



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Paducah Renaissance Alliance Update

Paducah Renaissance Alliance (PRA) Chairperson Maurie McGarvey, Vice Chair John Campbell, and Todd Duff provided the Mayor and Commission an update on the progress of the 11-member volunteer board since its reorganization last fall. In that time, the board has had numerous formal and informal meetings with elected officials and district stakeholders to hear concerns and comments. The information is being used to shape a work plan with the purpose of increasing foot traffic in downtown and LowerTown, creating a more dynamic vibe, and enhancing and promoting the art experience. Regarding the arts Campbell says, "When you drive into LowerTown, you don't get the feeling you're in an arts district. You get the feeling you are in a really nice neighborhood." Other aspects in PRA's plan include increasing the downtown population through affordable housing and aggressively promoting economic incentive programs. McGarvey adds that the board currently is interviewing for an executive director. McGarvey says, "We have three interviews lined up for later this week. We are moving ahead."

Changes to City of Paducah's Fireworks Laws (vote June 21)

Effective March 2011, the State of Kentucky changed its laws regarding fireworks legalizing the sale and use of all fireworks within specific guidelines. Previously the only fireworks allowed in the State did not have the ability to explode or have a report. On May 24, the Paducah City Commission introduced an ordinance to change Paducah's fireworks regulations to align with the State. However, after further review, the ordinance introduced in May needed significant changes to comply with State laws. At this meeting, the Mayor and Commissioners introduced the newly revised ordinance with a vote scheduled for June 21. The main change is that Paducah will allow the sale of fireworks that leave the ground, explode, or have a report; however, they will not be allowed to be discharged within the City limits due to the density of homes and other structures.

Type of Fireworks: Paducah will continue to allow ground and handheld sparkling devices; however, aerial devices and audible ground devices will not be allowed to be used in the City. The changes in the State laws allow those devices; however, those fireworks are not to be used within 200 feet of any structure, motor vehicle, or other person. In researching the 200-foot regulation, the Paducah Fire Department worked with Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) staff to plot a 200-foot radius around every structure in Paducah. The map demonstrated Paducah's density of homes and structures greatly limit the available locations to shoot fireworks.

Sale of Fireworks: With this ordinance to comply with State law, Paducah will allow registered dealers to sell the various types of fireworks, including those that leave the ground, explode, or have a report, within the City limits. Fireworks that explode or shoot into the air were previously illegal in Kentucky. Paducah's ordinance outlines a specific set of requirements for seasonal and permanent fireworks retailers.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget (vote June 28)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2012 City Budget. Mayor Bill Paxton says, "I'm proud to say we have a balanced budget. That's why we have a high bond rating, AA-, which is extremely high in the bond world." The City's fiscal year begins July 1.



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The City of Paducah maintains a \$43 million budget with the majority, \$30.4 million, in the general fund which is the City's main operating fund. The budget reflects the decision made at the July 7 budget workshop. A budget draft can be found on the City's website at www.paducahky.gov.

Quick Highlights:

- Municipal order approved to apply for a grant in the amount of \$144,000 through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to replace 45 of the Police Department's 90 hand-held radios. No local match is required.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a grant in the amount of \$125,000 through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for the purchase of emergency generators. No local match is required.
- Municipal order approved to apply for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for equipment for the HazMat One Regional Response Team. No local match is required. HazMat One serves the eleven western counties of Kentucky.
- Ordinance approved for the legally binding agreement for the Jackson House Elevator Project.
- Ordinance approved authorizing the payment in the amount of \$29,788.89 to AES Environmental LLC for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste from the April 16, 2011 Spring Clean Up Day event.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 28) to approve revisions to Chapter 42, Nuisance Code Enforcement, of the Code of Ordinances. The two significant changes to the ordinance include changing the appeal time from the Nuisance Code Enforcement Board to District Court from seven to 30 days and limiting the maximum number of vehicles to four that can be kept in the open on private residential properties. For the purpose of the ordinance, the definition of "vehicle" does not mean car or trucks but instead means boats, campers, motorhomes, ATV's, trailers, etc.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 28) to accept a grant through the Certified Local Government grant program administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Park Service. The grant is \$4950 with a local match of \$4,050. The funds will 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).
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 28) for an employment agreement with Cindy Medford to serve as Paducah's Human Resources Director. Medford currently is the City's Risk Manager. That function will become a part of the Human Resources Department.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 28) for a contract with the Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$25,000 on behalf of the American Quilter's Society to be used for marketing and promoting of events related to the 2011 AQS Quilt Show. The funds provide a local match for a State Tourism grant.
- City Manager Jeff Pederson says there will be a municipal order introduced at the June 21 Commission meeting for a pilot program for Dream Green, a recyclables collection program. The two women who founded Dream Green won the business plan competition through EntrePaducah.

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