

**City of Mt. Washington
Regular Council Meeting
September 27, 2021
Fick Hall**

Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM with the following council members present, Sandra Hockenbury, Dustin Armstrong, Greg Gentry and George Maddox. Gayle Troutman and Troy Barr were absent.

Also, present were City Attorney Hayden Sweat, Alice Harris City Treasurer, Chief Tim Morris, and Lori Puchino Community Development Director.

Councilman Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Armstrong asked those present to take a moment of reflection.

Minutes

Councilman Maddox made, and Councilwoman Hockenbury seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting for September 13, 2021. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Alice Harris read the treasurer's report for the month of August 2021

Ordinance

Second Reading -Vote Required

Attorney Sweat read the second reading of an ordinance amending the annual budget Ordinance 2021-12 for the fiscal year 2021/2022. Councilman Maddox made and Councilwoman Hockenbury seconded a motion to approve. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 4 to 0.

The Mayor stated the City Council have expressed their desire to implement a program to set forth for procedures for a grant for commercial buildings to apply for façade improvements in the downtown corridor. The mayor read several key points written by PHD, Michael B from Ball State University on the importance of a long-term vision for their downtown with the business community being diversified in doing so.

First Reading -Sponsored by Dustin Armstrong

The city attorney read the first reading of an ordinance implementing a downtown façade improvement program.

Councilman Gentry asked how the boundaries were determined. Barry stated the map did not reflect both sides of North Bardstown Road. Lori Puchino stated the boundaries were taken from a previous ordinance that declared what the downtown corridor is.

Councilwoman Hockenbury asked if this would only address the front of the buildings or all sides. Hayden stated traditionally façade means anything that faces the front of the roadway. Hayden stated that can be more clearly defined in the ordinance. Councilman Gentry stated he didn't believe it should be the entire exterior. Mayor Armstrong stated the goal was to improve the face on Bardstown Road. Councilman Hockenbury said we need to clarify for buildings that face multiple roads. Councilman Gentry said it can be determined by the side that the entrance is on. The mayor stated most of the buildings do face North Bardstown Road with the exceptions of a few like the funeral home. Councilman Maddox stated that was a good point and their entrance is in the rear. Councilman Hockenbury said it needs to be clearly defined in the ordinance. Councilman Gentry asked if there is other entities that may not utilize the funds and his hope is to extend the boundaries in the future to include Hwy 44 possibly. The mayor also stated the ultimate goal of the city is to have a walkable downtown and that there is limited parking in this area. Councilman Maddox stated we have to have a good starting point, and this looks to be a good place to start, he said we can expand it each year during the process of the funding and availability. Hayden read the definition of façade to be the face of a building, especially the principal front that looks onto a street or open space. Hayden said there were very good points brought up here tonight and said this is a good time to discuss if the council would like to include all street fronts. Lori Puchino said she was hoping the council would look into including the roof, windows, awnings, maybe signs and possible landscaping and more than just the façade. The mayor said there are other issues we would face if we included that such as if they improve the roof, it does not improve the façade and the intent of this grant. Hayden said that we are just having a first reading and the determination can be made to state the grant as an exterior grant other than a façade. Councilman Gentry clarified that this is a reimbursement program, and we will verify before funds are released and also a final inspection. Councilman Maddox also wanted clarification that this grant will be for existing buildings. Hayden stated yes this is for existing buildings. Hayden also stated that several cities in other areas have utilized this as a proactive stance the city can make, we cannot force people to improve their buildings but is a great incentive to encourage improvement.

Mayor's Report

The mayor stated the incidence rate map is going down and the current rate is 69.8. He said the city is continually monitoring and hopes it continues to decline.

Sign in Sheet

Craig Kinslow a residence at 485 Twelve Oaks Drive. Mr. Kinslow wanted clarification that this corridor only included N. Bardstown Road and that Snapp Street was not included. The mayor said no Snapp street is not included at this time and would include buildings facing N Bardstown Road up to Snapp Street. Mr. Kinslow also wanted clarification that the Wiggington Building is included in this corridor. The Mayor said yes, this building was included. Mr. Kinslow said this building has three sides and with the discussion that was had tonight how would that fall into the grant for funding. The mayor said as it stands, the money that would be matched is only improvements made to the front of the façade. Mr. Kinslow also wanted clarification to know if the corridor includes the Wiggington building, will it also include directly across the street of N Bardstown Road. The mayor clarified that the corridor stops at

Snapp Street and can be expanded later. Mr. Kinslow also stated this grant was to encourage new business to the community and said that in this corridor there is currently no vacancy with an exception of where CVS purchased the old Central Garage.

Harry Patel with the Express mart on Bardstown Road said he had the same question that Craig mentioned and understands the boundaries but said the building is on Bardstown road as much as his is. The Mayor stated both buildings were on Bardstown Road but his was past Snapp Street. Harry said he understands the boundaries and said the city should include all the businesses for the beautification. The Mayor said we have to determine a stopping point somewhere and also have to look at our budget and said we can expand the boundaries down the road.

Executive Session

Councilwoman Hockenbury made, and Councilman Armstrong seconded a motion to enter into executive session at 7:22 PM.

Reconvene

Councilwoman Hockenbury made, and Councilman Armstrong seconded a motion to Reconvene at 8:43 PM.

City Attorney Hayden Sweat stated the City Council met in accordance with KRS 61.810 and no further action was taken.

Adjournment

Councilman Maddox made, and Councilwoman Hockenbury seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM Motion carried.

Barry Armstrong
Mayor

Elizabeth D. Hardin
City Administrator