

The City Council of the City of Eminence, Kentucky met in a regular session on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Fred Downey and the following members present: LeeAnn Armstrong, Bobbi Jo Frazier, Karen Paris, Phillip Smith, Justin Wayman, and Connie Nation. Also, in attendance were City Attorney Chelsey Brammell, City Clerk Robin Mullins, Police Chief Mike Wells, Public Works Director Matthew McAllister, Fire Chief Steve Lucas, Henry County Local Editor Rob Hoff, Polly Troxell, Donna Rangel, Jerry Roberts, Amy Charles, DeAnne Downey, Raymond Crawford, Benjamin Whitaker, Josh Lawson, Magistrate Ed Frederick, and Command Sergeant Major Retired Janell Ray.

Mayor Downey called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance held.

The public hearing was held to discuss the city applying for a grant under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to replace the rubber mulch at the park with synthetic turf. The amount of the total project is \$74,195.00 and it's a 50% match.

The council was in agreement to move forward with the grant.

A public hearing was also held to discuss the city applying for a grant under the Recreational Trails Program to widen the Jim Green Trail with concrete. This can be done as one project or broken down into three phases. The total cost of the project is \$314,947.00 and maximum funding is 80%.

Motion was made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Nation to do the entire walking trail and widen it to 9 feet with the cost of \$314,947.00. On a call for votes, the following members voted:

Member Smith	"Yea"	Member Frazier	"Yea"
Member Paris	"Yea"	Member Nation	"Yea"
Member Armstrong	"Nay"	Member Wayman	"Nay"

No Comments were received written or oral from the public.

Motion made by Member Frazier and seconded by Member Paris to close the public hearing. On a call for votes, all members present voted, "Yea".

Mayor Downey called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with the same people listed above in attendance.

**Retirement of Flags** – Command Sergeant Major Retired Janell Ray and Boy Scout Troup #421 conducted the retirement flag ceremony.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Subject: Minutes April 8, 2024** – The minutes from April 8, 2024, were reviewed. Mayor Downey asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Frazier to approve the minutes as presented. On a call for votes, all members present voted, “Yea”.

**Subject: Special Meeting Minutes April 24, 2024** – The minutes from April 24, 2024, Special Meeting were reviewed. Mayor Downey asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Smith to approve the minutes as presented. On a call for votes, all members present voted, “Yea”.

**REPORTS:**

**Subject: Police Department Report (Copy Attached Hereto)** – Police Chief Mike Wells presented the monthly activity report to the council.

Member Frazier reported she had received requests for additional Police Patrols on Broadway, Elm, and West Main.

**Subject: Public Works Report (Copy Attached Hereto)** – Public Works Director McAllister presented the monthly activity report to council.

Member Frazier asked if there was an update on the fire hydrant on Elm Street. Mayor Downey reported it would cost around \$10,000.00 to repair and the company prefers to work on multiple projects.

Mayor Downey reported he had received a letter from P&Z Board of Adjustments about someone wanting to build on Sulphur Avenue and they would need a variance. He plans to go the meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. and the council is welcome to join him.

After reviewing the application Attorney Brammell reported the application for the variance on Sulphur Avenue should be rejected for being incomplete. They could still file the proper paperwork right before the meeting.

**Subject: Administrative Report (Copy Attached Hereto)** – Clerk Mullins reviewed the monthly administrative report.

Clerk Mullins presented the month of April 2024 expenses.

**Subject: Fire Report – (Copy Attached Hereto)** –Chief Lucas presented the monthly activity report. They had 27 runs and 403.50 manpower hours.

Member Armstrong asked if more residents have numbers on their houses. Fire Chief Lucas reported yes, more residents have put up house numbers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Resolution** – Attorney Brammell Read the resolution for the city applying for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. Motion made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Paris to accept the resolution with the inclusion of the word safety. On a call for votes, all member present voted “Yea”.

**Recreational Trail Program Resolution** – Attorney Brammell read the resolution for the city applying for the Recreational Trail Program Grant. Motion made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Paris to accept the resolution with the inclusion of the word safety. On a call votes, the following members voted:

Member Smith	“Yea”	Member Paris	“Yea”
Member Frazier	“Yea”	Member Nation	“Yea”
Member Armstrong	“Nay”	Member Wayman	“Nay”

**Drainage – Bell Ave:** Mayor Downey reported he has a bid to repair the drainage problem on Bell Avenue for \$8,000.00 from Ricky Jo Simmons. He has contacted four other contractors but hasn’t had any response. He believes the project could cost \$8,000.00 - \$12,000.00.

Motion made by Member Frazier and seconded by Member Paris to accept the proposal from Ricky Jo Simmons with the cost ranging from \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to repair the drainage problem on Bell Avenue. On a call for votes, all members present voted “Yea”.

**Land Lease** – Mayor Downey reported that every year we do the land lease on the property at the sewer plant, and he would like to continue leasing to Kevin Kemper.

Motion made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Frazier to allow Kevin Kemper to continue to lease the sewer plant land.

**Subject: First Reading of Ordinance Updating Pay/Compensation Plan** – Attorney Brammell held the first reading of an ordinance updating the Pay/Compensation Plan.

**Subject: Mayor’s Budget Message** - Mayor Downey presented his written budget message and reviewed the summaries for all departments with council.

Mayor Downey asked Magistrate Frederick if the county would be willing to help with air packs for the Fire Department. Magistrate Frederick reported the county has applied for grants hoping to help all departments in the county.

Member Armstrong asked if any money had been put in the budget for the health fair she planned to have in September. Clerk Mullins responded no, but if she had an amount it could be added in the budget. Member Paris said she planned to have the same people here on Eminence Day. Mayor Downey asked that they could get together and coordinate one event.

Magistrate Frederick reported they are having a Kids Health Fair July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Faire.

Mayor Downey reported he had put in a pay increase of 3.5% across the board for all employees, but asked the council to consider more since most employees do multiple jobs.

Member Wayman made a motion for 5% across the board for all employees. Motion died for lack of second.

Motion made by Member Paris and seconded by Member Armstrong for a pay increase of 3.75% across for all employees. On a call for votes, the following members voted:

Member Paris	“Yea”	Member Armstrong	“Yea”
Member Smith	“Yea”	Member Frazier	“Nay”
Member Wayman	“Nay”	Member Nation	“Nay”

The tie was broken by Mayor Downey voting “Yea”.

**Subject: MAP & LGEA Fund** – Mayor Downey explained the required uses for the Municipal Aid program funds stating they must be used for streets, roads, sidewalks, etc. Mayor Downey explained the required uses for the Local Government Economic Assistance funds stating they must be used for public safety.

Clerk Mullins asked for comments from the public.

**Subject: First Reading of Budget Ordinance** - First Reading of Budget Ordinance will have to be completed at a Special Meeting due to the significant changes.

**Mayor’s Update:** Mayor Downey reported the contractors are working on the buildings.

Mayor Downey reported Buddy John Stanley is coming to give an estimate on blacktopping Crabb Avenue. He will also look at the Jim Green Walking Trail while he is here and we can discuss the warranty.

Member Paris asked if anything is going to be done to Vernon Avenue. Mayor Downey reported that he plans to patch the road.

Member Wayman asked if we put money in the budget to blacktop the parking lot next to Johnson's Flooring. Mayor Downey reported he plans to apply for a grant to build a pavilion with a parking lot underneath at a later date.

Mayor Downey reported he plans to meet with Buddy John Stanley about the cracks in the walking trail.

**Council – New Business** – Member Armstrong asked if the council had time to review the alcohol sales tax, she presented last month.

Mayor Downey and Member Paris didn't think it was fair to raise the tax on the restaurants, since they had been paying 2.5% all along.

Motion made by Member Smith to approve alcohol tax rate at 3.5% across the board for all alcohol sales. Motion died for lack of second.

Motion made by Member Smith and seconded by Member Frazier to approve the alcohol tax rate at 3% across the board for all alcohol sales. On a call for votes, all members present voted "Yea".

Member Frazier wanted to address the biker fight at Five Star on May 11, 2024. Chief Wells reported that Officer Corley responded two minutes after he received the call. By the time he got there the bikers had ridden off and the one who was beaten said he fell off the bike.

Member Wayman wanted to know the progress on the 409 Bar. Mayor Downey reported it was on hold for now.

Member Wayman reported Steve Metcalfe recommended the landscape be redone in the center of town.

Attorney Brammell reported the council needed to start thinking about medical marijuana and its implications for the city. An ordinance needs to be passed by January 1, 2025.


Attorney Brammell reported there will be a retirement party for Bill Brammell on June 21, 2024, at the Locker, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

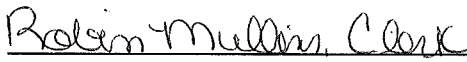
Member Nation asked who owns 25 Jennifer Lane, because she has someone interested in purchasing it. Member Smith will try and get a phone number for her.

Mayor Downey reported Attorney Brammell is looking into foreclosing on dilapidated property in the city in order to place back on the tax roll.

Member Frazier asked if the budget would be ready to review next month. Mayor Downey reported the first reading would take place in May.

With no further business to be discussed, the motion made was by Member Frazier and seconded by Member Nation to adjourn. All members present voted "Yea". The meeting was adjourned at 8.23 p.m.

  
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FRED DOWNEY, MAYOR  
CITY OF EMINENCE, KENTUCKY

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