

A meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held February 10, 2025 @ 7:00pm @ Brandenburg City Hall.

PRESENT:

David Pace, Mayor
Amy Haynes, City Clerk
Jessica Roberts, Attorney
Brian Haag, Chief

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rhonda Allen
Bruce Fackler
Grant Wiles
Donna Brown
Mark Spry
David Woodward

VISITORS: Gene Webster (WVIH), Joe Hager (Meade Co Messenger), Brian Chism, Luis Bravo

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. A moment of silence was then observed for previous Meade County School superintendent Stuart Pepper, a member of our community who contributed in many ways throughout his lifetime.

WELCOME GUESTS:

Mayor Pace welcomed guests to the meeting and asked if any of them had items to discuss. All guests declined.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER JAMES HOUSE:

Chief Haag re-introduced to the Council and public Officer James House. Officer House completed his certified training on February 6th and is now again working full time for the department.

PRESENTATION OF 2023/2024 AUDIT:

Mr. Sammie Lee, with SKLee CPA presented to the Council his firms completed audit for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year. After handing out copies to the Councilmembers he informed them he would like to hit the highlights for their review. Starting on page 2, Mr. Lee reported that the opinion presented by his firm of the financial state of the City was the best opinion that can be issued following these examinations of records. He then asked for the Council to turn to several pages (5,10,20,21,22-24,24-32,35,37,42,44), which he reviewed for their understanding and answered any questions they presented. After the completion of Mr. Lee's review, Councilperson Spry made a motion to accept the audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Bruce Fackler, and vote of motion was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by David Woodward, seconded by Rhonda Allen, to approve the minutes of the 01-03-2025 regular meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by David Woodward, seconded by Grant Wiles, to approve the minutes of the 02-03-2025 special meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The transfers were read aloud by City Clerk Haynes. A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by David Woodward, to approve the transfers as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

During the discussion of the bills / registers, Haynes then clarified why many deposits are shown as split. A typical Revenue Fund deposit for example generally is split among water, sewer, utility tax, sales tax, penalties, and reconnections. Whereas, a typical General Fund deposit could consist of tax payments, license fees, building or sign permits, etc... Councilman Mark Spry then took the opportunity to point out that in his now 3 years of serving on the Council there has never been any income or expense that couldn't be explained, and commended Clerk Haynes on her accuracy with both reporting monthly and annually. He pointed out to the crowd and other Councilmembers that there isn't any "fraud" or misuse of City funds, as is proven with the completed audit.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

OFFICE: The office report was presented by Clerk Haynes. She then mentioned to the Council that there had been many issues with the mailing of the utility bills on December 30th, and as a result, many citizens did not receive their bills in a timely manner. The local post office sends the City's bills to Louisville normally, which resulted in the lateness of arrival the prior month. She noted that she personally dropped off the bills on January 31st for the current month's billing, and customers were receiving them as soon as the next day. The local post office had sorted and sent them out locally, resulting in the prompt delivery. She also noted that due to the issues with the January billing, many customers had been refunded their late fees.

POLICE: The monthly report for the Police Dept was presented by Chief Haag. He then notated that he had included in the Council paperwork that some reports had been added per Council request. One of the reports was a breakdown of 2021 & 2022 offences by county and agency. The other report was distributed by the Meade County E911 Committee and had a calendar year breakdown for the year 2024. He also noted to the Council and the public that although many do not realize it, if in a dangerous situation, 911 can be reached by text message.

WATER / SEWER DEPARTMENT: Mayor Pace read aloud the water/sewer report in the absence of Public Works Director T.J. Hughes. He then updated that T.J. was hoping to be able to return to work in March following an accident he was involved in that has had him off since October. The Mayor then told the Council that the maintenance department was looking into repairing the sidewalks mentioned in the prior month's meeting. Next, the discussion turned to the major water leak that the maintenance department had reported the week prior. It was noted that it took over 8 hours to repair, and many maintenance and police overtime hours to be completed. Councilman Spry then asked what the approximate cost to the City was on a leak of that magnitude. Clerk Haynes advised that she would put some numbers together before the next meeting.

BUSINESS LICENSES:

NINETEEN PHOTO LLC

Address: 326 Homeview Drive

Type of Business: Photography

Applicant: Renee Rhodes

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Rhonda Allen, to approve the business license for Nineteen Photo LLC. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Shirley's Way

Address: 640 Bypass Road

Type of Business: Consignment / Secondhand

Applicant: Mary Barnes

A motion was made by Donna Brown, seconded by Mark Spry, to approve the business license for Shirley's Way. Vote of motion was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

-Mayor Pace brought before the Council current legislation that is being presented in Frankfort which would centralize the collection of occupational tax through the State. It was suggested by the Kentucky League of Cities executive director J.D Chaney that cities pass a resolution objecting to the legislation. Copies of Resolution 2025-01 were handed out to the Council, and City Attorney Roberts read it aloud. Councilperson Brown suggested that everyone contact their senators and legislators to object to the bill as well. A motion was made by David Woodward, seconded by Donna Brown, to approve the resolution as read. Vote of Motion was unanimously approved.

-The Mayor then mentioned that a committee needed to be formed for the Yard of the Month which is presented monthly from April to October. Councilpersons Spry, Allen, and Wiles volunteered to fill the role.

-Pace then updated the Council as to the current weather being forecast for the night and Tuesday morning. Then he presented to the Council the current 2 snow routes that are followed by the maintenance department during snow / ice events.

-The Mayor then updated that the mowing contract is either up for renewal or rebid for the coming up mowing season. He stated that he was still talking to the existing contract holder and would report more as details became available.

-In the next order of business, the Mayor noted that the grant for the elevated water tower was once again moving forward. The award is in the amount of 1.5 million dollars, but the City will have to maintain the line of credit at Meade County Bank to make payments until the funds are deposited. The engineer is in the process of submitted the drawings to Frankfort, and once those are approved, the bid specs will be outlined and the project will be let out for bid. The goal is to have the project ready to proceed in early spring if weather permits.
As a result of the grant discussion, Councilperson Spry asked if the grant writer hired by the County (with a portion of the salary paid by the City) had pursued any grants for the City. Pace stated that as of now we were only aware of one grant he had presented for the City which was denied, and that had been several months ago.

The Mayor then went down the table asking Councilmembers if they had anything they wished to discuss.

Councilman Woodward stated he had a couple of general questions:

1) Does the maintenance department have gas monitors and a tripod arm for when they are working underground. Pace stated he would find out.

2) Woodward then asked that the City take a position strongly encouraging the State Hwy Dept to look at safety solutions for the Bypass in light of the most recent accident, and those that had previously happened. Mayor Pace and Chief Haag stated that there were already talks in the works with the state districts as to solutions, some of which could be J-turns or roundabouts. Another suggestion by Woodward is that the turning signal at the Kroger shopping center not have the yellow flashing feature, but rather be only red or only green. Chief Haag noted that the light had been looked at several times, including when Journey Church opened their school in order to make it a school zone. Unfortunately the Journey school did not meet the attendance requirements.

Councilperson Brown then asked about the plan for the tax ordinances, as to when the work session would be scheduled. Mayor Pace informed that he would look at the calendar and make plans to set up the session hopefully in the next week.

The other Councilmembers had no business to discuss.

Visitor Joe Hager, representing the local newspaper, again mentioned Stuart Pepper who had passed and stated that not only in the school system, but in the county as a whole, he had played an integral role in the history of our community.

A motion was then made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Donna Brown, to adjourn the meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

David W. Pace, Mayor

Amy M. Haynes, City Clerk / Treasurer