

**Stanford City Council
Special Council Meeting
Thursday, May 14th, 2020
6:30pm, Teleconferenced Meeting**

NOTE: This meeting was teleconferenced and was facilitated by BGADD through Zoom.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Scottie Ernst called to order the Special Council Meeting of the Stanford City Council at 6:30pm, Thursday, May 14th, 2020, via Zoom. All recited the pledge to the U.S. Flag (provided onscreen by Councilwoman Hester) after which prayer was led by Mayor Scottie Ernst.

II. Roll Call

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

Also present were: John Hackley, City Attorney; and Chief Zach Middleton, Stanford Police Department and Chief Scott Maples, Stanford Fire Department (by call in audio link).

III. Approval of Minutes

-03/05/2020, Regular Council Meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilwoman Givens) to accept the minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.

-Due to Corona Virus restrictions, there was no April 2020 meeting of the Stanford City Council.

IV. Council Comments

Councilman James asked where we were on the budget progress for the new year. Mayor Ernst shared that we are working with each department to project numbers for the next fiscal year. We are also waiting until after July 15th (the new deadline for tax filing) to close out the fiscal year to allow the 2019-2020 income and billing to clear out as much as possible. We do not anticipate being hit as hard as what was originally projected due to the COVID-19 mandated shutdowns.

A discussion was had concerning whether the June council meeting will be held in person. It was determined that the call would be made closer to the date of the meeting. Groups of over 10 are not being approved until after June 29th and the six feet social distancing rule will presumably still be in effect.

Councilman Deatherage asked about the status of the Logan Avenue sidewalk repair. A violation was sent to John Stevens concerning repairing the sidewalk, but Code Enforcement cannot go any further with the process due to the COVID-19 restrictions of not being able to schedule a hearing.

Also discussed was the repair of the sidewalk on Danville Avenue and in front of Durham's Grocery. The City Ordinance concerning the maintenance of sidewalks was addressed. Routine maintenance such as debris removal, ice and snow removal, and the responsibility to not impede passage are the property owner's responsibility. Actual maintenance to the sidewalks is the City's responsibility. Mayor Ernst addressed the council's concerns by sharing the work he is doing. The sidewalks are being categorized for repair by looking at the level of foot traffic they receive and the extent of the damage. First on the list would be Main Street and Danville Avenue, then Lancaster Street and Whitley Avenue. They are a part of the comprehensive plan to repair all city sidewalks. This is an ongoing project that will take several years to complete as we can put money in the budget to fund the repairs. Mayor Ernst is also working with Precision Concrete who has offered to come do a complete study of all the repairs needed to our city sidewalks. Once that study is complete, a plan will be shared with the council.

The Foster Lane sidewalk project was also discussed. This project is something that Mayor Ernst has worked on since he took office. He shared with the council that this is a grant from the state to the county and is being funded by federal money. The state is requiring drainage tiles be put in, drainage bumpers, moving the sidewalk to the opposite side of the street and a much more extensive plan than what was originally anticipated. This is a \$1 million+ project. This was a three-phase School to Safety Project with Foster Lane being the first phase, a sidewalk in Crab Orchard being phase two and then a sidewalk in Waynesburg. Mayor Ernst is working with David Faulkner and they are hoping to have this project completed by the fall, but there are no guarantees.

Councilwoman Givens commented that she is very proud of the new bridge on Somerset Street. It is so nice and has added much value to our City. She would like to thank whoever was in charge of that project.

The Mayor also shared that the new sidewalks on McKinney Court in front of his rental property were not put in with City funds. He funded that work himself.

Councilman Deatherage asked about a notice on the water meter reports that the Water Company is going to stop making an adjustment for customers filling their pools. Councilman James asked what the estimated amount of the adjustment could be. Councilman Deatherage estimated around \$30. He was advised to contact Ryan Owens at the Water Department or ask at the next Water Board meeting for an explanation of the change.

Councilman Deatherage also asked about where the best place to receive information concerning the COVID-19 situation is. It was shared that all the mandates, information and enforcement are being facilitated through the Lincoln County Health Department. They do not generate from the Fiscal Court or City Hall. Diane Miller with the health department gives weekly updates on Friday morning on WPBK-FM and the updates are then posted on their facebook pages.

Councilman James asked what has changed after the Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency. Mayor Ernst explained that this order was written to allow the City to be eligible for

any future funding concerning combatting the virus. Attorney Hackley explained that such orders are put in place to allow the Mayor to make decisions in the face of any emergency. Thankfully it has remained a rather quiet time for our City.

Councilman James asked that now that the Health Department is essentially running the show in regards to our response to the CoronaVirus is there anything different in what the Mayor is able to do now compared to what he was able to do before this crisis. What jurisdiction do we have as a city, and is there anything that we are restrained from doing now during the pandemic? Mayor Ernst's response was no.

V. Request for AG Opinion on Jurisdiction (Dalton Miller & Naren James co-sponsor)

Councilman James pointed out that nationally, different Governors have taken different views on when to shut down and when to reopen the economies in their states. At what point do we have any input on how and when our local businesses open? He feels that each individual city should have some say in what is best for their community and that each city has not been afforded that opportunity.

His basic question is at what point do the Governor's emergent powers end? He is requesting an opinion from the Attorney General concerning the local community's jurisdiction and the limit of the Governor's emergent powers.

Councilman Miller and James asked who gets to declare when we are no longer in a state of emergency and when the emergent powers of the Governor are no longer in place. After some discussion by council it was determined that at this point there is no way to speculate when the restrictions in place around this COVID-19 pandemic will be completely lifted but the council is supportive of the current plan by the Governor to open the economy in phases bearing in mind that this is an ever evolving scenario.

City Attorney Hackley shared that as always, when mandates are issued from the state, we as a city have the power to make them more restrictive, but not less restrictive. The preemptive powers of State government were also addressed. (See the email included from Chris Johnson, KLC Attorney) We have declared a State of Emergency as a City, seeking an AG opinion to lessen restrictions would seem to fly in the face of our own State of Emergency Declaration.

The council did not wish to support the request for an AG opinion but stated that Councilman James was free to request the opinion on his own as a citizen. Councilman James did not wish to put a motion on the floor.

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

Mayor Ernst presented the numbers from the revised contract to council. This revised agreement is \$8,800 less than the original contract due to the reduction in tax money being received by the state.

Councilman Deatherage made a motion to accept the Resolution (2nd by Councilman Miller). A roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Resolution was accepted.

VII. Discussion and Possible 1st Reading of Amended Ordinance Establishing General Licensing Provisions 220.23A

City Attorney Hackley shared with the council that this amendment consolidates several past amendments, corrects typographical errors in those previous amendments, and includes establishing a uniform \$50 per year license fee and removing the old language of a fee schedule by business type. This also updates the change to the Occupational Payroll tax amount.

Councilman Deatherage made the motion to have the 1st reading (2nd by Councilwoman Curlis). A roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried. City Attorney John Hackley read the 1st reading of the Amended Ordinance Establishing General Licensing Provisions.

VIII. Discussion and Possible 1st Reading of Ordinance Fixing and Establishing the Annual Salary and Compensation for the Elected Office of Mayor of the City of Stanford and for the Elected Office of Councilperson of the City of Stanford, KY for the Term of Office Beginning in January 2021

After some discussion Councilman Miller made a motion to increase the City Council pay per month to \$325.00. With no 2nd received, the motion died.

Councilman James made a motion to increase the City Council pay per month to \$350.00 (2nd by Councilwoman Curlis). A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Curlis (2nd by Councilman Miller) to have the 1st reading. With all in favor, motion carried.

1st reading of the Ordinance was completed by City Attorney John Hackley.

(Attorney Note: On the advisement of KLC, all dates have been extended due to the COVID-19 restrictions (exigent circumstances), so that our vote was extended beyond the previous deadline for passage, which was the 1st Monday in May.)

IX. Appointment of Chad Davis to the Ethics Board

Councilman James made a motion to accept the appointment of Chad Davis to the Ethics Board (2nd by Councilwoman Hester). With all in favor, motion carried.

X. Mayor's Information to Council

-City Hall will be opening to the public on June 1st, with restrictions in place.

-The banners recognizing the graduating high school athletes that did not get to play in their senior year will be put up next week on Main Street. (Those were paid for by the High School Athletic Program)

-We will have an ad printed in the Interior Journal congratulating the 2020 Graduating Class.

-The Welcome to the City of Stanford sign has been installed on US 150.

-This year's flower baskets will be done by the Lincoln County High School horticulture class.

-There will be a county-wide Shred It event on June 6th from 9am-12pm in front of the courthouse.

-Spring City Wide Cleanup Event will be June 1st-12th, 2020.

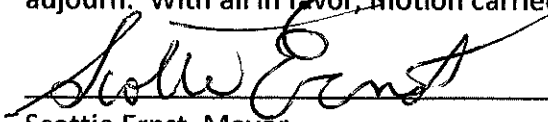
-Deadline for signup for election filing is June 2nd.

Councilwoman Hester shared that the Still in Danville has hand sanitizer available for sale, Councilman Deatherage shared that the bottling company at the wood products has it available as

well. Mayor Ernst shared that we have hand sanitizer available at City Hall if any council members need it.

XI. Adjourn

With no other business, motion was made by Councilman James (2nd by Councilman Deatherage) to adjourn. With all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.


_____ 6-12-2020
Date:

Scottie Ernst, Mayor
City of Stanford, KY



Jone Allen, City Clerk