



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Paducah Recognized as One of America's 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations

Mary Hammond with the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau announced to the City Commission that Paducah has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Hammond says, "I'm proud every day, but I'm really proud this week of Paducah and its people." According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, since 2000, the non-profit organization has recognized cities and towns that offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture, cultural landscapes, and a strong commitment to historic preservation, sustainability, and revitalization. The designation recognizes communities where residents have joined together and taken action to protect their town's character. This designation does not expire; however, through March 15, the CVB urges everyone to vote once per day for Paducah to make it the 2011 "Fan Favorite". Vote for Paducah by visiting www.preservationnation.org/ddd. Last week, Paducah was named one of the five most romantic main streets by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Contract Between City of Paducah and IAFF Local 168 (vote Feb. 22)

The Commission introduced an ordinance for a three year contract between the City of Paducah and IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters) Local 168. Mayor Pro Tem Gayle Kaler says "It's good to have that good working relationship with unions in our City." Commissioner Gerald Watkins says, "It's nice to have a contract done in an amicable manner in a short period of time." Commissioner Carol Gault adds, "It appears there was a lot of trust at the table." The current contract expires June 30, 2011. The union voted to approve this new contract last week. The contract provides for a 1%, 1.75%, and 2.5% increase in wages for the next three years respectively. The contract also provides for a one-time clothing allowance payment of \$450 to purchase dress uniforms and revises the language to provide for greater flexibility and standardization of health insurance benefits.

Memorandum of Understanding with Higdon Development (vote Feb. 22)

The Commission introduced an ordinance for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City of Paducah and Higdon Development, Inc. Higdon is proposing to build a multi-family residential development of 200 apartment units adjacent to Stuart Nelson Park and the Greenway Trail on vacant land owned by Higdon. Each unit will be approximately 1200 square feet with two or three bedrooms. Philip Higdon says, "It will be a nice high-end apartment project." Higdon says the apartment complex will have a pool, clubhouse, and workout facility. The approximately \$12 million project will start as soon as the weather permits. Commissioner Richard Abraham says, "Hopefully with this development it will push some life into that park [Stuart Nelson Park]. The project may be completed in two phases. Since this infill development helps maintain growth within the City limits, the City of Paducah agrees to reimburse Higdon Development for the costs to construct and install the public improvements including streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, storm sewers etc. up to an amount not to exceed the total amount of ad valorem real property taxes assessed over a ten year period. The development may be completed in two phases, and the City agrees to enter into an agreement for each of the phases. However, the agreement outlines that if the agreement for Phase II is not executed within five years of the adoption of this MOU, the City is not obligated to enter into the second agreement. The MOU also outlines the City's commitment in



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improving the intersection of County Park Road and the proposed Greenway Drive by the end of this calendar year. The City also commits to improving the intersection of Stuart Nelson Park Road and the proposed Greenway Drive in the future. Both roadway improvements will be located in existing City of Paducah rights-of-way.

Executive Inn Phase II Project—Convention Center Wall Restoration (vote Feb. 17)

The Commission introduced an ordinance to accept the recommendation by PRDA (Paducah Riverfront Development Authority) and award Ray Black and Son, Inc. of Paducah the contract for the second phase of the Executive Inn project. The first phase was the liquidation and demolition of the hotel. The second phase is the restoration of more than 400 feet of the exterior wall of the Julian Carroll Convention Center that was connected to the hotel. The bids for the project were opened February 8 with the PRDA board meeting to discuss the bids on February 10. PRDA recommends Ray Black and Son, Inc. with their lowest base bid of \$875,500. The project will be substantially complete by April 22. In order to expedite the project and allow the contractor to begin ordering materials, the City Commission will hold a called meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17 to vote on this ordinance.

Regarding the demolition of the hotel, PRDA Executive Director Steve Doolittle says the hotel will be down within the next couple of days with the site to be cleared by April 1. The contractor is working through the rubble and separating recyclables and concrete. The concrete will be stored near the Farmer’s Market parking lot to be used as fill material for riverfront projects. Doolittle says that Phase I and Phase II were estimated to cost \$1.2 million. The two phases will end up totaling slightly more than \$1.1 million. Doolittle says, “The project has gone exceptionally well for us.”

New Store to Open Downtown, “BBQ & More” (vote Feb. 22)

The Commission introduced an ordinance for a one-year contract between the City of Paducah and Barbeque on the River, Inc. in the amount of \$20,000. The funds will be used as the organization constructs a retail store called “BBQ & More” in downtown Paducah. BBQ & More will have a kitchen to conduct taste-testing, cooking classes, and cooking competitions. The store will sell sauces and rubs of local BBQ vendors in addition to BBQ merchandise. The store will be open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Quick Highlights:

- Boards and Commissions: Deborah Edmonds reappointed to Commissioners of Water Works; Harold Coleman reappointed to Board of Ethics; Lenny Powley and Larry Rudolph reappointed to Paducah-McCracken County Urban Renewal and Community Development Agency.
- Municipal order approved for a lease between the City of Paducah and Josh Goodwin. Goodwin is leasing approximately 120 acres of the sports park property off Sheehan Bridge Road for agricultural purposes. The City will receive \$7400.
- Municipal order to transfer \$40,700 from the Commission Contingency account to pay for a pay and classification study. McGrath Consulting Group will conduct the study for a base fee of \$35,667 with additional expenses not to exceed \$5000.
- Municipal order approved for the amended Summary Plan Description for the City’s health insurance plan.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a Law Enforcement Service Fee Grant through the Kentucky Justice Cabinet in the amount of \$50,000. The grant would require a 25% match. If awarded, the funds would be used for DUI enforcement programs.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Law Enforcement Protection Program grant in the amount of \$3000. The funds would be used to purchase three canine body armors. No local match is required.



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- Municipal order approved to apply for the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$114,996 which would be used by the Police Department for equipment, overtime, and training for traffic enforcement activities.
- Ordinance approved for the purchase of an air fill system in the amount of \$38,199 from Advanced Fire & Rescue Equipment. The air fill system will allow the Fire Department to refill its air bottles. The purchase will be funded by an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The grant in the amount of \$76,783 requiring a match of \$8531 has also allowed the Fire Department to purchase thermal imaging cameras and deluge nozzles.
- Ordinance approved for a contract with McGrath Consulting Group, Inc. to conduct a pay and classification study for the City. The base fee will be \$35,667 with additional expenses not to exceed \$5000.
- Ordinance approved for an agreement with Humana to provide administrative services related to the City's health insurance plan for claims incurred prior to December 31, 2010 that are received and processed during the 2011 plan year. Effective January 1, the City adopted Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield as the City's third party administrator.
- Ordinance approved for an agreement with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for stop loss insurance to protect the City's health insurance plan in the event of a catastrophic claim(s).
- Ordinance approved for the purchase of five digital in-car cameras from L-3 Communications/Mobile Vision in the amount of \$23,975. A Justice Assistance Grant is providing the funds for the purchase.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Feb. 22) to amend Police Chief James Berry's employment contract. The amendment adjust Chief Berry's rate of vacation leave accrual.

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