

City of Morehead
Minutes of
Work Session Meeting of Board of City Council
August 14, 2020 10:00 AM
Peggy's Place at City Park

<https://www.facebook.com/cityofmoreheadky/>

The Board of City Council of the City of Morehead, Kentucky met in a special work session on August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Peggy's Place at City Park and via zoom and Facebook live at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofmoreheadky/>.

1. Call to Order

Mayor White-Brown called to order the August 14, 2020 work session meeting of the Board of City Council to order at 10 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Attendance

Present Council Members:

Mr. Tom Carew
Mr. Mike Kash
Ms. Beth Ousley
Ms. Melisa Patrick
Mr. David Perkins
Mr. Glen Teager

4. Financing of Fire Truck

Mayor White-Brown advised she invited all local banks to submit a proposal for financing of the fire truck. Citizens Bank cannot do general obligation lease financing. First National offered 2.99% interest rate. Kentucky Bank offered 2.25% with a few options including moving all operating accounts there or depositing \$500,000 into a non-interest-bearing account. US Bank offered 1.576% interest rate. All were rates for the 10-year term. There was discussion to pursue the offer from US Bank. There would be a special meeting at a later date to rescind the proposal from BB&T and approve US Bank at 1.576%.

5. Discussion of Fire/EMS District in Rowan County

Judge Executive Harry Clark was in attendance. He discussed they want to first look at the current districts for fire. The County wants to know the end goal. The Fire Chiefs need to look at also. There was discussion is ambulance pay comparable to fire pay. There was also discussion to

reduce other taxes and create a fire tax that would be more equitable. Chief Anderson explained the county is the tax district; the City would not have to be part of the taxing district. Research continues on the subject and also looking at dispatch policies to reduce number of runs.

6. Discussion of location of New Fire Station

There was discussion of building a new fire station for the future. The ideal location would be ½ mile from the current station #1 to get the best ISO rating. Discussion included building enough bays to possibly house EMS if necessary and also include living quarters. Then there was brief discussion of the US 60 property and to follow up with that location with Frankfort.

7. Police/911 Facility Update

Mr. Rodney Fouch advised the plan review was scheduled for today in Frankfort. They are at a minimum 3 months out from approving plans. We can pay a fee to fast-track the approval so the foundation can be started. Discussion led to paying for the fast-track option.

8. Planning/Funding of Entertainment Destination Center (EDC)

Councilman Teager began discussions that he is thrilled with the closure of Battson Oates for the EDC. There was discussion it will cost money and we need a vision for the area. City Attorney Joyce Stevens clarified the area includes more than just Battson Oates. There was discussion of pocket parks in other areas of the district and including exercise trails and art walks. There was discussion of hiring a consultant for designs and plans. There was discussion this will not be cheap; it will take an investment to develop.

8.a. Law Enforcement Needs regarding the EDC

Chief Blevins doesn't foresee any issues with the EDC. He may have to assign officers to Main Street during special events. There was discussion if the zone had different ending times than other ordinances it would be very confusing to enforce. There was discussion of different times. Then Councilman Teager suggested using the time approved then seeing if there are issues since the ordinance has already passed. There was discussion this was positive for growth downtown.

11. Murals

Ms. Melissa Yungbluth and Ms. Nona Camuel were present to discuss murals and art in general. Ms. Yungbluth painted the flowerpots in town as a volunteer. She also has experience commissioning murals for art festivals. She discussed how murals are not graffiti and they are welcoming. The first site for a mural is proposed to be the front of Pasquales in the size of the grate that is currently on the building. There was discussion this could also be a phase of the EDC. There was discussion of budgeting \$25,000 for the first mural to afford supplies, food, travel, etc. for the artist.

17. Downtown Density

The Mayor asked Councilman Kash to address his request for downtown density to be on the agenda. Kash said it was an important issue especially with the entertainment district. Mr. Rodney Fouch reported it was talked about a lot during the update of the zoning code and the Planning Commission wasn't interested in making any changes. There was discussion it needs to be looked at again; there was discussion to figure out how to increase density downtown.

14. Trail Town Opportunities – Including, but not limited to Trails for Biking and Foot Traffic, Canoe/Kayak Connection from Morehead to the Licking River, & Partnership with USFS

Councilman Carew led discussion of bringing people downtown by capitalizing on our trails and partnering with the National Forestry. There was discussion the group at Cave Run has offered to assist with a kayak launch. Then the discussion was that Triplett is not ideal for kayaking.

10. Pocket Parks

Pocket parks were briefly discussed with the EDC.

13. State of City Streets, Sidewalks, Bridges and other Infrastructure

There was discussion that Tippett should possibly be one-way traffic since it is so narrow. Public Works Director Greg Jones discussed removing one side of the sidewalk on N. Blair near KU to gain some street width there; they are also coordinating with MUPB on these kinds of things. There was some discussion of visibility and issues turning onto N. Wilson from Second Street. There was discussion of different barriers at Battson Oates to keep that area closed.

12. City Wide Recycling via Public Works

There was very brief discussion if Public Works should pick up and drop off at the Recycling Center. The discussion was it would require another fee and more equipment.

9. Diversity Focus Groups Discussion &

15. Conversations with Rehabilitation Facilities of Community Concerns

Mayor White-Brown advised of starting focus groups. The idea generated from the Black Lives Matter protests. She explained that is where the food truck idea came from as well as the barber coming here once a month. Good things are coming from these groups. There was discussion of a mentoring program to read books to classes. The idea of a book club to encourage people to read and maybe invite the author to visit. The zoom meeting with the rehabilitation housing programs was good; not much communication since then. There was discussion about concerns of late night activity in neighborhoods downtown.

16. Discussion regarding Updating the Comprehensive/Strategic Plan

There was discussion of data included in a strategic plan and what is in a comprehensive plan. Fouch is working on the SWAT analysis of the Comprehensive plan; encouraged Council to attend

planning commission meeting. Councilman Teager shared frustrations with not being involved or having input on the strategic plan.

12:49 pm – break until 1:03 pm

Mr. Jason Slone reported and shared that everyone had ample opportunity for the strategic plan. He advised it is complete and final. Next steps will be implementation. There was discussion this was a very strong plan and it did prioritize our needs; it met all the objectives from the consultant.

Mayor White-Brown brought up anytime people are not included it leads to these discussions during meetings, yet we don't hear from any other times. There was discussion more communication is needed. White-Brown also felt she gets a lot of push back if there are changes in board membership, but opportunities should be provided to more people.

There was discussion we need more work sessions.

18. COVID-19 Impact on Current Budget

An update will be discussed at the September meeting.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was properly adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Board of City Council
Morehead, Kentucky

Approved by City Council
on September 14, 2020

ATTEST:



Laura White-Brown, Mayor



Crissy Cunningham, City Clerk