

The regular meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held March 11, 2024 at Brandenburg City Hall.

PRESENT:

David Pace, Mayor
Amy Haynes, City Clerk
Brian Haag, Police Chief
T.J. Hughes, Public Works Dir.
Jessica Brown Roberts, Atty
Bethany Carr, P&Z Admin.

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

VISITORS: Gene Webster-WVIH, Sammy Lee & Poem- SK Lee CPA, Jordan Wilson-Grant writer, Mr. & Mrs. Wiles, Tyler Chapman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER:

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Councilmember Bruce Fackler.

INTRODUCTION / UPDATE FROM GRANT WRITER:

Jordan Wilson, the grant writer for both the City of Brandenburg and the MC Fiscal Court introduced himself and gave a background. He is not from our area, but relocated here for the position in May of 2023. He is currently working on a multitude of County projects, and 2 for the City of Brandenburg. One being Section 14/Phase 1-Riverfront stabilization for Riverfront Park. He stated that he has been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they have been to the park for a site visit. The Corps took photos and assessed if the project would fit under the parameters of the Section 14 grant. They stated that it does due to the playgrounds, campground, etc..... Phase 1 - engineering and site work is estimated to be covered by \$100,000.00, as well as how to complete the job. This phase will determine feasibility, and could be a long process.

The next project would be boat ramp revitalization on the old boat ramp, and is estimated to be about \$150,000 - \$200,000. This will hopefully be fully funded and would allow for there to be multiple ramps for both small and large boats.

Mr. Wilson then advised that he is working on County grants for new playground equipment and crumb rubber mulch for Meade Olin Park, as well as other opportunities.

Wilson then added that he is looking into a DLG grant through the Lincoln Trail AD District which would provide sidewalks connecting residential areas to public spaces such as parks. The grant amount is \$300,000.00, but would require a 25% match by the City. Mayor Pace stated he would like to see sidewalks to the schools on Broadway, as well as HWY 228.

Mr. Wilson then mentioned that our Riverfront Park is a huge source of tourism and revenue and would love to find all available grant dollars to be used in the area.

It was then mentioned that refurbishing the older boat ramp would likely not impact the frequent visits that the City has had by the American Queen group, because they have filed for bankruptcy, and all visits have been cancelled for the year. But, should they resume operations in the future, an alternate unloading site could be looked into for them.

AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Sammy Lee, with SKLee CPA Firm presented the 2022/2023 audit findings. He gave a brief review of highlights in the audit and stated that the audit was given a "Clean Opinion", which is the best standing that can be issued by CPA's. He briefly discussed the activity and business accounts of the City, stating that we currently have approximately 28 million dollars in infrastructure. As well as, the City is

considered to be very solvent – meaning having funds to make things happen as needed. The growth witnessed in the audit is about 1.2 million dollars in equity, which is very good especially in today’s economy.

A motion was made by Bill Basham, seconded by Bruce Fackler to approve the audit as presented. Vote of motion was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to approve the February 12, 2024 council meeting minutes. Vote of motion was unanimous.

PLANNING & ZONING:

The second reading of Ordinance #626 – Zoning Map Amendment for Jason Humphrey, was read aloud by the City Attorney. A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Bill Basham, to approve the ordinance as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION:

A list was provided to the Council for review of surplus items to be submitted to an auction taking place on April 27, 2024. A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Bruce Fackler, to declare the items surplus. Vote of motion was unanimous.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #627:

City Attorney Jessica Brown Roberts read aloud the first reading of Ordinance #627, which would adopt the Kentucky Model Procurement Code. She mentioned that the City already follows this code, but approving the ordinance would make it official. This is where it mentions that any items over the total of \$40,000 per vendor must be bid out for pricing.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO KRS 61.810, SECTION 1:

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Ginger Coomes, to enter into closed session. Vote of motion was unanimous.

After approximately 15 minutes, a motion was made by Bill Basham, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to return to the open meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

A motion was then made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Bill Basham, to approve the Mayor signing the change order agreement with W. Principles LLC, regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction. Vote of motion was unanimously approved.

WATER TOWER UPDATE:

Mayor Pace reminded the Council that an additional grant in the amount of 1.5 million dollars was awarded regarding the construction of a water tower on Moremen Road. The Mayor informed that Earl Coffey, the engineer on the project, had submitted the project to the Division of Water for approval. He then directed the Council to view the drawing on the screen as submitted by the engineer. Pace advised that the addition of this new tower would ease the strain on the existing water towers on Old State Road and Lawrence Street. Public Works Director, TJ Hughes, then advised that this would also allow for a 10 PSI improvement for the Kroger/McDonald’s area, which is strained at times due to the demand.

OLD EKRON ROAD UPDATE:

Jordan Wilson, the grant writer, then addressed the Council again, this time regarding the repaving of Old Ekron Road. He stated that it is in the works, but he is pursuing a Rubber Modified Asphalt Grant at

this time. He states that this new paving technique is intended to last longer than regular paving. He stated that it is a lengthy project to obtain approval, and there is still a while to go before that happens.

OFFICE REPORT:

City Clerk Amy Haynes presented the monthly office report for February 2024. Haynes informed the Council that a new checking account has been opened for ABC fees which are collected by the City rather than depositing those into the General Fund account as had been done up until now. She also informed the Council that after much review by the ABC Administrator Shannon Stull, the ABC Ordinance has several issues / costs which need to be corrected, and Stull and Mayor Pace have met with the City Attorney and hope to have the ordinance revamped soon.

POLICE/COP REPORT:

Chief Haag reviewed the monthly reports for both the Police Dept and the Citizens on Patrol. He then updated the Council on the new security system that has been implemented by the School District. He described that the teachers have a button alert on their name tags, that when pressed three times gets a response from both school administrators as well as the school resource officer. If it is pushed 8 or more times, dispatch and law enforcement are notified. He stated that both he and the Sherriff have mobile access to determine lockdowns, etc.... in the event of a critical incident. He described that on each school property a geofence helps to pinpoint the area of distress.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Director TJ Hughes read aloud his report for February 2024. He then noted that the bathrooms are open in the park, but the showers will not be until the campground opens on April 1st. Regarding the Water Plant Upgrade, Hughes informed that the walk-thru had gone well, and the main issue is that the old software and the new software are having issues communicating. Hughes then addressed that the old concession stand/ bathrooms in Riverfront Park had been demolished, as structural issues were too severe for repair. As of the council meeting date, about 80% of the debris had also been removed.

GUEST INTRODUCTION:

Tyler Chapman, a late arrival to the meeting, just asked to introduce himself to the Council, and let them know that he is running for the office of State Representative.

BUSINESS LICENSES:

Who-Breeze Creations, LLC

Address: Inside City Limits

Type of Business: Dessert Food Truck

Applicant: Tobin & Kristin Whobrey

A motion was made by Bill Basham, seconded by Mark Spry, to approve the business license for Who-Breeze Creations, LLC. Vote of motion was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Pace informed the Council that a table was reserved for the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet on March 27th, and to let him know if any of the Councilmembers wished to attend. The social hour is set to begin at 6:00pm, with the event beginning at 7:00.

Mayor Pace then told that Council that both he and Shannon Stull had met with Meade County leaders today to discuss a remembrance ceremony on April 3rd, as it is the 50th anniversary of the tornado. He stated that the ceremony would be held at 4:00pm on the 3rd, and the location was yet to be determined, but that he would keep the Council in the loop once the details were finalized. He also stated that during the ceremony the plan was to also honor the late Ron Dodson, who was so instrumental in preparing both the City and the County for disasters during his tenure as the Meade County Emergency Management Coordinator.

An update was then given to the Council regarding the paving of Main Street, and the status of the City taking over the roadway. Pace stated that 2 paving company representatives had come to look at the paving performed earlier this year, and the consensus thus far has been that the City continue negotiations with the State before committing, due to the poor workmanship of the paving. Mayor Pace advised that he will set up a meeting, or write a letter, to Kevin Blain, the State Hwy Representative regarding the issues which need to be resolved.

Mayor Pace then advised the Council that the monthly safety meeting was to be held on the following Wednesday from 11:30-1:00pm in the shop. The presentation would be by Wright Implement addressing safety procedures to follow when mowing, using a weed eater, sawing, and various other tasks.

The Mayor then passed out budget updates for the Fiscal Year from July to January for the review of the Council.

Attention was then turned to the TV to view a slideshow of pictures taken by Adam Vessels, with Dreamworks Productions, that highlight different areas in and around the City. Mayor Pace explained that the future plans for the blank walls in the council room, are to provide a timeline of the City in pictures from the oldest to more recent times.

The Mayor then asked each Councilmember if they wanted to speak or had any questions. Councilman Spry wanted to invite the members to a Hollywood Gala type party for the special needs community to be held at First Baptist Church on March 23rd. Councilman Basham commended all City employees for jobs well done by each department. Councilman Fackler asked on the status of the FiveStar construction in the recently annexed City limits. City Attorney Roberts informed that to her knowledge the construction was held up until the County moved the entrance to Nelson Lane.

A motion was then made to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Brandenburg City Council by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Charlotte Ford. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Pace, Mayor

Amy Haynes, City Clerk/ Treasurer