

The regular meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held December 11, 2023 at Brandenburg City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Bryan Claycomb, Mayor  
Amy Haynes, City Clerk  
Brian Haag, Police Chief  
T.J. Hughes, Public Works Dir.  
Jessica Brown Roberts, Atty  
Steve Yocom, Sgt.

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Charlotte Ford  
Bruce Fackler  
Mark Spry  
Bill Basham  
Bradley Johnston  
Ginger Coomes

**VISITORS:** Gene Webster-WVIH, Rodney Ford, Bill Pipes, Chris Crawford, Lee Klockow, David Pace

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER:**

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Bruce Fackler, followed by a roll call by City Clerk Amy Haynes.

**VISITOR PRESENTATION:**

Chris Crawford, Meade County Fire District Fire Chief stated that as a whole, the department realizes that they need to protect their history to prepare for the future. As a result, a Proclamation was read aloud by Chief Crawford for Mayor Bryan Claycomb, who had previously served many years in the role of Fire Chief for the District. He then presented the Proclamation and a plaque to Bryan Claycomb and thanked him for his many years of service.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Bill Basham, to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

**TRANSFERS:**

A motion was made by Bill Basham, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to approve the monthly transfers as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Mayor Claycomb wanted to take an opportunity to thank Shannon Stull, events coordinator for the City and all the City employees who had contributed to the success of Christmas by the River opening day. He also noted that without the support of local businesses, the event would not be possible.

**SECOND READING OF P&Z ORDINANCE #624:**

City Attorney Roberts read aloud the rezoning ordinance for the St. John's property on Broadway. She noted that she had spoken with the members of the Planning & Zoning Commission and that rather than the entire parcel be rezoned, it was only for the building previously used as the convent. A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Bruce Fackler to approve the rezoning. Vote of motion was unanimous.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Claycomb then asked to deviate from the agenda for discussion of the Newcomb Oil Property (the future Five Star location), at 2099 Brandenburg Road. He reminded the Council that the property had already been annexed into the City, but wanted to present to them a couple of options regarding

their sewer connection to the City. He then read aloud the 2 current options for their sewer intake/ lift station, etc. Claycomb proposed that the City charge Newcomb for 1000 gallons per day for their sewer intake, or approximately \$270/month. He then stated that the Jones property already has water with the City, so their sewer amount would be based on their water consumption. He told the Council that Tim Smith had reviewed Newcomb's initial plans and had suggested a few changes. If Newcomb were to follow our specifications, the sewer line would only cover the needs of the new Five Star, and the property owned by Mike Jones. Claycomb wanted to update the Council before this matter is brought to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayor who will eventually oversee the project. A motion was made by Bill Basham, seconded by Bruce Fackler to accept the proposal, and then a discussion ensued. Councilman Johnston stated that he felt we shouldn't estimate their usage at 1000 gallons a day, but should instead get the county water meter reading in order to ensure the actual sewer usage. The Mayor stated that he was willing to modify the proposal to state we would bill them for sewer based on their actual water consumption. The Mayor then elaborated that if Newcomb were to choose an option where it becomes their own private sewer line, this would not allow for future growth. Councilmember Spry asked if the pricing estimates included the increase of the sewer line size from 1 ½" to a 4-6" line? The Mayor stated that it would be approximately \$13,000 just for the line, not any additional upgrades. Claycomb informed that Tim Smith provided an estimate of approximately \$452,000.00, which the City would not be responsible for that amount, that would be cost for Newcomb Oil. The lift station should it need to be upgraded down the road would ultimately be the responsibility of the City. The cost to Newcomb would not be of concern to the City. Councilman Johnston stated that he thinks that the City should change the requirement to Newcomb Oil having to install a 4" main. Claycomb then stated that in option #1 we would change the requirements for Newcomb oil for that requirement. It was then noted by the Mayor that Newcomb does not have to go with the City's sewer at all, they could potentially still go with a septic system. The vote for the options with the changes was approved unanimously.

In other discussion, the Mayor updated that he had met with the grant writer for the County and they are applying for a grant to assist in riverbank stabilization. Mayor Claycomb has signed the original paperwork for the application, but noted to the Council that the City would not be obligated should they choose not to go forward. He did note that the initial \$100,000 grant would cover only the feasibility study, not the actual stabilization. If deemed feasible and approved, the City would be responsible for 35 percent of the total cost. He stated that Richardson Bulldozing had given him a rough estimate of approximately \$400,000.00.

#### **PLANNING & ZONING RESIGNATION / DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT:**

Mayor Claycomb announced that a resignation letter had been received from the Planning & Zoning Administrator Lee Klockow, to be effective 12/31/2023. He reminded all that the City owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Klockow for his many years of service. Klockow stated he believed he began in 1991. A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Bill Basham, to accept the resignation. Vote of motion was unanimous.

The Mayor then asked that with the approval of the Council he would recommend Bethany Carr be the replacement for Mr. Klockow, effective 01/01/2024, at a rate of \$250.00/monthly. A motion was made by Ginger Coomes, seconded by Bill Basham, to approve the appointment. Vote of motion was unanimous.

**OFFICE REPORT:**

City Clerk Amy Haynes presented the monthly office report for November 2023. Haynes then reminded the Council and the public that Christmas by the River was dependent upon donations made in the donation box in order to continue, and that the numbers were really low so far this year.

**POLICE/COP REPORT:**

Chief Haag reviewed the monthly reports for the departments. He then updated that the new truck had been taken to the upfitters and would hopefully be complete by the first of the year. He stated that both the police and the citizens on patrol members had been busy working at many events including Christmas by the River Opening Day, Shop with Heroes, as well as Cram the Cruiser. Chief Haag then updated that Officer Waddell had tendered his resignation from the department, and that new applications would be accepted until December 15, 2023.

**WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT:**

Public Works Director TJ Hughes read aloud his report for November 2023. Councilman Fackler then asked why one night the Christmas by the River displays were not turned on. Haynes and Hughes both assured the Council that because the officer on duty was on a call that evening, the on call maintenance worker had come in to turn them on. Councilperson Ford then asked why the officers are turning off and on on the weekends, and stated that she felt it was a maintenance department job/duty.

Mayor Claycomb then moved on to add that the paving on Main Street was due to begin the next day, dependent on weather conditions.

Under sidewalk discussion, Mayor Claycomb stated that the Senior Citizens Meal Program was up and running with success, but 3 disabled residents at the nearby apartments were unable to gain access due to the lack of a sidewalk from their building to the parking lot. He then stated that he and Councilman Basham are looking into raising half of the money for the approximate cost of \$11,110.00 to put in the sidewalk connection. He also stated that eventually roof repairs on the Senior Citizen building would need to be addressed.

**MAYOR RESIGNATION / APPOINTMENT:**

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Ginger Coomes, to accept Mayor Claycomb's resignation effective 12/31/2023. Vote of motion was unanimous.

City Attorney Roberts then explained that the Mayor would call for nominations for his replacement. Councilman Basham nominated David Pace. Councilman Johnston nominated Bruce Fackler. Nominations were then closed.

A motion was made by Charlotte Ford, seconded by Bruce Fackler, to go into closed session per KRS. 61.810 Section 1(F). Vote of motion was unanimous.

After a 25 minute closed session, a motion was made by Bradley Johnston, seconded by Bill Basham, to come out of closed session, where no action was taken. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Ballots were then distributed to all Councilmembers. Once collected by the City Attorney, the ballots were counted by both the attorney and City Clerk/ Treasurer Amy Haynes. The results were read aloud by Haynes, giving David Pace 4 votes, and Bruce Fackler 1 vote. Councilman Fackler chose to abstain from the vote. Votes were Coomes, Spry, Basham, and Ford for David Pace, and Johnston for Bruce Fackler. The appointee is David Pace by majority vote.

A motion was then made by Bill Basham, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

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David Pace, Mayor

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Amy Haynes, City Clerk/ Treasurer