

Stanford City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
September 10th, 2020
6:00pm, Lincoln County Public Library

NOTE: This meeting was live streamed on the City of Stanford, Kentucky Official Facebook page.

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Pledge and Prayer

Mayor Wilkinson called to order the Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting of the Stanford City Council at 6:00pm, Thursday, September 10th, 2020. All recited the pledge to the U.S. Flag after which prayer was led by Mayor Wilkinson.

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.

Also present were: John Hackley, City Attorney; Zach Middleton, Police Chief; Scott Maples, Fire Chief; David Gambrel, PVA.

III. Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Tax Levy

Mayor Wilkinson opened the floor for anyone with questions or comments concerning the proposed tax levy on real and personal property for the 2020 tax year. There were no citizen questions or comments.

IV. Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed 2020-2021 Street and Road Project Schedule

Mayor Wilkinson opened the floor for anyone with questions or comments concerning the Proposed 2020-2021 Street and Road Project Schedule.

Homeowner Herman Vickers proposed that Sherwood Drive be added to the list of roads to be paved. He also asked that Herndon Drive be looked at where it meets Danville Avenue. He asked if there was a way for the road to be widened.

V. Opening of Sealed Bids for Proposed 2020-2021 Street and Road Project

Mayor Wilkinson opened the two sealed bids received from The Allen Company and BJ's Paving. The total bid from The Allen Company was \$117,403. The total bid from BJ's Paving was \$105,999. This bid includes paving the streets listed as well as the parking area located behind the police department and city hall.

Councilman Miller asked if BJ's would be willing to allow us to purchase the blacktop directly to save in paying sales tax. A representative from BJ's was present and will check with the company to make sure this is agreeable. This would realize approximately \$6,000 in saving for the city.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Hester (2nd by Councilwoman Curlis) to accept the bid from BJ's Paving for the total bid less the tax saving. All in favor, motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

-08/13/2020, Regular Council Meeting. Motion was made by Councilman James (2nd by Councilwoman Curlis) to accept the minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Citizen's Comments

Jane Vanhook invited everyone to attend the Main Street Clean-up on Saturday, September 12th from 9-12pm. The event is sponsored by Bluegrass Greensource and any city street can be "cleaned-up". There will be a table set up in front of the Chamber of Commerce. Participants will receive a trash bag and a t-shirt. Grabbers are available through the library and also gloves will be distributed. Bluegrass Greensource does request that you report the number of bags that are picked up. She looks forward to as many people as possible to come join them. Social distancing and masks will be required. She also cautioned families and individuals to use discretion in what they pickup.

Zak Parker, a resident of Stanford, asked that attention be called to the trash on city streets. He proposed that something be done about the open container recycle bins. He also asked that Stanford enact a very strict litter law and maintain it.

Larry Caldwell addressed the council concerning the water line project work that was done in his yard. When the work was completed and other yards were sown, he was told that his yard was too wet. It is now September and he is asking when new grass seed will be sown in his yard. Councilman Miller shared that he spoke with the water department and was told this is a bonded project and they will not be paid until the work is completed to the homeowner's satisfaction. He shared that Ryan Owen's stated there is a crew coming in the next few weeks who will be dedicated to yard repair.

Councilwoman Hester stated that she has received several calls concerning the condition of several yards in the city. She presented pictures to the council. She stated that personally she feels the water department has had ample time to repair the yards.

Joe Fletcher addressed the council concerning a water leak he has had since February 2019. He also shared about the curb that has been cut and cracked. He expressed concern about blacktopping that was done in Anderson Heights and Southwood Drive and does not think it needs to be added to until milled.

Mayor Wilkinson asked if Mr. Fletcher had been to a water board meeting. He stated that he is not available to attend the meetings during the day. Councilman Miller stated that he would contact the water department to set up a different date to meet with Mr. Fletcher.

Councilwoman Hester presented pictures of the yard and driveway of Rev. Chris Simpson that is in need of repair. She stated that he poured his own gravel to be able to access his driveway.

Greg Kidd spoke on behalf of his father-in-law Dwight Whited who lives in the John Logan House past the water department. Come November it will be one year since the work was done at his home. His driveway was cut all the way across, gravel was put in, but it was never blacktopped. He stated that he called the water department and was told that it would be put on the list to repair after all the tie-ins are completed.

VIII. Council Comments

Councilwoman Curlis asked what the status of the negotiation of the garbage service contract is. Mayor Wilkinson stated that he is currently negotiating the remaining two year extension on the contract that would allow for another year of service for the City with Republic Services at the current rate. This would allow time for the new mayor to be seated and a new contract to be negotiated.

Councilman Deatherage shared that Tim Estes has requested that the City allow banners for fall sports seniors be placed again like the spring sports. The Athletic Department will supply all the banners and the City would just have to put them up. All agreed.

Councilman James (2nd by Councilman Miller) made a motion to continue streaming the city council meetings on Facebook as our media engagement with the public. A roll call vote was taken with Councilmembers Curlis, James and Miller voting yes and Councilmembers Deatherage, Givens, and Hester voting no. Mayor Wilkinson broke the tie with a yes vote. Motion carried.

Councilman Deatherage (2nd by Councilwoman Hester) made a motion to contact the radio station and add the platform of radio and Youtube to stream the meetings as well. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting yes, motion carried.

Councilman James asked about the building permit procedure for swimming pools and decks. It is currently two separate permits for a pool and for a deck issued by Code Enforcement.

Councilwoman Hester inquired about why the City was paying Travis Gilliam, Greenscapes, to mow the Fort instead of our own maintenance crew. The City currently only has one mower in service, and the decision was made by the Mayor to contract out the maintenance of the Fort property for the time being. Mayor Wilkinson also stated that it is cheaper to have the service contracted than to use our own crew. It was also announced that the Fall Cleanup will be the second and third week of October.

Councilwoman Hester also asked about the maintenance of the Fort property, namely the chimney repair and the status of the logs currently on the property. Due to COVID restrictions the crew that was scheduled to make the repairs to the cabin have not been able to complete the work. The Fort Foundation is funding those repairs under a previously made agreement with the City. She also inquired about the location of the walking trail. Councilman Miller shared that the trail that he and Councilwoman Curlis were working on is located along the edge of the creek. All the work done on the walking trail is strictly volunteer and has been done at no expense to the city. The work that is

being done by the Fort Foundation around the new cabin is not complete. There is still a water wheel to be installed and ground work to be completed. This is also being done at no cost to the City.

Councilman James wanted to make sure the constituents of the City understand that a petition has been filed for a wet/dry vote for our City to be completely wet, not a moist situation. He realizes that this is a voter decision, but wants the City to be aware of the enforcement responsibilities that will occur if this is voted in. All of the revenue from the enforcement would have to go directly to administrative cost and the cost of enforcement. He encouraged the residents to become educated on the decision.

City Attorney John Hackley shared that the signatures have been secured and the vote will be on this ballot. He also stated that the City Council will be asked to pass an ordinance to have the ability to say what it should and should not have. He also stated that if the City does vote wet, in three years, they have the option to vote again and return to being a dry City if they felt that need.

IX. Presentation of 2018-2019 Budget Year Audit Report – Craig Butler, Kerbaugh, Rodes & Butler

Craig Butler, CPA with Kerbaugh, Rodes and Butler and Chad Robinson reported a clean opinion for the 2019 City of Stanford Audit. Chad stated that our financial statements are stable and there were no issues to speak of. Fiscal 2021 retirement rates have been frozen in place, and the 12% increase will not occur. The shortfall will still need to be made up statewide in the next eight years. It is the single largest budget challenge facing all cities in Kentucky.

Motion was made by Councilman Miller (2nd by Councilwoman Curlis) to accept the 2019 Audit as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Craig also shared comments concerning the budget year ended June 30, 2020:

There was \$100,000 more in the bank accounts as compared to June 30, 2019, this was after paying \$200,000 for the new City Hall property. So, the fact that our cash went up \$100,000, shows that the City had a very good year.

He feels that paying cash for City Hall was a good decision.

The reserve for the City is slowly increasing and that is also positive after being dangerously low in years past.

Our bank accounts are currently earning an interest rate that is likely more than any CD investment would yield.

X. Luther Galloway, AGE Engineering, Storm Drainage Repair Presentation

Luther Galloway with AGE Engineering presented the results of looking at three specific areas of drainage issues in the City. The first was Eastwood Drive, which is the most difficult area mainly because the erosion has taken out close to 2-3 feet and has exposed a sanitary sewer pipe as well as a lateral line to a home. They are proposing to raise the bottom of the creek and fill with crushed stone, and then fill with large rock to stabilize the creek. The second area is Sherwood Drive, where a previous concrete liner was put in. The property in question is at the end of one of those channels. The increase in the velocity of the water has caused the erosion. The vertical banks are eroding and they have proposed placing rock to stabilize the sides of the creek. The third

area is in the Cannonade area, where three pipes come into a junction box. They were unable to determine the issue without excavation.

Costs estimates for the first two areas were presented. Eastwood came in at \$31,600, and Sherwood at \$18,000.

Homeowners in the area voiced concern about placing rock and regaining land that has been previously lost to the erosion. Other options of pouring concrete walls were discussed and Mr Galloway will prepare costs estimates for these. The project will require being bid, and Mr. Galloway shared that no work would be able to be done until next Spring. AGE would prepare the plans and give the City a list of potential contractors for the job to be bid.

Questions were raised about storm water catchment requirements. The Planning and Zoning Ordinance will need to be reviewed to determine current regulations for inside City limits. Homeowners questions concerning the taxable value of their property were referred to the Property Valuation Office for reassessment.

Mayor Wilkinson also shared that there is the possibility that the County will be able to help with this project as well.

XI. 2nd Reading of the Ordinance Setting 2020 City of Stanford Tax Rates on Real and Personal Property T2020

A motion was made by Councilwoman Curlis (2nd by Councilman James) to have the second reading of the Ordinance Setting 2020 City of Stanford Tax Rates on Real and Personal Property T2020. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried. City Attorney John Hackley made the second reading of the Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hester (2nd by Councilwoman Givens) to accept the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance Setting 2020 City of Stanford Tax Rates on Real and Personal Property T2020. All voted in favor, motion carried.

XII. Mayor's Information to the Council

Mayor Wilkinson shared that:

-Precision Concrete has completed Phase I of the sidewalk repair work. The original cost estimate was a little over \$12,000 but the actual completed bill is a little over \$10,000.

-Also a reminder to the citizens that political signs may be put out 45 days prior to the election. September 19 is the date for political signs to be posted.

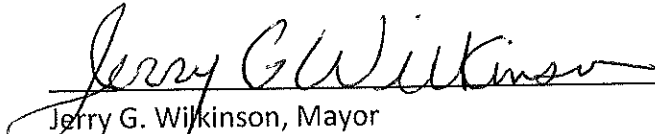
-There has been some blacktopping done and sidewalks are being replaced with the Water Department project. He asks that citizen's try to be patient as this project is being completed.

-As Interim Mayor he reminded the citizen's that he is ready and available for them. He encouraged all citizens to feel free to call City Hall with any questions or concerns they may have and could address for them. He understood that there have been some questions about streetlights and reminded citizen's that City Hall has direct lines with both KU and Inter Co and we have the yellow ribbons to mark the poles to be repaired for citizens if they will call in the ones that need repaired.

-He also shared that Donnie Gilliam has offered to make officials ID's for all city officials. They may come to the Emergency Management Office to have those done.

XIII. Adjourn

With no other business, motion was made by Councilwoman Givens (2nd by Councilman James) to adjourn. With all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.



Jerry G. Wilkinson, Mayor
City of Stanford, KY

10-9-2020
Date:



Jone Allen, City Clerk