

City of New Castle, KY
March 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the New Castle City Commission was held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00pm at City Hall. Present were Mayor Benham, Commissioners Mitchell, Gatewood and Kurtz. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, Public Works Director Scot Treece, City Attorney Joe Yates, Melissa Blankenship of Landmark Newspapers, Main Street Manager Jeff Thoke, Magistrate Terri Cummings, Richard & Dani Jaehnigen, Lorry Hansen and citizens Dale Mahoney, Danny Holcomb, Bobby King, Jonathon Roberts and Sein Davis.

Mayor Benham called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gatewood seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to approve the disbursements as listed. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The citizens present that signed to address the Commission were given their time to speak. Both Dale Mahoney and Danny Holcomb stated that they had signed in to speak “just in case” something came up that they wanted to address.

Bobby King advised that he did wish to speak. He stated that he and his wife had to leave a steak dinner in Louisville on Sunday to come back home because their house alarm had been set off. He stated that he drove 100 miles per hour on the interstate to get to his home and he is concerned. Mr. King said that he and his wife are considering selling out and moving away from New Castle. He wants police presence in the City especially on nights and the weekends.

Sheriff Cravens and his staff were covering the tournament and could not attend the meeting. He will deliver the monthly report for February sometime during the week.

The awning at A-1 was the next topic to be addressed. Over the last year, the City has received numerous complaints regarding the condition of the awning over the sidewalk. Eileen stated she had someone inspect the awning and that they advised that only the portion on Court Street was in need of repair. She wants to take it down herself and she would like it replaced, however Eileen cannot afford to replace it right now. There was discussion regarding this matter between the Commission, Eileen, Joseph Yates, EDC/MSM Jeff Thoke and citizens in attendance. It was stated that private individuals have volunteered their time and \$400 (to date) to help with this issue. There are no citations/code violations issued by the City, only citizen complaints received. For the very near future the Commission is looking into options for the next budget cycle for a “façade grant program” that will assist Eileen and other downtown business owners with the repair/upkeep of their properties. After lengthy discussion, Eileen said that she will

get two estimates for replacement of the awning (one being the whole awning and one being just the portion on Court Street). The matter will be addressed again at the April meeting.

Terri Cummings advised that she was approached by the owners of 18 Main Street (the new pub) regarding the matter of a dumpster for their business. They are opening on the 7th. Ms. Cummings was advised that the owners had already approached city personnel regarding this matter and that they had been advised that there was no place to set a dumpster behind their business (that property is owned by the City) that would allow Rumpke the space they needed for their truck to service the receptacle.

Richard advised that he is working on “clean-up” issues at several properties, parking issues at two locations downtown and he will be working with the owner of the duplex next to the post office to address some issues there.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to have second reading of Ordinance #17-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, KENTUCKY AMENDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO OVERTIME COMPENSATION AND COMPENSATORY TIME IN THE CITY’S PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Attorney Yates gave second reading of Ordinance #17-01.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to adopt Ordinance #17-01. The Mayor seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The City Clerk advised that in order to cover future large expenses related to “pay-outs” when employees leave/retire, that a sinking fund could be created that each of the three entities (city, water and sewer) would pay \$200/month into. This would begin with the start of the 17/18 fiscal budget.

There was brief review of the Charter/Spectrum proposed franchise agreement. Attorney Yates is to obtain some additional information and this item will be addressed at the April meeting.

Harvest Showcase is requesting sponsorships for this year’s event that range from \$50.00 up to \$1500.00.

The Mayor made the motion that the City participate at the bronze level for \$100.00. No one seconded the motion, therefore it died.

Project Graduation has also asked for a donation. There was brief discussion.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to donate \$250.00 to project grad. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Judge Exec. John Logan Brent sent correspondence to the Mayor requesting that the City participate in a joint economic development program at a cost of \$1,000.00. The total cost to the County is \$8,000. Judge Brent's proposal is that the four largest incorporated cities in the county each participate at \$1,000 and the county would participate at \$4,000. Since the city invested \$7500.00 in the past in a joint E.D. task force with no results, EDC/MSM Jeff Thoke will gather more information regarding this new endeavor and report at the April meeting. A decision regarding participation will be made at that time.

The Mayor advised that due to lack of volunteers (there were only himself and Jeff) the Patriotic Festival has been cancelled for this year.

Lynn informed the Commission that the 17/18 budget worksheets would be ready and distributed with the minute packets.

Jeff advised that he is working on gathering information regarding façade grants and all the options that can be utilized/customized by the City that could possibly be implemented for the 17/18 fiscal budget cycle. He is also working on the purchase/installation of more benches around town.

The CDBG grant application is completed and signed and KIPDA will submit it tomorrow.

Lorry presented the monthly financial report for the fire department.

Scot advised that paving should begin within the next month or so.

Commissioner Gatewood asked if anyone knew anything about the "new car lot" on 146 at the site of the former HC Food Market. It was advised that right now those cars are owned by Mr. Hassan personally and that he is working with Planning & Zoning to try and obtain a zone change in order to open a pawn shop and that location as well. It is currently zoned commercial, but not for the pawn shop.

As there was no further business to be addressed by the Commission, Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kurtz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

We adjourned at 8:10pm.