

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 10, 2026

EMINENCE CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING

EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Fred Downey and the following members present: Lee Ann Armstrong, Karen Paris, Phillip Smith, Bobbie Jo Frazier, Justin Wayman and Connie Nation. Also, in attendance were City Attorney Chelsey Brammell, City Clerk Robin Mullins, Fire Chief Steve Lucas, Public Work Director Troy Popp, Utility Clerk Donna Rangel, Utility Maintenance J.R. Ellis, Henry County Local Representative Joe Durban, and Residents Ronetta Vargas, Kenya Vargas, Missy Ayers, Mike Paris, Janet Young, Ashley Raymer Brown, and Liz Wood .

Mayor Downey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. ET/5:00 p.m. CT.

Pledge of allegiance held.

Subject: Merriweather Ave & South King Street – Janet Young was present to ask if Merriweather Ave and South King Street would be paved this year. Mayor Downey stated they are in the group of roads to be paved next year.

Subject: Theater Down Stream – Ashley Ramer Brown and Liz Wood were present to report that Theater Down Stream would be doing a staged reading of A Few Good Men. The performances would be on Friday, August 14th and Saturday, August 15th at 7:00 p.m. EST/6:00 p.m. CT and Sunday, August 16th at 3:00 p.m. EST/2:00 CT.

OLD BUSINESS

Subject: Minutes – The minutes of the regular meeting held on July 13, 2026, were reviewed. Mayor Downey asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Motion made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Nation to approve the minutes as presented. On a call for votes, all members present voted “Yea”.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subject: City Parking Lot Across from Community Center – Mayor Downey asked Member Smith to speak with Glenn Chevrolet about their cars in the parking lot.

Member Smith stated he had spoken with Shawn Bright and they would like to move their cars from the post over five cars deep.

After discussion it was decided the city needed to have a special meeting and speak with Nathan in order to come up with a solution.

Subject: Property Tax Rate Discussion - Clerk Mullins presented the compensating and 4% allowed rates for real and personal property. The compensating rate on real property is 23.5 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value and the 4% allowed rate on real property is 24.4 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value. The compensating rate on personal property is 29.91 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value and the 4% allowed rate on personal property is 31.06 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value. Mayor Downey suggested the real property tax rate be 24.00 cents per one hundred dollars of the assessed value like it was in 2025 and take the compensating rate of 29.91 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value for personal property. Discussion held. The consensus was to set the real property tax rate at 24.4 cents on real property, take a compensating personal property tax rate of 29.91 cents, and 26.6 cents on motor vehicle and watercraft.

Subject: First Reading of Property Tax Ordinance – Attorney Brammell held the first reading on an ordinance setting the real property tax rate at 24.4 cents per one hundred dollars assessed value, personal property tax rate at 29.91 cents per one hundred dollars assessed value, and the motor vehicle and watercraft rate at 26.6 cents per one hundred dollars assessed value for 2026.

Mayor's Update – Mayor Downey stated the bid for the roads will be advertised next week and he would also like to get the bid for the park upgrades in the paper at the same time.

Mayor Downey stated we are hiring another Public Works Employee; Clerk Mullins and Director Popp conducted interviews today and he will interview the suggested candidates sometime this week.

Mayor Downey reported that Detective Downey has resigned and the police department has been interviewing for officers for the two vacant positions. He stated the interview process will be the Chief and Sergeant, then the Chief, Clerk and Public Works Director and the final interview would be done with him.

Mayor Downey also reported he is in the final stages of completing the lease with IAA. There are still some details to work out. They are asking for a nine-month grace period to get the construction work done on the building before the commencement of paying rent.

After Discussion, Motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Wayman to allow the mayor to negotiate the lease between the city and IAA waiving up to nine months of rent during construction, but all utilities must be paid by them. On a call for votes, all members present voted "Yea".

Mayor Downey reported council needs to decide if they wanted to close the walking trail at dusk or keep it open 24/7 since many residents use it to get back and forth to work.

Motion made by Paris and seconded by Member Smith to keep the walking trail open 24/7. On a call for votes, all members present voted "Yea".

Council – New Business – Member Paris stated she is still getting noise complaints and asked if there was a number to tell residents to call if they have a problem. Mayor Downey stated they needed to call dispatch at 502-532-6363.

Member Frazier asked what can be done about the children on e-Bikes. Mayor Downey reported we reached out to KLC and there is a state law that addresses the operation of electronic scooters (KRS 189.289) and requires that a person be sixteen to operate on a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle path and they must follow all of the normal traffic regulations - like stopping at red lights, etc. Also, you must be sixteen (16) to ride the e-Bike.

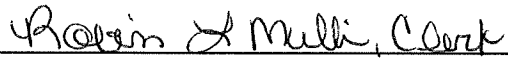
Council took a field trip to the parking lot to see what area Glenn Chevrolet was asking to use.

Open Citizen Comments – Ronetta Vargas asked the council when the speed bump on East Broadway would be put in. Public Works Director Popp stated the contract had been signed and it would be put in soon.

Janet Young asked the council if she could get a speed bump on King Street. Mayor Downey stated they would look at putting a speed bump in when the road is black topped next year.

With no further business to be discussed, the motion made was by Member Nation and seconded by Member Wayman to adjourn. All members present voted “Yea”. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. ET/6:37 p.m. CT.


FRED DOWNEY, MAYOR
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

ATTEST: 
ROBIN MULLINS, CITY CLERK
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

