

June 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the New Castle City Commission was held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00pm at City Hall. Present were Mayor Benham, Commissioners Mitchell, Thompson and Kurtz. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, Public Works Director Scot Treece, City Attorney Joe Yates, Melissa Blankenship of Landmark Newspapers, Sheriff Daniel Cravens, Main Street Manager Jeff Thoke, Magistrate Terri Cummings, citizens Dale Mahoney, Danny Holcomb and Bobby King.

Mayor Benham called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the May meeting and the disbursements from May were reviewed. Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and the disbursements are issued. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Lynn advised that the request for bids regarding the cable franchise would be published next week. She did change the term from 10 years to 5 as the Commission requested.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to have second reading of Ordinance #17-02, FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, KENTUCKY. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Attorney Yates gave second reading of Ordinance #17-02.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adopt Ordinance #17-02. Mayor Benham seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to have second reading of Ordinance #17-03, FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, KENTUCKY. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Attorney Yates gave second reading of Ordinance #17-03.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adopt Ordinance #17-03. Commissioner Kurtz seconded and the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor advised that the free lunch program sponsored by Kentucky State University will be at the Baptist Church, Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 1:00. Any child who shows up can participate.

The annual contract with Jeff Thoke for services as Main Street Manager/Economic Development Coordinator was reviewed.

Mayor Benham made the motion to enter into a new contract with Jeff Thoke for the service of MSM/EDC for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

The annual contract with Richard Jaehnigen for services as Code Enforcement Officer was reviewed.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to enter into a new contract with Richard Jaehnigen for the service of EDC for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Mayor Benham seconded the motion which did carry unanimously.

It was discussed as to whether or not to participate with the County in regards to the joint economic development program at a cost of \$1,000. The City had participated in the past with dismal results.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to participate for a period of one year at a cost of \$1,000 and the review the results at the end of the term to determine future participation. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion. Commissioner Thompson, Kurtz and Mayor Benham voted aye. Commissioner Mitchell voted nay.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to adopt Resolution #17-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, KENTUCKY SUSPENDING AND DEFERRING THE ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES AND THE COLLECTION OF BUSINESS LICENSE FEES. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kurtz made the motion to authorize Mayor Benham to sign the agreement accepting the conditions for the CDBG with the DLG. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adopt Resolution #17-02, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE KENTUCKIANA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RE: CDBG). Mayor Benham seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to authorize Mayor Benham to sign the agreement with KIPDA for professional services regarding the CDBG. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion and it did carry unanimously.

Jeff Thoke advised that three more benches have been installed (donated by Mark Johnson). The fans/lights have been purchased for the locker (5) and will be installed by the end of the month. He is working on some modifications/updates to the website and the marker for the odd fellows building is progressing.

Lynn advised that Jeff Woods was here last Friday for prelim work on the audit. He will be back in July for one week.

Scot advised that a company demonstrated today the process that have for concrete cutting to repair trip hazards in sidewalks which is a lot cheaper than replacing. They will provide a free assessment for 3 miles of sidewalk and Scot is having them do that.

He also stated that he and Commissioner Kurtz went to Frankfort to accept the CDBG and he will be having a meeting with the DLG, KIA and KIPDA this month and we will then be able to proceed with the project by letting it out for bid. The rehab project should be completed by winter.

There was no report submitted by the Fire Department.

The July meeting will remain scheduled for the 3rd.

Commissioner Thompson advised that the garbage truck has been “leaking” and that there is “stuff” outside the storage units on Center Street and that it has been there for some time.

Commissioner Mitchell advised that there is a home on Stephens Street where the bushes are overgrown and getting in the roadway.

There are several issues in town that need to be addressed and they will be handled by Richard and the Mayor.

Danny Holcomb advised that he is no longer with the Sheriff’s Office. He made a few personal comments regarding posts he had made in the past on Facebook which he regretted and advised that he has rethought the “police officer” issue and it is his opinion that funds which would have gone to this be put instead into the town which might stimulate economic growth which would increase revenue. He mentioned that he had researched “policing” options. Commissioner Thompson asked if he would share his research with her so she could review it.

He also wants to know where the City stands regarding revamping the contract with the Sheriff’s Office. The Mayor advised that when all details had been worked out, he would advise what the conditions of the contract are. The main change will be to the time that the hours are put in for the city and those hours will be mainly after dark.

Bobby King stated that the town looks the worst that it has in 10 years with weeds in pots and furniture being discarded and trash in people’s yards. The Mayor did advise that these issues are being addressed by the City by taking the proper legal steps. Jeff advised that each person/business that sponsored a pot agreed to fill it and take care of it. Since this is not being done with some of the pots, he will personally go and remove any weeds that are growing.

Sheriff Cravens arrived and presented his monthly report for May. 98 hours were logged for the city. He also advised that for the next two months (while school is out) he will have 2 more deputies on the road.

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

We adjourned at 8:00pm.