

A meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held July 14, 2025 @ 7:00pm @ Brandenburg City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

VISITORS: Gene Webster (WVIH), Joe Hager (Meade Co. Messenger), James Shacklette

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.

YARD OF THE MONTH:

The yard of the month for July was awarded to James & Eileen Shacklette, Mr. Shacklette was in attendance to accept his certificate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Grant Wiles, to approve the regular meeting minutes from the 06/09/2025 meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by David Woodward, to approve the special meeting minutes from the 06/23/25 meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by David Woodward, seconded by Bruce Fackler, to approve the transfers as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

PRESENTATION:

Councilmember David Woodward put together a brief presentation of the City's infrastructure. He stated that although no one is ever happy about new taxes or rate increases, the City has a lot of infrastructure which is out of date and in need of repair or replacement. First he described what makes up the infrastructure such as water towers, wastewater treatment plant, water plant, lift stations and pumps, water lines, water wells, etc.....

He started with lift stations, noting that the City of Brandenburg has 19 lift stations, and the majority of those are run with 2 pumps, except for the large one in Riverfront park which has 4. He stated that the main issue with lift stations, both here and everywhere there is a sewer system, continues to be "flushable" wipes. These bog down the pumps, and either cause damage, or stop flow. Lift station pumps are costly to both repair and replace.

He then went on to show pics of the screen at the new WWTP, that was covered with mostly "flushable" wipes. He said although we have a state-of-the-art plant, and the filter does catch most of the debris, someone is still responsible for the repeated cleaning of the screens.

Woodward then pointed out that a lot of the City's infrastructure and materials are past their normal usable life.

Woodward then gave many examples of what incidents could happen that would lead to the City being out several hundred thousands of dollars in repairs and/or replacements.

Councilman Woodward then went on to discuss the drinking water and the wells in the City park. The City currently has 2 functioning wells, with one of those being dangerously close to the erosion occurring on the riverfront. He also mentioned that many older water mains need to be replaced, including Lawrence Street, Old Ekron Road, and Old State Road.

Woodward's main point was to note that if we were to deplete our depreciation fund, sewer line ext, and bond and interest funds, the City would not have any funds for emergencies.

He then noted that the Council is tasked with providing for both today's needs and the future needs of the next generations. He reiterated that we are sitting on borrowed time with the 3 water lines mentioned before and encouraged the Council to look into infrastructure funding for these types of big projects, but especially the immediate needs of the wells in Riverfront Park.

Mayor Pace then mentioned that we had forwarded the information regarding the erosion to Rep. Nancy Tate and she was helping look into possible funding for the \$100,000 feasibility study needed before repairs could be done.

Mayor Pace then mentioned the current grant regarding the construction of a new water tower on Moremen Road. He stated that even after negotiations we were still about \$600,000 short between grant funding and the bid.

Wells were discussed in Riverfront Park, and Mayor Pace said that spots have been identified by GRW for possible locations, but neither of the locations are suitable due to the impact they would have on the greenspace and recreation areas in the park. Councilmember Brown asked how much a new well would cost to drill a new well. Mayor Pace stated it would be approximately \$1,000,000.00, and that it would take at the minimum of one year to drill a new well if we were able to start today.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #652:

City Attorney Roberts read aloud the second reading of the ordinance regarding street legal and special purpose vehicles. A motion was made by Grant Wiles, seconded by David Woodward to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Fackler asked if the County had designated HWY 228 as a road to be exempt from their ordinance. Haag stated they had not. Brown asked what had happened for the State to want to implement this law. Roberts stated they decided to implement the change in order to license and tax these types of vehicles. Vote of motion was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Office: The monthly report was presented by City Clerk Amy Haynes

Police: The report was presented by Chief Haag. He then noted that he would look into recent complaints of residents with tall grass in the City. He informed the Council that Officer Tim Hendley was out due to an injury sustained in an arrest. He stated that Hendley would be out until at least the end of July when he was to be re-evaluated by his doctor. Haag then reported that Sgt. Steve Yocom had tendered his resignation to be effective just after the week of the Meade County Fair. He stated that Yocom had accepted a position with the University of Louisville PD. Haag noted that although the City had made great strides in hiring and maintaining officers in the last few years, we simply cannot compete with large cities and departments. The position will be posted as available within the next couple of weeks.

Water/Sewer: Mayor Pace read aloud the report for the water and sewer department. He then went on to thank the Radiant Church Men's Group, who had volunteered approximately 6 hours in the park in intense heat to pressure wash the sidewalks and clean out the flower beds and planters. He mentioned then that recycling had been picking up in the City, with us having to make about 15 dumps at the recycle center on Tuesdays.

Councilmember Wiles asked if the previous blacktop repair done after a leak at Hillcrest Drive and High Street could be filled in.

Councilmember Brown stated that the stairways leading from Main Street to the top of the hills be cleaned up. She then asked if anyone had noticed a strong odor in Brandenburg around 2:00pm this date, and no one else seemed to have noticed.

BUSINESS LICENSES:

Breanna G. Photography

Address: 301 Lakeview

Type of Business: Photography

Applicant: Breanna Gaudern

A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Rhonda Allen, to approve the business license for Breanna G. Photography. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Horse Feathers

Address: mobile in City limits

Type of Business: Hat and Leathergoods Sales (trailer)

Applicant: Cathy Barr-Ray

A motion was made by Donna Barr, seconded by David Woodward, to approve the business license for Horse Feathers. Vote of motion was approved with Councilman Wiles abstaining from the vote.

Flaherty Chevrolet

Address: Meade County Fairgrounds

Type of Business: Off-Site Display

Applicant: Travis Flaherty

A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Bruce Fackler, to approve the off-site display license for Flaherty Chevrolet. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Ray's Ford

Address: Meade County Fairgrounds

Type of Business: Off-Site Display

Applicant: Chris Cottrell

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by David Woodward, to approve the off-site display license for Ray's Ford. Vote of motion was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Pace reminded Council that the Meade County Fair Parade was going to be held on Sunday July 20th, and that golf carts would be provided for those councilmembers who wished to ride. All members plan to attend except for Councilmember Brown. The meeting time for the parade will be at 1:30 at City Hall.

Pace then read aloud to the Council a complaint submitted by a Lafayette Street resident regarding the noise from the construction site near her property. Mayor Pace spoke to the developer and asked that work not begin until after 7:00am, except for the pouring of concrete which is at the mercy of the concrete plants. He also noted that the same resident had complained of excessive dust from the job site.

Mayor Pace then touched again on the Moremen Road Water Tower. Despite negotiations with the contractors and the engineers, the City is still about \$600,000 short on funding after the grant proceeds are received. Woodward just asked that whatever solution we were to come up with, he would hate to see us access the good amount of cushion the City has built in some accounts.

Pace then advised that clean up days for the Meade County Fair will take place starting on Thursday, July 17th if anyone would like to volunteer.

The next subject was presented regarding the Meade County School District requesting an additional SRO from the City. Mayor Pace stated that should the City provide 2 SRO's, the school board would raise their reimbursement to \$50,000.00/officer. Pace then reiterated that funding from the first 2 quarters of the new occupational license fee could potentially help fund the City's portion of the officer's salary, retirement, benefits, etc... Chief Haag reiterated that his department would then have another additional officer as well if needed for back-up, or when school was not in session. Mayor Pace stated that the City would likely not have to purchase a vehicle, but rather the Chief's current Dodge Durango could be upfitted to match the existing SRO car. Pace stated that the budget for the current year does already include the purchase of a police vehicle. Councilman Spry asked the approximate cost of a new vehicle, and the response was that the cheapest police vehicle purchased to date had been the dodge 4 door truck. Spry asked that before any vehicle was purchased the Council be made aware.

In other school related news, Councilmember Brown stated that she had received phone calls regarding the high school construction and expansion. She stated that concerned neighbors of the property were worried about a noise nuisance resulting if the area nearest their homes were used for band practice. Mayor Pace stated that he would contact the school board to see if they could send a representative to the August meeting to go into more detail about the expected changes. He also noted that the band had been practicing for years near other homes in the City without complaint.

Mayor Pace then asked each councilperson if they had any questions or concerns:

*Fackler asked if all the available maintenance positions had been filled and was advised that there was still one available opening. He also asked that the City get with the State or County to see if the sides of Main Street, Decatur Street, and Lafayette Street could be mowed with their equipment. His only other question was regarding a large culvert pipe which had been laying at the entrance to Buttermilk Falls. Mayor Pace advised that it would be placed under the entrance and was a project being completed by the Buttermilk Falls Committee.

*Spry asked that the Riverfront Park clean-up continue and then mentioned an abandoned property located at the top of Main Street at Broadway being an eyesore. He asked if the owners could at least paint the building to spruce up the looks at the top of the hill.

*Brown mentioned that at the intersection of Oaklawn and Broadway a large ditch seemed to be falling in and suggested that we have the maintenance department look into it.

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Mark Spry, to adjourn the meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

David W. Pace, Mayor

Amy M. Haynes, City Clerk