

**City of Mt. Washington
Regular Council Meeting
March 13, 2023
Fick Hall**

Mayor Owen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following council members present, Layne Abell, Greg Gentry, Bruce Gooden, Sandra Hockenbury and Curt Hudson. Councilman Barr was absent.

Also, present were, City Attorney Thomas Hamilton, City Administrator Dawn Hardin, Paul Brannon Public Works Director, and Chief Tim Morris.

Councilman Gentry led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation by Community Development Director, Peter Gaglio.

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

Minutes

Councilman Hudson made, and Councilwoman Hockenbury seconded a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2023, with the correction noted by Councilman Abell to change police report to treasurer's report. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Police Report

Chief Laythem provided the Police report for the month of February 2023. The Chief also provided a brief financial update of savings since his start date on March 1st. The savings for the agency for the remainder of this fiscal year is \$27,000 and an estimated savings in the upcoming fiscal year of \$103,000, the savings is possible of three officer's pensions pursuant to SB 206 passed in 2016.

Mayor Stuart Owen administered the Oath of Office for Marc Laythem as the Mt. Washington Chief of Police. (Ceremonial swearing in)

Simon Keemer, Director and Nick Reynold, CPA of Dean Dorton provided a draft of the City Audit for the fiscal Year 2022. Nick Reynolds highlighted several pages of the city's financials. Simon Keemer said the opinion provided by Dean Dorton was a clean modified opinion, which is the best you can get, Mr. Keemer said there is good management and internal controls put in place and thanked City Treasurer Alice Harris and her team for assisting with the Audit. Councilman Gentry made, and Councilman Abell seconded a motion to approve the audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Ordinance

Second Reading -Roll Call Vote Required

The city attorney read the second reading of an ordinance of the City of Mt. Washington amending certain sections of chapter 110: Business license provisions. Councilman Hudson

made, and Councilman Gentry seconded a motion to approve the audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

First Reading and sponsored by Councilwoman Hockenbury

Attorney Hamilton read the first reading of an ordinance of the City of Mt. Washington amending certain sections of chapter 51: Garbage. Councilman Gooden asked if the definition of dumpster included dump trailer. Councilman Gentry said no this does not include trailers and Councilwoman Hockenbury said trailers can be addressed in another ordinance. Councilman Abell asked that the second reading clarifies that remodeling be included in section 51.06 to be covered with a building permit.

Assistant Parks Director, Chris O'Brien provided the City Council Members binders of a proposal provided by Mt. Washington

Chris said the city is seeking better opportunities to work with local business owners for investment and enhance the overall experience at our park. Chris stated that the project will include moving two goal post, scoreboard, and upgrade to video boards to utilize for other events, adding home/visitor grandstand bleachers, home/away press boxes, and a sound system throughout the entire park. Chris stated that the MWFCFA is interested in donating \$150,000.00 to help get this project started and the city will need to allocate and expense \$150,000.00 to cover the summarized cost described by Chris O'Brien in this fiscal year. Brandon Eagan with the MWFCFA stated there are five (5) business owners that have pledged to match the city and stated that time is of the essence and were eager to get this project started. Councilman Gentry made a motion to move forward and requested an agreement between the MWFCFA be submitted by the next meeting and then discuss a budget amendment. Councilman Abell seconded the motion.

Sign in Sheet

Joe Mudd asked the City Council who is responsible for the grid on the BYPASS. He said every time the electric goes out it shuts everything down but everything else in the city is open. Paul Brannon said that is Louisville Gas and Electric. Mr. Mudd also asked if the sewer system is signed over to a contractor in Louisville beginning next year. Mayor Owen stated that is not true.

Kenny Stout addressed the City Council and was requesting a digital sign approval for his business sign that was damaged in the windstorm on March 3rd. Kenny said he would like to be able to promote his business with pictures and pricing without having to go out in the elements of the weather to change his advertising. He said he also wants to promote, schools and civic groups. He asked the city council to consider allowing digital signs. Mr. Stout provided pictures as examples of what he is wanting to install at his business located on N. Bardstown Road.

Councilwoman Hockenbury said there is sign ordinance review meeting tomorrow at 1:00PM.

Brent Hackworth with Highgates Development said he is informing the City Council that a year ago they were denied a zoning change on property off Highway 44E behind the Old Mill Elementary School. Mr. Hackworth stated that the design they have by right, is something that

would be more of a hindrance to the community and cause more damage to the roads and cause more traffic. Mr. Hackworth said he wants to be responsible and do what's best for the community and stated they will be going back to the county for zoning change to come back to the City Council. He said if his feeling is that the board will not stand behind this zoning change, in order to save the time and money in doing so, then they will move forward with the design they have by right. Mr. Hackworth stated the prior request was for 205 single family homes and 204 multi-family units which is market rate apartments. By right, they can do 414 duplex rentals. He said they are in the business of development but think this would be a burden on the streets and the highway department, he said he is willing to sit down and discuss with members of the council to discuss and work out any opinions they have on the design before they start this process over. Discussion followed.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported he had an after action meeting on Friday March 3, 2023 due to the windstorm that came through our city. He said the meeting was on Monday March 6th with Chief Laytham, EMA Director, Risk & Safety Manager and Public Works Director to discuss issues of concern. He said we are grateful our city did not sustain more damage than expected, we are utilizing this as a learning experience to be better prepared in the event of a similar scenario/ disaster. We are actively implementing procedures to assure better response. I am proud of how our first responders were readily available and able to work together to solve issues as they evolved. The mayor said the only area of concern was the stoplights being out and the city is purchasing temporary stop signs for future traffic signal outages.

The mayor said our newly hired traffic guard is making a noticeable impact on the traffic flow in school zones and I am excited for the difference this will continue to have on improving traffic control throughout our community.

Mayor Owen said the Fire Hydrant Repairs are still underway throughout the city and water will be turned off during these required prepares, he asked everyone to be vigilant of our postings on Facebook for notifications in your area.

The mayor announced the following events coming soon:

Spring Cleanup dates are April 27th – 29th from 7AM – 7PM on college street.

Spring Festival is May 12th and 13th,

April 22nd is National Earth Day at the City Plaza Pavilion from 10A – 2PM. DJ Bowen said there will be education on compost and recyclables and fun activities for the kids. She said there will also be food vendors there as well.

Report from the Council

Councilman Gentry announced the Police Foundation is hosting a car show at the Sports Complex on April 1, 2023 from 9:00AM- 3:00PM. The traffic signal is installed at Bogard Lane are up and anticipating them to be operable soon.

He also congratulated Coach Kendrick on the state football championship.

Councilman Hudson said there appears to be a sink hole at 105 Washington Drive, and said apparently the city has delivered loads of dirt in the past, he asked Paul Brannon to stop by and investigate.

Councilman Hudson said he and Mayor Owen rode around the city to observe certain areas that have been experiencing drainage issue through the community, and said the city has a lot of water problems, Councilman Hudson said he would like the mayor to be able to address the citizens during an emergency via Facebook to keep them informed of what's going on.

Brian Anderson stated there is a public information officer set forth in the emergency operations plan whose sole purpose is to provide this information during an emergency.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion for the council, Councilman Hudson made, and Councilwoman Hockenbury seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM.

Elizabeth D Hardin
City Administrator

Stuart Owen
Mayor