

**NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE**

As a result of the state of emergency declared by the President of the United States, Governor of Kentucky, and Mayor of the City of Frankfort due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with recommended and mandated precautions related thereto and Kentucky Opinion of the Attorney General 20-05, the following Meeting Notice is issued:

I, William I. May, Jr. hereby call a Special Meeting of the Frankfort Board of Commissioners for Monday, August 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., in the Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Operations Center, 300 West Second Street. This meeting will be in lieu of the Work Session scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020. All items on the agenda will be considered and action will be taken.

Per KRS 61.826, this meeting is a video teleconference meeting. One or more members of the Board of Commissioners will participate via Skype or a similar video teleconferencing system. The primary location will be in the Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Operations Center, 300 West Second Street.

Per KY Attorney General Opinion 20-05, **public attendance will not be permitted** at this meeting because, due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, it is not feasible for the City to provide a central physical location for public viewing. Public comments on **agenda items only** will still be accepted for the meeting, by emailing comments to bhecker@frankfort.ky.gov by Monday, August 10 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting will be broadcast via Frankfort Plant Board Cable 10 Live and Facebook Live: Frankfort, Kentucky - City Hall www.facebook.com/CityofFrankfortKY/.

Please see www.frankfortema.org for additional information.

S/William I. May, Jr.
T/Mayor

SPECIAL WORK SESSION
FRANKFORT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 10, 2020
5:00 P.M. (EDT)

PRESENT: Commissioner Katrisha Waldrige
Commissioner Scott Tippet
Commissioner Eric E. Whisman
Commissioner John R. Sower
Mayor William I. May, Jr. (5)

ABSENT: None (0)

Following roll call, Mayor May called the Work Session to order.

Mayor May requested that all citizens' comments should be read into the record.

Commissioner Tippet stated that he spoke to the City Solicitor earlier and wanted all of the citizens' comments read as well.

During my 30 years of being involved with City of Frankfort officials, I have never written a positive statement on the behalf of any government official, until today. Keith Parker was hired with glowing recommendations from everyone and was voted unanimously by the Board of Commissioners. He immediately became our leader and has done an outstanding job. What he did not do, is play politics and did his job as described in a City Manager form of government. Unfortunately, doing his job meant that some ego maniac BOC's were rightfully left out of the loop and now they are trying to remove him. If the sitting members of the current Board are unhappy with this type of government, then attempt to change that system; until then, let the man do the job he was hired to do.
~Mike Fitzpatrick

Regarding the TIF development district: I support the expansion as well as moving forward with the TIF process. We must not delay the projects proposed for both the parcels or the future of the old Simon warehouse building on Broadway.

Regarding the COVID fund update: The information regarding donations and how these donations are being handed out to our community should be documented on the City of Frankfort Website. Transparency is important, especially when the public can't attend meetings, ask questions or have an in person dialogue.

PR Marketing Boxcar: Once again, transparency is key. What is the PR firm doing for the citizens of Frankfort? What is the procurement process for something like this and was that followed? Why have the citizens of Frankfort not heard of this expenditure until now. Has the budget been amended or was this included in the original FY20-21 budget that was approved in June? I was upset to hear that the Mayor Protem is unclear of why Boxcar has a contract with the City.

COVID Emergency Update: Thanks to all City Staff for their extra work and dedication during this pandemic.

Executive session: I will say it again, transparency is needed. If there is an issue that rises to the level of potential dismissal of an employee (rumored to be the City Manager) shouldn't this be discussed in an open session?

Thanks :)

~Leesa Unger C. PED

I would like to tender my full support for City Manager Keith Parker. We have someone who is looking to help Frankfort grow into a vibrant city. Our downtown has improved dramatically. We have received the TIGR grant to improve the Second Street corridor. Dolly Graham Park and Juniper Hill parks are moving forward. East Main infrastructure had been replaced and improved. New restaurants locating downtown too. We are seeing more traffic on the river, future growth of parcels B & C will greatly benefit our community. To make a change with all this going on plus throw in the Coronavirus threat, it would be a horrendous time to make a change from our very effective city manager. The hands of the future City Commission and Mayor should not be tied for a year with this drastic change after such a short term (17 months) as our City Manager had had. It would take a year, time we cannot afford to lose, to get a new City Manager up to speed on Frankfort's inner workings and it would also be a City Manager the new Commission had no hand in selecting. Personal grievances are absolutely no reason to make a change in city government leadership.

Thank you

~Craig Blanton

I'm outraged if the news is true that city government is trying to secretly oust a fine manager in Keith Parker. It makes no sense that we have a city manager form of government, but the government consistently seeks reasons to get rid of the city managers. It's simply mind blowing that the commission couldn't openly vote on people owning chickens before the elections, but they pull a chicken move by trying to get rid of Parker in secret. Government officials who employ these types of tactics can't expect my vote. A move like this should be done with full transparency.

~ Delvin Azofeifa

Whatever this issue is with Keith Parker, City Manager I would like to express my complete respect and confidence in his abilities as City Manager. I have been very impressed with his handling of all matters that are included in his job. The problem I see is that the City Commission frequently oversteps it's role and tries to interfere with his management decisions. This has proven to be VERY disruptive and divisive and certainly shown how dysfunctional the Commission has been operating. One glaring example of this is the City's insurance business. The very competent staff handled the vetting well only to be "thrown under the bus" and having it's findings ignored/overruled. Why were bids even requested if any firm outside Frankfort was not going to be considered? What a peculiar position to put staff in to begin with. Unfortunately the end result was our very competent finance officer abruptly resigning. She was doing an excellent job and very valuable asset to the Commission. The same can be said for our former City Manager. She was doing a terrific job but..... Don't you think it's time we asked "Why do staff frequently leave????????? I hope the Commission will NOT take a vote tonight on Keith's employment status whatever the problem may or may not be. This issue needs to be addressed publicly and with transparency. Without the opportunity for citizen comment or input it will be viewed as "railroading" and "political" as so many of the past decisions have been considered. THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO BE MAKING SUCH BIG CHANGES.

~ Margaret Doyle

Regarding Discussion Item # 7 - PR Marketing Company Boxcar

I saw this item on the agenda, thinking it was a future endeavor. I did not realize until I read in the State-Journal that this company had already been hired and performing work for two months. I do agree that the mayor has certain authority and powers during the current state of emergency. However, I feel that what work Boxcar has performed so far, could have been done just as easily and competently by existing staff and resources available to the city. While there have certainly been many challenges and needs during this pandemic, I don't think that a public relations firm would have been at the top of my list. Being that there was no immediate threat to loss of life or property, this need should have been brought before the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Thanks,

~David Hecker

Executive Session: Per KRS 61.810(1)(f), Personnel discussion which might lead to the discipline or dismissal of an employee.

If the rumors are true that the Commission is attempting to fire City Manager, Keith Parker, I hope there is just cause for this action. From my interactions with the City Manager and what I have observed, I feel he is doing a great job under some very trying circumstances. Mr. Parker displays a great deal of professionalism, as well as great knowledge and love for this community. I don't know why, but I feel our City Manager form of government has come under siege lately and we as a community need to revisit the roles and responsibilities of all involved. It is my hope that cooler heads will prevail and we can get past this issue with dignity.

Thanks,

~David Hecker

Letters of support for Mr. Parker were read from the Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Frankfort-Franklin County Tourist & Convention Commission and Downtown Frankfort, Inc. (DFI) President and Board of Directors.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, to go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(b), deliberations on future acquisition of real property related to economic development where publicity would likely affect the value of the property and KRS 61.810(1)(g), discussion concerning a specific proposal regarding a potential new business where open discussions would likely affect the siting of the business. The question was put upon the motion and the roll called. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Tippet, Whisman, Sower and Mayor May (4). Voting against the motion was Commissioner Waldrige (1). The motion was thereupon adopted. The meeting went into closed session at 5:27 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, that the meeting return to open session. The motion was adopted by voice vote. The meeting returned to open session at 7:15 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, for ground rules to be set to the extent permitted by law information discussed in Executive Session tonight remain confidential until otherwise decided by the Board of Commissioners or required by law. The question was put upon the motion and the roll called. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Tippet, Whisman, Sower and Mayor May (4). Voting against the motion was Commissioner Waldrige (1). The motion was thereupon adopted.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, to go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(f), personnel discussion which might lead to the discipline or dismissal of an employee. The question was put upon the motion and the roll called. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Tippet, Whisman, Sower and Mayor May (4). Voting against the motion was Commissioner Waldrige (1). The motion was thereupon adopted. The meeting went into closed session at 7:22 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, that the meeting return to open session. The motion was adopted by voice vote. The meeting returned to open session at 8:13 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Whisman, seconded by Commissioner Sower, to terminate Keith Parker without cause effective at the close of business on August 24, 2020 by 4:30 pm pursuant to the terms of the employment contract and severance agreement signed by effective date and Mr. Parker not return to work and return all city property immediately pending effective date of termination. The question was put upon the motion and the roll called. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Whisman, Sower and Mayor May (3). Those voting against the motion were Commissioner Waldrige and Commissioner Tippet (2). The motion was thereupon adopted.

It was moved by Commissioner Sower, seconded by Commissioner Whisman, that the meeting adjourn. The question was put upon the motion and the roll called. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Tippet, Whisman, Sower and Mayor May (4). Voting against the motion was Commissioner Waldrige (1). The motion was thereupon adopted. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk