

COMMISSION MEETING

March 1, 2021

The New Castle City Commission meeting was held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6pm. Due to the Covid19 pandemic the meeting was held in the Locker Building to allow for social distancing. Present was Mayor Kurtz and Commissioners Mitchell, Thompson and Hay. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, City Attorney Josh Clubb, Public Works Director Joey Bramblett, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Ellis and from the Fire Department Sabrina . . .

Mayor Kurtz called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to accept the minutes from all February meetings as presented. Mayor Kurtz seconded the motion. The motion did carry unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to approve all disbursements, deposits and transfers for the month of February. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Commissioner Thompson and Hay both reviewed all city held accounts using the bank's online banking option.

Deputy Jamiel presented the report for the month of February. They conducted 49 traffic stops, issued 22 citations, made 7 arrests and other various activities for a total of 72 hours.

Attorney Clubb presented to the Commission a Ordinance and Resolution pertaining to the Castle Creek Addition of 1979. Candi Atkinson with the Sec. of State's Office sent sample documents to Josh. There was brief discussion.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to have first reading of Ordinance #21-01, AN ORDINANCE TO PREPARE AN ACCURATE AND COMPLETE MAP OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, KENTUCKY, CARRYING OUT THE STATED INTENTION IN THE SAID ORDINANCE DATED JUNE 3, 1979. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Attorney Clubb gave first reading of Ordinance #21-01.

Second reading and adoption of this ordinance and adoption of the related resolution will be conducted at the April meeting.

Mayor Kurtz gave an update on the new security system at City Hall (Simplisafe). Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are included with the system and there is a \$31 monthly savings from our previous provider.

Tony obtained a quote for window tint for city hall and public works. This is needed for security reasons as well as energy efficiency, There was brief discussion.

The Mayor made the motion to pay \$1757.00 to have the windows at city hall and the windows and door at public works tinted. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion which did carry unanimously.

As there will be many members out of town the first week of April, Commissioner Thompson made the motion to move the April meeting to the 12th. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Phoebe told the Commission about a “mini library” or “box library”. She would like to have one in New Castle and a plaque place on it in memory of Hammer Smith. This was met with approval from all and she will bring detailed information to the April meeting for discussion and decision.

Mayor Kurtz passed out the 21/22 budget worksheets. Final figures will need to be given to Tony in time for him to meet with Lynn so that the ordinance can be ready for first reading at the May meeting. There will be a public hearing at 5:45 before the May meeting for public inquiry of the proposed budget and the proposed use of Road Aid Funds.

Michael advised that the one case that has been ongoing for almost 2 years will have the next court date in April but the exact date is not yet known. He is still working on several other issues at various locations and will be working parking issues in Springhill Subdivision.

Joey reported that more and more of the water meters are stopping and the reading equipment we have is obsolete and cannot be upgraded. Every month it is taking them longer and longer to read the meters and this month it took them 4 days just to do the rechecks. He obtained a “basic” package quote from Ferguson Waterworks which includes the following:

- 100 Allegro UTG meters
- AMR Reading Equipment
- Virtual training
- MasterLink Harmony upgrade
- FCC license application fee for harmony mobile

He would like to stay with the MasterLink System as it syncs with Lynn’s billing system. The total for this basic (or starter package) is \$29,768.00. There is currently a balance of \$54,000 in the water depreciation reserve and with RD approval, these funds could be used. There was discussion.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to purchase the “starter package” from Ferguson Waterworks at a cost of \$29,768.00. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to direct the City Clerk to write to Rural Development requesting approval to use \$29,768.00 of water depreciation reserve funds for the purpose of purchasing the package. The Mayor seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

An annual purchase program needs to be put in place in order to continue buying the water meters needed to completely upgrade our entire system. Commissioner Thompson made the motion directing the City Clerk to open a new water sinking account (beginning with the new fiscal year) that will allow for the annual purchase of new meters. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

From the massive rainfall on Sunday, Joey advised that a portion of New Street had washed out. It has been temporarily fixed but he is obtaining quotes from at least 2 companies for the complete and permanent repair.

Joey also stated that he would like the Commission to consider hiring a temp for the summer to help with the mowing, weeding, etc.

The Fire Department report included an update on recent purchases, training and building repairs and a report on the light problem. Electrician Greg Hutcherson was there and advised that they needed new lights. Joey will check on options and prices. A quote for paint and supplies was presented (inside of the building and fire department personnel labor). There was discussion.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion that the city purchase (or reimburse the fire dept) paint and supplies at a cost not to exceed \$640.00. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

As there was no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.