

2022

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

ANNUAL REPORT



<http://paducahky.gov/commission-priorities>

2022 City Commission Priorities

The City Commission Priorities reflects the 10 highest priorities of the Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2022. A quarterly update on the 10 priority action items and continuous improvement items was provided to the Board of Commissioners in mid-April, July and October. This is the annual report for the Commission Priorities. A communications plan was implemented for each priority action item. Finally, the Board of Commissioners and City Manager’s Office were involved in each priority item.

| Priority | Objective | Actions | Key Team Members | Update |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 911 Radio/Tower Upgrades and Operational Funding | Establish an agreement with the County to create a sustainable revenue source, establish governance and make necessary capital improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Joint 911 Committee in their efforts to recommend governance structure, capital improvements and a sustainable revenue source for both capital and operations | Chief Laird, Jon Perkins, Chief Kyle & Lindsay Parish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: The City issued the joint 911 RFP on December 2, 2022. Responses are due March 2, 2023. A small group of city and county representatives will review the responses. - Latest: Disbanded the 911 Communication Services Oversight Committee. The Committee met 18 times during 2022 and completed its goals. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 911 Communications Services Oversight Committee recommended the hybrid model governance, to utilize the water meter option as a funding source for 911 and to proceed with an RFP process for a six-tower system. |
| Beautification | Focused effort on City services and projects that visually improve the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage Civic Beautification Board for gateway signage and other improvements - Engage the Creative and Cultural Council for public art enhancements - Utilize community feedback to further define the beautification goals - Focus on City services that result in the beautification of the community | Chris Yarber, Lindsay Parish, Nic Hutchison & Amie Clark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: 739 downloads of the Tyler 311 app. Received 1,080 service requests through the Tyler 311 app and web portal in 2022. Top request is brush pickup. - Latest: Creative and Cultural Council is refining their strategic plan from the Board retreat. The top priority is a large public art project in 2023. - Latest: The Civic Beautification Board is working on the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in the Farmers’ Market Earth Day event in April. Other partners include WKCTC and the Tree Advisory Board. - Updating their street pole banners and directional signs for the 2023 Dogwood Trail. - Reaching out to partners to assist with maintenance of the Welcome to Paducah signs. |

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| Community Growth | Invest time and resources that provide a platform for community enhancement and development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In concert with the Fiscal Court, jointly update the Comprehensive Plan and evaluate potential annexations - Promotion of community assets - New business recruitment - City / County collaborations - Continue the Remote Workers Incentive program | Nic Hutchison, Melanie Reason & Pam Spencer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: The City and County entered into an interlocal agreement selecting a consultant to complete the joint comprehensive plan. - Latest: The City has appraisals of commercial city owned properties that we will be putting out for RFP or listing for sale. - Latest: Upon property owners request, continue consensual annexations. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 individuals have moved and received the Remote Workers Incentive. Staff is evaluating the current program and forming a recommendation for next steps to evolve the program. |
| Continue Efforts to Improve Operational Efficiencies | Utilize existing and new data to achieve process improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate on existing processes - Evaluate opportunities to staff and/or outsource services to achieve operational efficiencies - Review of construction development process | Chief Kyle, Rick Murphy, Nic Hutchison & Lindsay Parish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: City Manager’s Office worked with Technology Department to re-org the software division under the Chief Technology Director and also utilized an outside vendor for GIS improvements. - Latest: Continue to strive for improvement in the construction development process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held 17 Kick Start Meetings in 2022. - Electronic permitting platform ready for community wide launch in 2023. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implemented a new internal process of elected officials meeting with leadership team members each week through the summer to provide updates on departmental activities. - City successfully launched property tax online payments |

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| Downtown | Concentrated effort to support, enhance, celebrate and improve our thriving downtown community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to support the downtown merchants - Develop and implement specific tactics to assist with the downtown merchants with the City Block development - Increase engagement with downtown merchants and unlocking their talents to support downtown - Expand the recruitment of businesses to the central business district through incentives - Continue to focus on national and state MainStreet Accreditation | Nic Hutchison, Pam Spencer & Angela Schade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: Completed successful holiday season with a new Christmas tree, updated decorations, and promotions. - Latest: Main Street economic vitality committee has started meeting and identified top priorities which include marketing materials, new incentives, and a downtown prospectus community event. - Latest: 13 net new businesses downtown in 2022. - Latest: Repopulating the Paducah Riverfront Development Advisory Board. Appointed Commissioner Wilson as chair. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed new Main Street Board members and held goal setting retreat. - Received National Main Street Accreditation. - Hosted several successful downtown summer and fall events, including downtown live, Friday cocktail trails and art walk, 4th of July events, and a Downtown Fall Festival. |
| Housing | Continued investment in the improvement of our housing stock to help grow our community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a map highlighting the City's surplus properties - Define housing needs at all levels of pricing - Build partnerships with potential housing developers - Evaluate current infill incentives and make recommendations to better meet the City's goals | Nic Hutchison & Palmer Stroup | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: Southside Committee worked with staff on residential grants for stabilization and beautification to be considered by the Board of Commissioners for adoption. - Latest: Paducah Alliance of Neighbors is securing financing and plans for new housing in the Jetton area. - Latest: 196 multifamily units and 56 residential lots were approved by Planning in 2022. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with several developers about infill housing opportunities in southside, northside and midtown. - Completed the surplus property sale and transferred 7 properties to private owners. Enhanced the process through an interactive property map and house plans for individuals who acquire surplus property. |

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| Minority Inclusion | Lead by example through the adoption of city-wide and departmental inclusion strategies focusing on a diverse pool of applicants for employment, committees and boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team Paducah (departments, Leadership Team, Boards and Commissions) are representative of the community's demographics through attrition and inclusion-based hiring tactics - Increase awareness of City career opportunities through the presence in schools and community events - Continue to support the Paducah Diversity Advisory Board | Stefanie Suazo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: The City and the Paducah Diversity Advocacy Board (PDAB) are collaborating on a diversity workshop to be presented to City Leadership in 2023. - Latest: HR is working with Murray State to create an assessment focused on DE&I for the City organization. Murray State will administer the survey and collect the data in early 2023. - Latest: Continue to sponsor and participate in the Juneteenth and August 8 celebrations. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City sponsored Paducah's first ever Juneteenth celebration with the Carson Center and the Paducah-McCracken County NAACP. City also co-sponsored the August 8th celebration and participated in the parade. - Completed organizational wide DE&I Training - Board of Commissioners awarded the Fred Paxton Diversity and Inclusion award from the NAACP. |
| Protecting Key Historical and Cultural Resources | Collaborate with community partners to support and invest in the historical and cultural resources unique to Paducah | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finish the design and begin the Civic Center renovation - Work with the Sports Commission to honor the legacy of Dr. William Stuart Nelson - Determine the City's role in the support and collaboration of community partners (i.e. Hotel Metropolitan, Columbia Theater, etc.) | Amie Clark & Nic Hutchison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: Project is underway with the Rhodes Heritage Group to develop recommendations for preserving and stewarding historic assets in our community. The project focuses on the Hotel Metropolitan, the Oscar Cross birth house, Columbia Theater, Stuart Nelson Park and the Southside. - Latest: Structural and architectural damage to the Civic Center was evaluated and incorporated into the building construction plans. The RFP was released on February 15 and responses are due March 8. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board of Commissioners approved renovating the Civic Center utilizing the existing footprint of the building for the Recreation staff offices and event space. - Staff attending the Sports Commission meetings and participating in the design working group. |

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| Southside Enhancements | Targeted empowerment, engagement and beautification of Southside neighborhoods and the business community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on residential and commercial development in the Walter Jetton area - Support and enhance the Southside Steering Committee in their efforts to guide policy and incentives decisions - Expand the recruitment of businesses to the southside residential and business district through incentives | Nic Hutchison & Palmer Stroup | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: The Southside Steering Committee held 10 meetings. Staff and steering committee are finalizing incentive package for southside. The incentives will be considered for adoption by the Board of Commissioners in early 2023. Next step is working with neighborhoods and residents on future development. - The steering committee worked with Parks and Rec on improvements to Coleman park and held a community engagement event in October. There were over 200 participants in the event. - Parks and Rec has secured funding for new playground equipment upgrades at Coleman Park based on the feedback from community engagement. |
| Trails & Bike Paths Enhancements | Increasing recreational and multi-modal transportation opportunities through the expansion of trails and bike lanes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilize community feedback to identify opportunities for the expansion of the greenway trail and bike lanes - Determine the next phase of the Greenway Trail and begin the planning process - Explore or successfully obtain grants for the expansion of the Greenway Trail - Revisit the bike plan for implementation opportunities | Hope Reasons, Amie Clark, Rick Murphy & Nic Hutchison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest: Staff is recommending to apply for an outdoor recreation community assistance grant through the National Park Service to assist with public input and developing a plan for the Greenway Trail expansion. If not successful with the grant, the City will work with a consultant to create a new bike/pedestrian plan for the community. - Latest: Staff reviewing existing bike ped plan and developing a community engagement and strategic plan moving forward. - Planning Director attended the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission’s quarterly meeting in Calvert City. |

2022 City Commission Continuous Improvements

The Board of Commissioners recognizes there are 2021 priorities needing continued focus. The three areas with updates are below.

- **Stormwater**

- The City allocated \$4 million in ARPA funds for stormwater projects highlighted below:
 - The Buckner Lane Bridge Replacement Project is 95% complete and will be finalized in the early spring. The project completion date was January 11, 2023. Since, the contractor was unable to continue work in late December because of severe weather conditions and asphalt plants being closed, the project was shut down for the winter on December 22nd. The final top layer of asphalt and the final landscaping will be performed when the asphalt plants reopen and the weather allows.
 - The South 25th Street improvement project is 75% complete, and we have experienced significant construction challenges. The project was shut down on December 24th for the winter. It is anticipated that the work will resume and be completed in the spring as weather allows the work to resume. The project includes work on South 25th Street from Jackson Street to Alabama Street as well as improvements in connectivity, walkability and drainage.
 - In addition, the Engineering Dept, using City budget funding & existing annual contracts, was able to make a much-needed drainage ditch improvement stretching approximately 1550' along Central Avenue. This project has been consistently monitored for its performance. Based on the monitoring, we are pleased with the improvement as it has provided for a safer pedestrian and vehicular pathway for citizens in this area.

- **City Facilities**

- The City allocated a total of \$800,000 from the Investment Fund to initiate the City Facility Improvement Trust Fund in FY22 and an additional \$300,000 in FY23, achieving the goal of having \$1.1 million available for use in FY23 to begin facilities maintenance projects.
- The facilities projects from the 2020 facilities study are prioritized and work has been focused on City Hall basement and sewer, Fire Station 2 exterior improvements, Fire Station 4 apron & sewer improvements and Fire Station 5 flooring. Upcoming facilities projects being considered include the Allie Morgan building and the Recreation Center. The Facility Improvement Trust policy is also currently under review for the FY24 budget.

- **Joint City/County Sportsplex**

- The City, County and Sports Commission signed the Interlocal Agreement on September 7th. The Sports Tourism Commission has executed contracts with PFGW, BFW, and SFC (Sports Facilities Companies) for the schematic design, environmental testing, and programmatic design.
- Design Team has representation from City, County, and Sports Tourism Commission and is meeting weekly to refine schematic design.
- Work Group established earlier this year to include County, City, and Sports Tourism representation working directly with the operator on programmatic design.
- Stakeholder meetings were conducted on November 29 and 30 at the Convention Center in downtown Paducah. Representation from Design Team, SFC, Parks, County, and Sports Commissioner met with various stakeholders to discuss needs, wants, and concerns for the project to include both school districts, youth soccer, baseball, softball, cross country, disc golf, dog park users, pickleball, NAACP, and other.
- County has acquired 2 additional properties located on Metcalf Lane through purchase contracts with current property owners. Metcalf Lane is being included as part of the schematic design with considerations to include maintenance and back of house type entry into the facility
- Stuart Nelson Park is tentatively scheduled for closure to the public in 2023 to accommodate construction. Currently, Parks and Recreation has stopped taking reservations for August – December and are asking those callers to check back in with us in a few months for an updated timeline.