

August 6, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the New Castle City Commission was held on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7pm at City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis Benham, Commissioners Mitchell, Kurtz, Gatewood and Thompson. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, City Attorney Josh Club, Public Works Director Scot Treece, Joe Durbin Code Enforcement Officer, Tammy Shaw of Landmark Newspapers, Magistrate Terri Cummings, Sheriff Daniel Cravens and Deeanne West, Deputy Kyle Stewart, Asst. Fire Chief Lorry Hansen, MSM/EDC Jeff Thoke, Citizen Jim Brammell and Mark Chadwell.

Mayor Benham called the meeting to order.

The minutes from all the July meetings and the disbursements for May were reviewed. Commissioner Kurtz made a motion to approve the minutes and disbursements as recorded. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Gary Mathis of Kentucky I-71 Connected presented the annual report and gave an overview of what it hoped to be accomplished in the future.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to participate again this fiscal year with the program at a cost of \$1,000. This amount is already budgeted for this fiscal year. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it did carry unanimously.

The deputy report for July was distributed and reviewed. Also, The Mayor advised that the Sheriff's Dept. is having a fundraiser in order to start a "sniffer dog" program to help battle the drug problem in the county. Deputy Stewart answered some questions regarding the program. There was brief discussion.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion that the City donate \$2,000 towards this program. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Attorney Clubb presented drafts of two ordinances regarding criminal activity as a nuisance and holding landlords responsible for the repeated criminal activity of their renters. These were identical with the exception that one made the violation a criminal offense while the other made the violation a civil offense. There was review and discussion.

Commissioner Gatewood made the motion to have first reading of Ordinance #18-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE REGARDING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS A NUISANCE. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion and it did carry unanimously.

Attorney Clubb gave first reading of Ordinance #18-08.

Our current unsafe housing ordinance which was enacted in 1988 has been reviewed by Attorney Clubb. His opinion is that the definitions are fine but he highly encourages the Commission to get a court order for demolition, if it is used. This ordinance can be used to force repairs of unsafe housing that exists within the City.

There will be a public hearing on September 10th at 6:45pm for the purpose of obtaining the public's comments regarding the proposed 2018 property tax rate.

Sheriff Cravens then addressed the Commission. He presented two financial reports, which represents the department's revenues, disbursements and excess fees turned over to Fiscal Court from 2007 thru 2017. He gave an overview of his tenure as Sheriff and advised he would be retiring December 31, 2018. He thanked everyone for their support over the last 11 years.

HC Judge Exec. John Logan Brent then spoke and he gave an overview of county business, including budget issues. He stated that there are 5 distilleries being built or in the process of approval. He also advised that the old Theiss building in Eminence has been given to Tri-County Community Action Agency and there is going to be a fundraiser launched in the very near future to help obtain the funds needed to open a "Hope Center" at that location that will provide help with sobriety, teaching of life skills, job training and counseling.

Jeff Thoke advised that the Locker has been rented a lot this summer and he is still checking on flooring options.

Joe Durbin stated that grass issues are his main focus at this time. The Walls trial is scheduled to begin on the 5th of September.

Scot advised that there were more issues with the roof of City Hall than originally thought, which has resulted in the price increasing to \$16,414. \$14,700 had been budgeted. There was brief discussion and it was decided to move forward with the new roof at the increased cost. The budget will be amended to reflect the increase.

The State is repaving North/South Main Street. Marking the parking is now our responsibility and Scot said it will cost approximately \$1,000.

Lorry handed out the Fire Dept.'s financial report. He also advised that the four rear tires of the City fire truck are dry-rotting and need to be replaced. They have already replaced two front tires. He expects it to cost around \$3,520. There was discussion. It was decided that Lorry will obtain a direct quote and present it at the September meeting.

Mark Chadwell owns 236 Spring Street. He voiced his strong disagreement with the Ordinance the City has in place and enforces holding the landlord responsible for unpaid tenant's utility bills.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gatewood seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

We adjourned at 8:50pm.