

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015  
CITY HALL  
COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
6:00 PM**

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**Mayor Barnes called the meeting order 6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT: Commissioner Baird, Blythe, Morgan, Newby and Mayor Barnes  
ALSO PRESENT: Richard Thomas; Interim City Manager, Garrett Fowles; City Attorney, Lisa Cassity; City Clerk**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations:**

- 1) Abraham Lincoln Second Inaugural Address- Phillip Seyfrit
- 2) Children's Champion Month Proclamation- Phyllis Adams
- 3) Multiple Myeloma Month Proclamation- Tammy Smith

**Minute Approval:**

- 1) Regular City Commission Meeting held on February 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x – noted that he was absent for meeting	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**Ordinance 15-04:** An Ordinance of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Amending the Development Ordinance Concerning Roadways and Access in the City.

**First Reading**

Read by City Attorney

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**Order 15-19:** An Order of the City of Richmond Employing Seasonal Golf Maintenance Workers.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

**VOTING:** YES NO

Commissioner Baird x

Commissioner Blythe x

Commissioner Morgan x

Commissioner Newby x

Mayor Barnes x

**Order 15-20:** An Order of the City of Richmond Hiring Seasonal Workers for Gibson Bay Golf Course.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

**VOTING:** YES NO

Commissioner Blythe x

Commissioner Morgan x

Commissioner Newby x

Commissioner Baird x

Mayor Barnes x

**Order 15-21:** An Order of the City of Richmond Hiring Seasonal Workers for the Parks Department.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

**VOTING:** YES NO

Commissioner Morgan x

Commissioner Newby x

Commissioner Baird x

Commissioner Blythe x

Mayor Barnes x

**Order 15-22:** An Order of the City of Richmond Accepting a Resignation by a Member of the Parks Board.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

**VOTING:** YES NO

Commissioner Newby x

Commissioner Baird x

Commissioner Blythe x

Commissioner Morgan x

**FENCE**

Mayor Barnes asked Garrett Fowles to first read a memo that he prepared for the Board of Commissioners which explained how the entire fence situation has transpired and where the city currently stands on this issue.

Garrett Fowles read his memo.

Mayor Barnes also asked Mr. Fowles to explain his feeling about a meeting that they had with Mr. Ackers today. Mr. Ackers felt that the fence would be a good addition to the property, and that was his opinion. But what he also said was based on the authorization that he received, he went ahead and ordered all the materials. Then when the materials arrived he spent a fair amount of time preparing for the fence. I don't mind saying what the figures are, but his recollection as \$18,000 plus change on materials, and he figured that he had about \$1,500 in labor so far.

Mayor Barnes opened up the floor for discussion on the issue.

Commissioner Baird questioned on where we were discussing to pay him. Mayor Barnes responded that once we go to the bid, discussion can only be about the bid itself.

Commissioner Morgan asked for the timeline to be reviewed on the dates and the bid advertisement say. Garrett Fowles responded that he's never clamped eyes on the bid advertisement itself. But the bid itself was opened on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Morgan questioned when the last commission meeting of the year was held. Mayor Barnes and Mr. Fowles responded the last commission meeting of the year was held December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Barnes explained it's just one of those things that happened that we only had one meeting in December. Which gave the commission five weeks lapsed time and in all honestly if there had been an issue we would have had another meeting in December.

Mayor Barnes explained that he and Mr. Thomas meet with Mr. Ackers today and he is not at all interested in a lawsuit. Mr. Ackers stated that he lives here, and that this is his community.

Commissioner Baird questioned if the total amount now is \$19,500? Mr. Thomas responded that the city currently has an invoice for \$18,100, which is just materials, no labor. Mr. Thomas explained that the estimated labor would be on another invoice which we have not received yet.

Mayor Barnes stressed to the Commission that if it's not your will to do the fence, then I think it's our obligation to our citizens to pay the bill. Mr. Ackers did exactly what was asked of him, and I don't think we need to stick him with that bill.

Garrett Fowles added also that the meeting today with Mr. Ackers was not to work out some settlement with him. There have been no offers made by the city or Mr. Ackers. The sole purpose of that meeting was to see where he was at this point relative to what he has out of his pocket on the fence.

Commissioner Baird stated that she thinks it's our obligation to pay Mr. Ackers and our moral responsibility where the fence ever gets put up or not. We have to pay Mr. Ackers cause this was not done with some big conspiracy, was a complete mistake and honest. Mr. Howard is one of the most honest and decent person I've ever met in my life. He would have never have done this if he didn't think he was doing it right. And we do need to pay Mr. Ackers as far as I'm concerned.

Commissioner Blythe stated that he was waiting intentionally and not sure about our proper procedure madam clerk. I was waiting to take the order off the table but heard the Mayor's comment that once that Order is back on the table that's the only topic that can be discussed. But if I'm correct Mr. Fowles but putting the order on the floor would allow us to discuss the details which include his preparation, what he's invested at this point. My second concern for tonight was I feel that we need to do what is right by Mr. Ackers. And my third concern for tonight was to address that in the memo Mr. Fowles just read to us. I did want to discuss what happened internally, how it happened and what needs to happen internally right now. But one, let's bring this off the table, so we can move to a vote, and then second to meet with Mr. Ackers to determine what's right by him and you've already done that.

Mayor Barnes would like to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners; going forward is this processes something that we want to look at. Commissioner Morgan quickly responded, yes. Mayor Barnes explained that he's looked at this process good and bad, but has been a process for like the past 20 years and since it's been a city manager form of government.

Commissioner Blythe commented that when the City Manager gives their report, I certainly see that as a time to make comments. But I choose not to do that thinking that there would be a time such as this nature, that those topics would be brought to a workshop or discussion on once he got the details. I think in one of his comments he was getting more details.

Commissioner Baird added that the Workshop would be added again for discussions like this.

**Mayor Barnes asked for a motion to take Tabled Order 15-06 off the table and back up for discussion.**

Commissioner Blythe thanked the commission for being so patient as he was gathering information on this issue. And that he was also absent at the last meeting and held this order until I returned.

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**TABLED Order 15-06:** An Order of the City of Richmond Awarding a Bid for the Installation of a Fence and Gate for the Irvine McDowell Park Property.

Read by City Manager

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

No Discussion

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Blythe		x
Commissioner Morgan		x
Commissioner Newby		x
Commissioner Baird	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

What we'll do next week is have a Special Called Meeting to discuss Mr. Ackers and how we're going to proceed, unless you would like to go ahead and make a recommendation tonight. Commissioner Blythe responded that is what he was going to recommend and thanked the Mayor.

**Public Comments**

None

**Departmental Reports**

Chief Brock-Police Department

Gave a brief report on stats from that snow storm and have Richmond Police Department responded.

**City Manager's Report**

Mr. Thomas discussed the following items:

1. Thanked the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments for all their hard work during the snow storm.

700 tons of salt used at \$62,000

Reviewed overtime on departments

2. Kiwanis Auction was postponed and will be held now on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Baird**

None

**Commissioner Newby**

Thanked employees for all their hard work

**Commissioner Blythe**

Thanked employees for their accommodation of citizens and really did try to accommodate.

He recommended to the City Manager that we have Richmond Child Care Center on the priority list so citizens can still get to work, and clean the parking lot in a timelier manner.

He also commended the Street Department for cleaning off Main Street so businesses could be open and economy flowing.

City of Lawrenceburg lost all their road equipment due to a fire and is in his thoughts and prayers.

Black History Month exhibits are located at both Madison County Library locations.

**Commissioner Morgan**

None

**Mayor Barnes**

1. Third and Water Street traffic light not working and estimated a week before it will be fixed.

2. Madison Central is playing in the district tournament tonight.

**Executive Session- Personnel (Conference Room)**

**Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel**

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**Out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.**

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Commissioner Baird

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	absent	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**Back into Regular Session at 7:21 p.m.**

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

Motion to approve Mr. Kates extended unpaid leave to March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

**Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.**

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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City Clerk