

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 6:15 p.m. at the Eminence City Hall with Mayor Jim Petitt and the following members present: Danny Meadows, Polly Troxell, Shawn Bright, Lee Ann Armstrong, and Leo Mason. Absent was Member Drane Stephens. Also in attendance were Attorney William Brammell, City Clerk Sandra Doane, Public Works Director William Smith, Police Officer O.C. Jones, Employee Tim Fitzgerald, Henry County Local Representative, and several citizens.

Pledge of allegiance held.

Mayor Petitt reminded everyone to have their cell phones either off or on silent and not to ask to speak unless on the agenda.

Mayor Petitt called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Subject: Cruising – Mayor Petitt stated that each person on the agenda to speak about cruising would have three minutes to speak with no rebuttal allowed.

John Adcock addressed Council stating that he supports cruising if it will help the businesses. He indicated that the first night was a little overwhelming and that emergency vehicles would have had a hard time getting thru the traffic. John suggested that the City offer a place for cruisers to meet and talk which could possibly help the businesses and eliminate the traffic problems.

Jason Scriber addressed Council stating that he was here to update on the economic impact in Eminence during the cruising. He had the largest night since opening his business, but did indicate that his business was not as impacted by the traffic as others since they were not on the cruising route.

Lynn Hyatt addressed Council stating that she is against cruising as they had to sit in line for thirty minutes, not even moving. She indicated her family had a problem previously with cruising and being able to get medical help. Ms. Hyatt feels this is a waste of tax payer's money in having to pay for extra police protection. She feels we have had nothing but negative advertisement for our City from the pool issue, dog shooting, grass cutting and now cruising and believes it is time for something positive.

Joyce Meyer addressed Council stating that even though she is not a resident of Eminence, she does shop here some and will not do so if the cruising is allowed on Friday and Saturday nights and that continued going to other places to shop will become her routine. She stated she feels other family events have already been started by the City with cruising not really necessary.

Joe Barbati with KFC/Taco Bell addressed Council stating that he saw a lot of traffic which is normally not seen and is in favor of cruising as long as the law is not broken or problems created.

Mayor Petitt stated that he grew up in Eminence and is a former cruiser, but the overall public opinion has been against cruising with one business owner with Newcomb Oil being really upset stating that his sales were down and shoplifting was up. Do we make our citizens suffer for a night of fun for the cruisers; most of whom don't even live in the County? Mayor Petitt stated that the Police Department overtime alone for the first night of cruising was \$1,089.00 not including benefits. If cruising continues, we may have to hire additional officers as we can't expect our current officers to work every weekend. Mayor Petitt stated someone will pay a price for heavy cruising and that we got lucky the first weekend, but if an emergency had existed it would have been bad.

Member Meadows stated that the City of Eminence had nothing to do with cruising as it was not sponsored by the City and that we had to react with extra police based on the planning taking place on Facebook.

Member Mason stated he feels cruising was blown out of proportion, especially on Facebook, which is why a lot of extra people came just to see what happened. He feels that a lot of former Eminence residents came home for a night of nostalgia. They even had their kids in the car showing them what cruising is all about.

Member Troxell stated she is upset with the three television stations as they will never come to town for a positive event such as the park grand opening (as they were asked to) but will always show up for something construed as negative.

Mayor Petitt stated he has no problem with a once a year event, not sponsored by the City. Member Mason suggested incorporating cruising into the night before Eminence Day.

Member Armstrong stated that her husband, who had worked a really long day, took 25 minutes to get from Mulberry Road to their home on South Main Street. She feels that citizens need a quick response and need to be able to get in and out of their homes and they could not even get out of their driveway. It took one and a half hours for truck drivers to get through town. She is trying to listen to both sides of the issue as the business owners need to survive, but the citizens cannot be held captive. Member Armstrong indicated that the City is planning and promoting events for the community. She did feel that the cruising was better this weekend.

Member Troxell stated we need to come up with a solution for the cruising, perhaps by organizing an event. Originally she was dead set against cruising, but now sees the positive as well as the negative.

Member Bright stated that he feels the perception is that the government (City) doesn't want business in town indicating that he has heard comments about us not wanting the Family Dollar Store, the racetrack, the Renaissance Fair, etc. He feels people with money want to come to town, but assume we don't want them. Member Bright agreed that the first night did freeze up the town, but feels the Police Chief's putting out negative comments was missing the beat a little. Member Troxell disagreed stating that she doesn't think the Chief put that out and that our town is better now than ever before. Member Armstrong agreed with Member Troxell.

Mayor Petitt stated that nothing but negative is being promoted in our City due to certain negative factors wanting everything to be negative.

The consensus of council was to wait and see on the cruising. Mr. Adcock entertained the idea of possibly rotating Music on Main to different locations to help other businesses. Council agreed to look into this possibility.

OLD BUSINESS:

Subject: Minutes – The minutes of the previous regular session held on May 10, 2010 and the minutes from the special session held on May 26, 2010 were reviewed. Mayor Petitt asked for any additions or changes to the minutes. With no additions or changes forthcoming, Mayor Petitt stated they would stand approved as presented.

Subject: 2010-2011 Budget Revisions – Clerk Doane reviewed a budget revision made since the first reading of the budget ordinance which added \$6,600.00 to the Parks budget for the events being planned for the new budget year. This was inadvertently left out originally.

Subject: Budget Ordinance – Attorney Brammell held the second reading of the budget ordinance for fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Motion made by Member Troxell and seconded by Member Bright to adopt the FY 7-1-10/6-30-11 budget ordinance as read including the employee's cost of living adjustments and all Fire Department pay adjustments as included in the budget to be effective with the first full pay period in July. Motion seconded by Member Bright. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted "Yea".

REPORTS:

Subject: Police Department Report – In the absence of Chief Duncan, Officer O. C. Jones reviewed the monthly activity report with council which showed total contacts of 318 for May. Eight individuals were arrested on thirty-four separate charges. The Department had six driving under the influence and one other alcohol related incidents.

Subject: Property Ordinance Enforcement Report – Officer Jones reported there were twelve courtesy notices and five citations issued in May for property ordinance violations.

Subject: Police Comments – None.

Subject: Public Works Department Report – Public Works Director William Smith reviewed the monthly activity report with council. Member Armstrong asked if anything had been obtained as a better support for the water fountain. Mr. Smith stated no, but perhaps we should just look at getting one with a base instead. Mr. Smith stated that when they open up in the morning they find faucets open in the bathrooms and spigots turned on and that we may need to have the Police check this before locking up at night. Member Meadows asked if the no parking sign on the hill in front of the Family Dollar Store could be changed to "Fire Department Parking Only" as this was the original intention for reserving this spot and will eliminate any confusion.

Subject: Administrative Office Report - City Clerk Sandra Doane reviewed the monthly administrative office report with council reporting that letters will be sent from Attorney Brammell on the 2009 delinquent property taxes and that liens have been filed.

Clerk Doane reported that the student assistant is working out well.

Subject: Current Budget Line Item Changes – Clerk Doane presented proposed line item changes to the current fiscal year budget indicating that no additional funds were expended with changes made in other line items to accommodate the ones which went over. All bottom line department totals remained the same. Motion made by Member Meadows and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve the line item FY 7-1-09/6-30-10 budget changes as attached hereto. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: Fire Department Report – Member Meadows reviewed the May monthly Fire Department report which showed six total runs and special details. Member Meadows reported that Chief Lucas is doing well and should be released to full duty soon. The Department collected approximately \$2,500.00 over last year’s total for the Crusade for Children.

Subject: Fire Department Reimbursement Policy – Member Meadows and Clerk Doane reported on the current fire department run and drill reimbursement which has not been changed since 1990. Attorney Brammell read a resolution changing the reimbursement to \$5.00 per fire drill or meeting attended (maximum of one per week) and \$10.00 per fire run (non-working or working fire) and changing the treasurer annual pay to \$1,500.00. Motion made by Member Meadows to adopt the resolution as read changing the fire department reimbursement policy. Motion seconded by Member Mason. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”. Members Bright and Meadows expressed their appreciation for the great job the current treasurer is doing for the Fire Department.

Subject: Festivals Update – Member Bright reported on the Music on Main indicating that it was a great success. He will look into changing to other locations. Mayor Petitt stated he would like to have an overall festival committee meeting to discuss everything.

Member Armstrong reported on Eminence Day activities. The Grand Marshall will be Rick Van Hoose. Other confirmed and potential parade participants were discussed. Member Armstrong indicated the banners will be going up on June 21, 2010. Member Bright stated we have 22 vendor booths as of today’s date.

Subject: Parks Update – Member Armstrong reported on the DJ at the Park expressing her thanks to the council, police, maintenance workers, school, and the residents for making this event a success. The park was well cleaned by the group responsible for this. She would like to have another DJ event either before school starts back or right after it starts.

Subject: Movies at the Park – Member Armstrong reported on the Movies at the Park which will be held on June 26, 2010 with the movie, *Blindside*, being shown around 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Mayor Petitt stated food would be available for purchase. This event, if successful, will

normally be on the fourth Friday of the month with the change for June being due to the all night Relay for Life event already scheduled for Friday night.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subject: Warrants - The warrants presented for payment were reviewed. Motion made by Member Bright and seconded by Member Meadows to approve the warrants for payment as presented. On a call of vote by Clerk Doane, all members present voted “Yea”.

Subject: New Business/Council – Mayor Petitt asked if any council member had anything they wanted to discuss. Member Troxell stated she was pleasantly surprised with the DJ at the Park, but indicated we did need to get speakers for the musical instruments if we have them again. She feels they were a success.

Subject: Mayor’s Update – Mayor Petitt reported that the specifications for replacement of the sidewalks on North and South Main Streets are ready to bid with all the paperwork ready and if anyone wants to see the specifics to come by City Hall.

Mayor Petitt stated he would like a meeting with the festivals committee.

Mayor Petitt reported that the abandoned Ricky Barnes property located at 4721 Jackson Road will be sold at the courthouse steps on July 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Hopefully enough will be raised to get us reimbursed for our taxes and mowing.

Subject: Closed Session – None needed.

With no further business to be discussed, motion made by Member Bright and seconded by Member Troxell to adjourn. All members present voted “Yea”. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

JIM PETITT, MAYOR
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

ATTEST: _____
SANDRA A. DOANE, CITY CLERK
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY