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Frankfort City Commission Meeting Notes

The information provided below is a preliminary, unofficial summary of the most recent meeting of the Frankfort City Commission. This information is not the official minutes of the meeting, which are required to be reviewed and approved by the City Commission. The official minutes of the meetings can be found on the City of Frankfort website at Frankfort.ky.gov, after the official minutes have been reviewed and approved by the City Commission.

**Monday, February 8, 2016 –
Frankfort City Commission Work Session – 5 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room**

Note – Typically at Work Sessions the Commission discusses items brought before them, Tentative Agenda items for the upcoming voting meeting, Old Business and New Business. Action is not typically taken during Work Sessions.

Mayor/Commissioners in Attendance

Mayor William May
Commissioner Tommy Haynes
Commissioner John Sower
Commissioner Robert Roach
Commissioner Lynn Bowers

Forestry Advisory Board Annual Report

Jean Henry, Frankfort Urban Forestry Board (Tree Board) Chairperson, presented the Board's 2015 Annual Report to the City Commission. Ms. Henry stated there were several issues within the City of Frankfort including: empty storefronts, storm water issues, attracting visitors, and beautification. She further stated research indicates healthy trees play important roles in all of these issues. Ms. Henry asked the Commission to take a look at our current tree inventory and invited the Commission to assign a Commission Liaison to the Tree Board.

ARTS 20 Program

Melanie VanHouten of Josephine Sculpture and Johanna Hay, local artist, gave a brief overview of a grant application being submitted for the ARTS 20 Program. The art project will include pieces of sculpture being placed in public venues including adjacent to the Kentucky River for citizens and visitors of Frankfort to enjoy. The project includes any partners within the Arts in Frankfort. The presentation listed partners and asked the City to supply some cash and in-kind services to make the project viable. The Commission agreed to support the project.

Woods and Water Carpenter Land Preservation Easement

Deborah White and Charlie Jones, representing the Woods & Water Conservancy, reported to the Commission regarding property at the Carpenter Farm. The property is host to Braun's Rock Cress, an endangered species found in Franklin County. The Conservancy has been in conversation with the Commission since December 2014 requesting that the City put a preservation easement on the property to protect the Braun's Rock Cress. It has been determined that the particular site on the property has no commercial value and the City is willing to have

Wood and Water take the property. Woods and Water asked for an additional 22 acres of land as a buffer to the original request. City Attorney asked the Commission to consider not expanding the original conservation easement due to the anticipation of activity in the area due to the new state building and the new Plant Board building. The Commission asked deeds be created for both the original Woods and Water Conservation Easement and one to include the additional 22 acres. These will be added to the regular meeting agenda 2/22/16.

Frankfort Plant Board Discussion

The City Commission discussed various topics relating to the Frankfort Plant Board. Topics included: City and FPB Property Ownership; Parking Lot at 106 E. Broadway; and Property Ownership Legalities. City Attorney will meet with representatives from the Frankfort Plant Board to discuss these items.

- Board Membership – The Commission also discussed the City’s responsibilities to appoint members to the Plant Board and look at the removal of Board Members if it is appropriate. The Commission also discussed asking the Plant Board for monthly reports to ensure communication between the Plant Board and the City. Commissioner Roach asked Attorney Rob Moore to research the differences in language between the City Ordinance and the state Kentucky Revised Statutes. Commissioner Roach also asked questions regarding the Plant Board entering into an Energy Co-op.

Transition of State Owned Property to Private Sector

Commissioner Robert Roach brought before the Commission the idea of transitioning state owned property back to the private sector. He indicated the State owns some property that is currently not in use and may not ever be in use. He and others are identifying these properties and would like to determine if these properties can be returned to the private sector.

Holmes Street Improvement

Public Works Director Tom Bradley presented information regarding the Holmes Street Improvement plan. The plan was originally adopted by the Commission in 2008. Mr. Bradley, Planning Director Gary Muller and City Manager Tim Zisoff met with KYTC and Representative Derrick Graham. KYTC agreed to put the improvements construction documents on the six-year plan. Mr. Bradley said he would like to have a concept plan completed on the Holmes Street Plan. The plan is estimated to cost \$27,000.00. The Commission agreed to move forward with the concept plan.

Franklin County Joint Meeting

City Manager Tim Zisoff reported to the Commission regarding a Joint Meeting with the Franklin County Fiscal Court. The tentative date for the Joint Meeting is March 11, 2016 based on approval by the Fiscal Court.

Old Business

- Commissioner Roach asked if the Commission would appoint a task force to look at lowering the cost of developing in the County and the City. Suggestions for the task force including members of the City Commission, Fiscal Court, City and County Planning and Zoning, Public Works and the Sewer Department. The task force would be tasked with discovering what obstacles there are to development and make Frankfort/Franklin County more attractive. After some discussion the Commission will be talking with staff to determine the make-up of a task force and how such a task force would be most beneficial.

New Business

- Commissioner Sower discussed the new State budget which included \$6 billion dollars in transportation funds. Commissioner Sower stated that there are a few bridges in Frankfort, including the Capital Avenue Bridge, that are in need of attention. Commissioner Sower asked that a letter be drafted by City

Manager, Tim Zisoff, for the Mayor to sign requesting help for Frankfort's bridges included in the 6-year transportation plan.

- Commissioner Sower also asked that the City double the number of Parks activities for distribution.