



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Update on Convention Center Activities

Patrick Kerr, Executive Director of the Paducah-McCracken County Convention and Expo Centers, provided the City Commission with an update on the Convention Center activities. Kerr says since September 2009, approximately 30,000 people have been through the convention centers in addition to another 30,000 people for the Quilt Show. Kerr adds that 20% of the visitors are from out-of-town, and he is noticing repeat business. Kerr says, "We have started to pick up some of that regional business. Plus, some of the local business that we haven't had in quite a long time is coming back." In looking at the rates for rentals and how much it costs to service the rentals, Kerr says he is confident that the rates being charged are appropriate. For this fiscal year, the City of Paducah is providing a \$175,000 operating subsidy to the Convention Center Corporation. Kerr says that it costs approximately \$2000 per day to keep the convention centers open.

Changes Coming to Comcast

Patricia Collins and Tim Hagan of Comcast briefed the City Commission on changes for local Comcast subscribers. In April, Comcast will begin the process of the transition to a digital format. Customers will need to have a digital set-top box or digital adapter from Comcast or a third-party device for each television on which they wish to continue receiving Comcast video services. Customers will begin receiving letters, postcards, and phone calls to notify them about the changes. There will be a webpage and 1-800 telephone number set up for questions. As part of this digital change, Comcast will be able to provide some new features for customers depending upon their tier of service. Some of the new features may include faster internet speeds, thousands of hours of free programming On Demand, and up to 100 high definition channels.

Executive Inn Demolition Change Order

The City Commission approved an emergency ordinance for change order #2 for the Executive Inn Liquidation/Demolition Project. The change order adds the construction of a balcony and supporting beams to the exterior wall of the Julian Carroll Convention Center. During the demolition process, it was discovered that cutting the floor to separate the hotel and convention center where it was originally proposed would cause the convention center's exterior wall to be unstable. Adding the balcony and beam is the most cost-effective way to stabilize the wall. The change order, in the amount of \$24,214.95, increases the contract price with Youngblood Excavating and Contracting to \$226,214.95.

Background of Change Order #1: Change order #1 was approved in August 2010. It added the removal of the hotel signage and post located at 3rd Street and Executive Boulevard to the contract at no additional cost. It also added commercial kitchen equipment, which belonged to the Convention Center Corporation, to the liquidation. The liquidation vendor paid \$15,000 for the kitchen equipment, and the City gave the \$15,000 to the CCC. The liquidation of the kitchen equipment reduced the contract amount for the liquidation and demolition from \$217,000 to \$202,000.

Expansion of Jefferson Street/Fountain Avenue National Historic District Project

The City Commission approved a municipal order to apply for a grant through the Certified Local Government grant program administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Park



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Service. The grant request is for an award of \$4950 with a local cash match of \$4,050. The funds would be used for the survey and administrative work necessary to petition for the expansion of the Jefferson Street/Fountain Avenue National Historic District Project. The proposed district expansion includes seven (7) full blocks and six (6) half blocks in the area northeast of Lang Park (also known as Circle Park).

Proposed Workshop for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Properties

The City Commission approved a municipal order to apply for a grant through the Certified Local Government grant program administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Park Service. The grant request is for an award of \$4000 with a local cash match of \$3500. If awarded the funds would be used to hold a three day workshop sponsored by Paducah Renaissance Alliance, the Mid-Town Alliance of Neighbors, WKCTC, and the City of Paducah, on the preservation and restoration of historic properties. The target audience for the first two days of the workshop would be contractors and WKCTC students with hands-on demonstrations. The third day of the workshop would be the general public. Serenitea located at 121 North 5th Street has agreed to donate its facilities for the workshop which will be held April 14-16.

Proposed Paducah Power Substation

City Manager Jeff Pederson attended his first meeting as a member of the Paducah Power board on Monday. Pederson says the residents who live near the proposed substation on Lovelaceville Road had the opportunity to hear the technical discussion and ask questions. Pederson says the board is looking at alternative locations. Pederson adds that there will not be a final decision by the board for 60 days.

Quick Highlights:

- Hardy Roberts appointed to the Electric Plant Board.
- Municipal order approved to lease 137 square feet of office space located at 400 South 6th Street to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Housing, Building, and Construction Department, HVAC Division. The lease amount is \$393.88 per quarter.
- Ordinance approved amending the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement for the 800 MHz rebanding with Sprint/Nextel and Motorola.
- Ordinance approved for a contract between the City and Peel & Holland for the administration of the City's health insurance. Peel & Holland assists the city regarding the administration, renewal, claim resolution, cost containment, and the bidding process of the City's health insurance plan. In the contract, the City will pay Greg Carlton, consultant with Peel & Holland, a service fee of \$60,000. Also in the contract is an additional fee of \$200 per hour with a minimum retainer of \$5000 for services requested by the City or the City's legal counsel for issues that may arise including employer/employee bargaining.
- Ordinance approved to close a portion of Deer Lick Place north of Ogilvie Avenue and south of Crooked Creek. The request to close the section of road was submitted by the adjoining property owner. The road closure is recommended by the Planning Commission.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Feb. 15) 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 introduced (vote Feb. 15) 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 introduced (vote Feb. 15) 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



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January 1, the City adopted Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield as the City's third party administrator.

- Ordinance introduced (vote Feb. 15) 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 introduced (vote Feb. 15) 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.

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