

Stanford City Council
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, February 6th, 2020
6:30pm, Historic Stanford L&N Depot

NOTE: This meeting was video conferenced and all members could be seen and heard at the Historic L&N Depot, 1866 Depot Street, Stanford, KY. This meeting was open to the public.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Scottie Ernst called to order the Regular Council Meeting of the Stanford City Council at 6:30pm, Thursday, February 6th, 2020, at the Historic Stanford L&N Depot. All recited the pledge to the U.S. Flag, after which the opening prayer was led by Councilman Naren James.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with the following members present: Ella Mae Curlis (by video conference), Ronnie Deatherage, Sara Givens, Peggy Hester, Naren James and Dalton Miller. A quorum was declared by the Mayor.

Also present were: John Hackley, City Attorney; Nancy Leedy, AMNews/IJ; Zach Middleton, Police Chief; Scott Maples, Fire Chief; Barry Allen, SPD Captain; Jeremy Garrison, SPD Sergeant; T.J. Godbey, Joe Gilliland, Ray Sayre, and Johnny Williams, SPD; Chase Marcum, SPD/SFD; Chris Siler, Kenneth Gonyer, Donnelly Barnes, Kenny Smith, Robin Jones, Shane Yocum, SFD; Craig Butler, Kerbaugh, Rodes & Butler; A.C. Donahue, candidate for Circuit Court Judge; Jamie Mingo, Sheila Mullins, Tyler Miller, Trixie Williams, Eddie Carter, Peggy Nunemaker and Debbie Ernst.

Before the meeting began, A.C. Donahue asked for a few moments to address the council and those present concerning his candidacy for Circuit Court Judge, representing Lincoln, Pulaski and Rockcastle Counties. Mayor Ernst introduced Mr. Donahue and he was given the floor. He outlined his background, credentials and why he is seeking the position.

III. Approval of Minutes

-01/02/2020, Regular Council Meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilman James) to accept the minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. Citizen's Comments

Mayor Ernst opened the floor for any citizen's comments. With none presented he moved on to Council Comments.

V. Council Comments

Councilman James asked that the council revisit the meeting location. Addressed was the lack of technical ability at the current location, as well as space constraints. Chief Scott Maples requested bids from three other companies to quote an upgrade to sound and video equipment. Two did not wish to bid the facility and one did not return his call. Only one bid was returned, from Pro Sound. This bid was included in the council packet. It totaled \$22,000. Councilman Deatherage asked if anyone had contacted Mack Dunn to give a quote. Mayor Ernst shared that we have been in contact with the Library and it is still available the 2nd Thursday of each month. Councilman James questioned the cost effectiveness of spending \$22,000 versus \$0 if the location was moved to the Library, which is a facility that has already been excellently equipped by taxpayer dollars. Live streaming the meetings was discussed as well, in order to broaden the reach to the entire community.

A motion was made by Councilman James (2nd by Peggy Hester) to take off the table the issue of moving the City Council meetings to the Library. All in favor, motion carried.

After discussion a motion was made by Councilwoman Hester (2nd by Councilman James) to table the discussion of moving the City Council meetings to the Library until the next council meeting in order to allow Mack Dunn, a local contractor, time to bid on installing sound and video equipment in the Depot. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Deatherage asked about the status of repair to the sidewalk on Logan Avenue at John Stevens house. Due to the ongoing situation and conversation with the water department, City Attorney John Hackley sees no liability for the city to repair the sidewalk. Mayor Ernst will instruct Code Enforcement to pursue having Mr. Stevens repair the sidewalk. In the meantime he will have the Street Department fill in the space.

Councilman Deatherage asked that the Code Enforcement return to the end of the Walking Trail and have the homeowner remove the "Keep off the Grass" signs that he has placed on city property. He also asked that the Street Department clean up the trash that has accumulated by the carwash in the Cash Creek/Hilltopper area.

Councilwoman Hester asked that the culvert by the Health Department, on the same side as her house be cleaned out, and if the pigeon problem at the Depot can be addressed. Mayor Ernst shared that a Depot Committee has been formed by Eddie Carter that will be discussing remedies for that issue.

Councilwoman Givens asked if the political sign on her sister, Barthenia Brown's property could be removed. Her sister stated that she did not place it there. Mayor Ernst shared that the sign has already been removed, and the pothole on Lancaster Street that she requested be filled, has been done.

VI. Presentation of City of Stanford Budget vs. Actual Report June-Dec, Craig Butler

Starting with the budget report, Mr. Butler stated that thru December the City's numbers look really, really good. The total income for the year is well ahead of what had been budgeted through the first six months. From a revenue standpoint, things are looking really well. Concerning expenditures, expense is within range or well under budget for the first six months. The expense side of the Fire Department budget will be amended at year end to show the additional revenue that was received, and the higher numbers in the Street Department show the improvements that were already completed in the Spring. The City has taken in almost \$350,000 more than we have spent in the first six months of this fiscal year. To date, this is the greatest disparity between income and expense that he has seen for the City.

He also handed out a graph detailing, as of June 30 of each Fiscal Year, the cash the City had in the bank. At the end of June 30, 2018, there was \$287,000 in the bank. At the end of June, 30, 2019, there was \$515,995, and the last data point shows that on December 31, 2019 there was \$821,851 in the bank. We are on track to have a good overall Fiscal year.

Overall these numbers reinforce the need for the recent payroll tax increase. This gave the city reserve money that has been much needed. Mr. Butler also cautioned that we continue to take into consideration the continued increase in the amount of CERS Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Rates the City will be obligated to pay. They are capped at 12% increase per year, which will compound yearly. This law sunsets in 2028. Currently the hazardous rate is just under 40%. By June 30th, 2028 the hazardous duty contribution percentage rate will be 98%. The non-hazardous rate is 24.06%, in eight years at 12% a year increase that will be 59.58%.

Councilman Miller commented that, in light of the current state of the City's finances, he would like to make a motion (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to amend the current police budget to purchase a new police cruiser. After some discussion concerning the USDA Grant purchase of a new Durango and the state of the current police fleet Chief Middleton was asked to address the council concerning his departments needs.

Chief Middleton stated that we have 14 officers and 16 vehicles that are operable. Of the two that are used for pool cars, one is now down. There is a plan in place to update the fleet, but the need does exist. The plan will eventually meet the needs of the department, but does not immediately alleviate the need. The Sergeant and Chiefs vehicles are the two that are costing the most, currently, in maintenance and upkeep. Chief Middleton stated that with the current plan in place, at the end of the third or fourth year, would put the department in a full rotation of adequate vehicles. That is if the current staffing numbers stay the same. Adding an additional SRO, which is being discussed, will add another position to that need. The department also has a part-time position that is needing to be filled.

The motion by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) was clarified to amend the current police budget to allow the police chief to immediately purchase a new cruiser at the state contract price with the vehicle to be chosen at the police chief's discretion. A roll call vote was taken with all voting in favor. Motion carried.

VII. Police Department Relocation Committee Report & Possible Proposal

The Mayor read an opening statement outlining the creation of the committee that was formed to study the relocation of the Stanford Police Department and the history behind the need for this relocation. The Mayor stated that he was opening the floor for Architect Garlan Vanhook to present the options that the committee was considering; David Sullivan of First Southern Funding, to present a proposal on the Holton House; the committee to share their thoughts; the citizen's to share their questions and thoughts, and then the council to share questions and thoughts.

Architect Garlan Vanhook volunteered his services to the city to lay out some of the possibilities that were being considered. Mr. Vanhook shared options of building a new city hall, relocating city hall to the current police department located in the fire department building, and building a new police department. Each plan was discussed, and Mr. Vanhook answered questions from the citizen's and council. Pictures were shared via projector of the current police department space, as well as the overcrowded storage in the police and fire department. It was noted that no property has been located that a new city hall or police department could be built on.

David Sullivan, with First Southern Funding LLC, also presented a proposal to the City concerning the Holton House, 403 E Main Street, which is two doors down from the current city hall and across the street from the fire department. Attached are figures of what is currently invested in the property (\$151,000), and a tentative blueprint of the renovations that Garlan Vanhook developed from his knowledge of what city hall would need (\$46,000). This includes interior and exterior renovations, as well as removing two exterior storage buildings, trees and debris, leveling, grading and graveling the property (\$13,000), and connecting the area to the current City Hall parking area. The total investment in the property from First Southern would be \$210,000. The entire project was offered to the City as a build to suit, turn key house for \$200,000.

A handout of all the above information was made available to the council, committee, and all in attendance at the council meeting to review.

Robin Jones spoke on behalf of the Stanford Fire Department stating the staff of the fire department's desire is for the council to please vote to return their building space to them as it was originally intended to be used over 14 years ago.

Joe Lynn Gilliland, Stanford Police Department; Eddie Carter, former Mayor; and Randy Denham, Lincoln County Historical Society; all spoke of the historical significance of having a setting like the Holton House to represent our City. Eddie Carter emphasized that purchasing the Holton House shows that we believe in what we preach...preserving the past.

Chief Zach Middleton shared his support of the move of City Hall to the Holton House and the Police Department to the current City Hall. He believes that we will never be presented with a

better solution for our City. He confirmed that the current City Hall building will meet their needs now, allow them to grow in the future and will be the most responsible use of the taxpayer's dollars.

Chief Maples reiterated the need for space for both the police and fire department. The City has seen a lot of growth and expanding facilities are just a reality of that growth. After research and canvassing the City for available land and locations, he feels that the move of City Hall to the Holton House and the Police Department to the current City Hall is the best choice.

After much discussion with the citizens, the staff, and the city council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Curlis (2nd by Councilman Miller) to table, until next month, a decision concerning the proposals, to give everyone time to talk to Mr. Correll and research what they need to research. A roll call vote was taken with Councilwoman Curlis voting, Yes; Councilman Deatherage, Miller, James and Councilwoman Hester and Givens voting, No. With a vote of 1/5; the motion failed.

A motion was made by Councilman James (2nd by Councilwoman Hester) to proceed with the recommendation from the majority of the committee to move the Police Department to the current City Hall building, give the Fire Department their entire facility and to purchase the Holton House to become the new City Hall. A roll call vote was taken with Councilwoman Curlis voting No; Councilman Deatherage and James and Councilwoman Givens and Hester voting Yes; and Councilman Miller abstaining. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yes/1 no. (In clarification to the vote total announced at the meeting the abstaining vote is removed from the total number of votes tabulated. Therefore, the total vote reflects only the 5 votes cast.)

*The Mayor's statement, written proposals and plans are on file with the permanent copy of these minutes.

**Connection was lost with Councilwoman Curlis due to a power outage in her area.

VIII. 2nd Reading of Ordinance Amending the Text of the City of Stanford Zoning Ordinance #920.27A

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hester (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to have the second reading of the Ordinance Amending the Text of the City of Stanford Zoning Ordinance #920.27A. All in favor, the motion carried. City Attorney John Hackley made the 2nd reading of the Ordinance, after which a motion was made by Councilwoman Givens (2nd by Councilman James) to adopt the Ordinance Amending the Text of the City of Stanford Zoning Ordinance #920.27A. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. 2nd Reading of Ordinance Amending City Ordinance No. 2017-0501, to Align Sectional References and Establish Payment of Members of the Code Enforcement (Nuisance) Board

City Attorney John Hackley identified additional sectional references in this ordinance that need to be corrected. He went over these changes with the council, then asked to have a new 1st reading of the above referenced ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hester (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to have the first reading of the Ordinance Amending City Ordinance No. 2017-0501, to Align Sectional References and Establish Payment of Members of the Code Enforcement (Nuisance) Board. With all in favor, motion carried. City Attorney Hackley made the 1st reading of the Ordinance Amending City Ordinance No. 2017-0501.

X. Resolution of the City of Stanford, Kentucky Declaring Stanford, Kentucky a Second Amendment Sanctuary

A motion was made by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to adopt the Resolution of the City of Stanford, Kentucky Declaring Stanford, Kentucky a Second Amendment Sanctuary. With all in favor, the resolution was adopted.

XI. Resolution of the City of Stanford Adopting and Approving the Execution of a Municipal Aid Co-Op Program Contract July 1, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilwoman Givens) to adopt the Resolution of the City of Stanford Adopting and Approving the Execution of a Municipal Aid Co-Op Program Contract dated July 1, 2020. With all in favor, the resolution was adopted.

XII. Resolution of the City of Stanford Adopting and Approving the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement Concerning the Somerset Street Storm Drainage Project

Mayor Ernst introduced this resolution by explaining that during the Somerset Bridge project a storm drain was discovered to be completely caved in. He has been working with the State Highway Department and David Meade and has secured an agreement from the State for \$35,000 to complete the drainage project. Atmos Energy is completing the gas line from the bridge to Main Street. In two years Atmos Energy is going to be replacing all the gas lines in the City, so while the street was currently blocked, they choose to complete that replacement now as well.

A motion was made by Councilman James (2nd by Councilwoman Givens) to adopt a Resolution of the City of Stanford Adopting and Approving the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement Concerning the Somerset Street Storm Drainage Project. With all in favor, the resolution was adopted.

XIII. Mayor's Information to Council

Mayor Ernst asked that the council be considering what they would recommend the amount be set to pay City Council for the next term. It must be set by the first Monday in May.

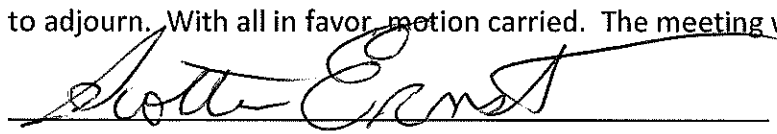
He also asked if the council was interested in annexation of the Industrial Park. After some discussion, it was agreed that it would be looked in to.

An arrangement was sent to Judy Hester in memory of her mother.

A new street department employee has been hired. His name is Randy Warren. He will be working full time to assist Aaron.

XIV. Adjourn

With no other business, motion was made by Councilwoman Givens (2nd by Councilwoman Hester) to adjourn. With all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:11pm.



Scottie Ernst, Mayor
City of Stanford, KY

Date:



Jone Allen, City Clerk