertising campaign for Live on Broadway which includes radio and television advertisement and billboards. For more information about Live on Broadway: Arts, Rhythm, and Dinner, visit <http://www.paducahalliance.org/liveonbroadway>.

Demolition of Hotel on Irvin Cobb Drive (vote May 10)

The Mayor and Commission introduced an ordinance for a contract in the amount of \$33,900 with Jones Excavating/Demolishing for the demolition of the old Quality Inn, also known as the Economy Inn, located at 1379 Irvin Cobb Drive. The hotel has been condemned since October 2008. The property has been in litigation for the past two years. The month, the court gave the City permission to move forward with the demolition.

Jackson House Elevator Project

The City of Paducah has been notified that it will receive the Community Development Block Grant administered by the Kentucky Department for Local Government for the Jackson House Elevator



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Project. The Mayor and Commission approved an ordinance to accept the grant award in the amount of \$1 million. The grant does not require a match from the City; however, the Western Kentucky Senior Citizens Union Labor Housing Corporation, the legal non-for-profit entity that owns the apartment building, has pledged \$114,100 toward the project. The Jackson House is an apartment building located at 301 South 9th Street. The project involves renovating the building's two existing elevators and constructing a new elevator and entrance on the southwest corner of the building. Commissioner Gerald Watkins, who initiated the City's involvement in helping the Jackson House receive the grant, says, "We are all just thrilled to death to accept this grant." Mayor Bill Paxton says, "Structurally the Jackson House is sound. Getting those elevators repaired and replaced is the right thing to do."

In addition to the ordinance accepting the grant award, the City Commission has several additional actions necessary for grant compliance.

- Municipal order approved ratifying the preliminary approval for the project.
- Ordinance introduced (vote May 10) outlining the project budget and fund maintenance.
- Ordinance introduced (vote May 10) for a legally binding agreement that codifies the terms and conditions of the award.

Acquisition of Property and Building from Margaret Hank Church

The Mayor and Commission approved an ordinance for a deed of conveyance on behalf of the City with Margaret Hank Memorial Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the Church's Life Center Building located at 1527 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The Church contacted the City in November 2010 about the purchase of the Life Center Building which includes a gymnasium, meeting rooms, kitchen, stage, and restrooms. The City will purchase the 19 year old building for \$250,000. The Church will hold a zero-interest note with the City paying for the building over an eight-year period. With the acquisition of the Life Center Building and after some upgrades including a new gym floor, the City will opt out of its lease on the Jetton Gym. The various Parks Department activities currently held at Jetton Gym will then take place at the Life Center Building. Since the Life Center Building has air-conditioning, Thompson hopes to expand the programs offered by the Parks Department.

Zone Change and Final Annexation for Property at 2540 Lone Oak Road

On March 8, 2011, the Mayor and Commission approved the intent to annex for property located at 2540 Lone Oak Road. Gasada, Inc., the owner of the property, requested that the property which contains 1.51 acres and a 14,476 square foot commercial strip center be annexed into the City. At this meeting the Mayor and Commission approved two additional ordinances related to the property: the zone change and the final annexation. The property owner requested that the zoning for the property be changed from R-1 (low density residential) to HBD (highway business district). This request is approved by the Paducah Planning Commission. The property is adjacent to the existing city limits for the City of Paducah and across the street from Mount Kenton Cemetery.

Quick Highlights:

- Mayor Bill Paxton presented a proclamation to Sandy Hart proclaiming the month of May as "Thank a Veteran Month".
- Municipal order approved to transfer the property at 1707 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from the City of Paducah to Urban Renewal. This property will be marketed as part of the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Project.
- Municipal order approved to submit a membership application to the Kentucky Housing Corporation's HouseWorks Repair Program for future funding to assist low income homeowners to buy down the cost of the rehabilitation of their home in the Fountain Avenue neighborhood.



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- Municipal order approved to submit an application to the Kentucky Heritage Council to determine if properties located at 331 and 333 North 16th Street are eligible for the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.
- Municipal order approved to transfer \$15,000 from the Commission contingency fund to the Paducah Renaissance Alliance budget to fund a sponsorship for the LowerTown Arts and Music Festival which will be held May 20-22.
- Ordinance introduced (vote May 10) to accept the Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services Safety Grant award in the amount \$6000. The funds will be used to purchase personal protective equipment and for registration to KMESHA. This grant requires a cash match of \$7225.
- Ordinance introduced (vote May 10) to accept the bid in the amount of \$41,620 from Minter Roofing to replace the roof on Fire Station #3 (1421 Friedman Lane).
- City Manager Jeff Pederson says that budget meetings are underway between the Finance Department and each City Department. Starting next week, the second round of budget meetings will take place. Pederson says the City's revenue projections are flat.

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