



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

FY2013 Budget Ordinance (vote June 26)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2013 City Budget. The City's fiscal year begins July 1. Approval of the budget ordinance is set for June 26. A budget workshop was held June 5. City Manager Jeff Pederson says, "The City has done a remarkable job of managing expenses." Pederson adds, "A lot of work went into this budget. I'm especially proud of the department directors." Each department head evaluated programs and individual budgetary line items to make the budget as efficient and tight as possible. But Pederson says next year's budget will be challenging since the growth of expenses is outpacing the growth of revenue. Plus, one source of revenue, the insurance premium tax, has been on a steady decline. Pederson says, "If this trend continues, next year we may be talking about program reductions that may have a measurable impact." Pederson says one of the expenses affecting cities across the state is the state-mandated pension increases. Pederson calls the increases "astronomical".

To become more efficient, the City also has reduced its workforce by 10%, 33 full-time employees, over the past five years through retirements, attrition, and the layoffs in 2009. For fiscal year 2013, the City has budgeted 309 full-time employees as compared to the 342 employees in fiscal year 2007.

The majority of the City's budget, \$30.89 million, is in the general fund, the City's main operating fund. The City operates its finances through more than 20 different funds including the general fund, investment fund, police and fire pension fund, solid waste fund, fleet lease trust fund, and health insurance trust fund. The general fund is projected to have a slight increase in revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. But that revenue increase is only one percent, basically flat. The four main sources of revenue for the General Fund are payroll tax, insurance premium tax, business license tax, and property tax. Pederson also summarized some of the items contained in the investment fund, which is funded by the ½ cent payroll tax and dedicated to economic development, community redevelopment, capital/infrastructure improvements, and property tax relief. The projected available fund balance for the Investment Fund for the upcoming fiscal year is \$4.98 million.

Creation of Fire Prevention Division (vote June 26)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance creating the Fire Prevention Division of the Paducah Fire Department. This ordinance abolishes the Inspection Department with the employees and duties, functions, and responsibilities of that department moved to the Fire Prevention Division. City Manager Jeff Pederson says, "This does represent a major reorganization within the City." This ordinance creating the Fire Prevention Division affects five chapters of the Paducah Code of Ordinances. Fire Chief Steve Kyle provided the Mayor and Commission an overview of the changes.

Over the past few months after the death of Inspection Director Joel Scarbrough, the City Manager has looked at reorganizing the Inspection Department. In February, the Fire Department began overseeing the department through a pilot program. Two meetings have been held with contractors to gain their feedback. Pederson says, "There was an opportunity to bring a new look, philosophy, and new eyes to create change at a cultural level." Mayor Bill Paxton says, "Inspection is so very, very important to a city. It covers so many areas." Mayor Paxton adds that economic development is affected by the inspection process. Fire Chief Steve Kyle says, "It's going to be a long process, but we have made strides." He is focusing on enhancing customer service and improving service



Contact: Pam Spencer, Public Information Officer
City of Paducah • P.O. Box 2267 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002
270/444-8669 • Office 270/443-5058 • Fax
<http://www.paducahky.gov> Email: pspencer@ci.paducah.ky.us

delivery. In the past few months, several changes already have been initiated including the purchase of basic supplies for the code enforcement officers, development of criteria for foreclosures, office renovation, movement toward a paperless office, integration of a document management service, and the scheduling of training.

Approve Additional Deputy Building Inspector II Position

The Mayor and Commissioners approved a motion authorizing a Deputy Building Inspector II position to improve customer service and efficiency regarding inspections. This position was discussed at the June 5 budget workshop. To help fund the position, a currently unfilled clerical position will be abolished.

Amend Zoning Ordinance to Change Height of Signs in POP Zone (vote June 26)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance to amend section 126-76 (1) of the Paducah Code of Ordinances regarding signs in the Planned Office Park (POP) zone. The POP zone includes Information Age Park off U.S. 62. The current ordinance allows for business signs not to exceed four feet in height above grade. If approved, this ordinance would allow signs up to 12 feet in height. Currently, West Kentucky Publishing, Marquette Transportation, AEP, and Lynx Services all have signs out of compliance since they are taller than allowed in the current ordinance. The Paducah Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 21, 2012 regarding the change and with a vote of 4-3 made a negative recommendation to the City Commission.

Kentucky Fire Chief of the Year Award

The Mayor and Commissioners recognized Paducah Fire Chief Steve Kyle for his recent award through the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Kyle received the Fire Chief of the Year Award when he attended the opening ceremony for the 83rd Annual Kentucky Homeland Security Conference and State Fire School held June 8 in Lexington. Mayor Bill Paxton says, "I think we have the best fire chief in the country." Commissioner Carol Gault praised Chief Kyle for his positive attitude and thanked his family for their support. Commissioner Gault says, "You do everything with such a positive attitude that we forget how much you do." Commissioner Gayle Kaler says, "A lot (of responsibility) is given to you, and a lot is expected. We know you can fulfill those expectations."

Quick Highlights:

- Commissioner Gayle Kaler presented a Duke of Paducah award to Rick Ladt. Ladt served on the Airport Board for approximately ten years.
- Boards and Commissions: Amber'Lee Douglas and David White appointed to Paducah Human Rights Commission; Sherline Holland-Cooper and Faye Pittman appointed to and Randall Dawson reappointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Senior Citizens, Inc.; and Basil Drossos reappointed to the Paducah-McCracken County Joint Sewer Agency.
- Municipal order approved to increase the rental fees for the Robert Cherry Civic Center. The fees have not been adjusted since July 2009. The rate changes will go into effect July 1.
- Municipal order approved to apply for the 2012 FM Global Fire Prevention Grant in the amount of \$2500. If awarded the grant will be used to assist in the cost of the assessments and interviews of youth participating in the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program. No cash match is required.
- Municipal orders approved for the sale of surplus property located at 1009 South 8th Street, 2226 Seitz Street, and 626 Burnett Street. The properties will be sold for \$100, \$105, and \$268, respectively.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 26) for the annual service agreement between the City of Paducah and Motorola for the 800 MHz radio controllers, individual department radios, 911 dispatch consoles, telephones, and other related radio equipment. The contract is in the amount of \$57,894.36.



Contact: Pam Spencer, Public Information Officer
City of Paducah • P.O. Box 2267 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002

270/444-8669 • Office 270/443-5058 • Fax

<http://www.paducahky.gov> Email: pspencer@ci.paducah.ky.us

- Ordinance introduced (vote June 26) for the 5th amendment to the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement with Sprint/Nextel and Motorola for the 800 MHz rebanding.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 26) for the wall-to-wall maintenance agreement with Herb Roe of the murals located on the City's floodwall along Water Street. The amount budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year is \$24,900 which includes travel and lodging expenses and the maintenance on four murals. The murals that will receive attention include the Red Coat Ambassadors Mural, the Labor Union Mural, the 1910 Riverfront (panels 2 and 3), and the three panels of the Atomic Murals. Work currently is underway on the murals.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 26) to authorize the payment of \$30,101.50 to AES Environmental LLC for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste from the annual City/County Spring Clean Up Day event held April 14, 2012. A \$27,000 grant from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management helps with the event expenses.
- Ordinance introduced (vote June 26) to approve the contract between the City of Paducah, WKCTC, and Paducah Junior College for the operation of the public and government access channels. The City provides \$60,000 annually for the television production services in addition to providing \$0.25 per Comcast subscriber per month for the services.
- Paducah Renaissance Alliance Executive Director Lisa Thompson says that Live on Broadway has been well attended for the past three Saturdays. She praises the downtown businesses for opening during the evening.

###



Contact: Pam Spencer, Public Information Officer
City of Paducah • P.O. Box 2267 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002
270/444-8669 • Office 270/443-5058 • Fax
<http://www.paducahky.gov> Email: pspencer@ci.paducah.ky.us