

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 17, 2015
CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM
9:30 AM**

Mayor Barnes called the meeting order 9:30 a.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**

Departmental Reports

Mr. Thomas announced that Department Heads have been informed that they are not required to attend the Workshops. However, if they had something to bring to the Commission they are more than welcome to attend.

Mayor Barnes did bring Police Chief Brock attention to the fact that he's getting more complaints about citizen running red traffic lights. Chief Brock responded that they are also aware of the complaints and addressing those problem areas in town. Mayor Barnes noted that he understood they can't be everywhere when these violations occur, but encouraged the department to keep up the good work.

Lori Tatum- Tourism Department

1. Ms. Tatum provided a hand out with yearly figures of how much her department received of Transient Tax from the past 5 years and projections for this year.
2. My Richmond- Slogan Campaign
3. Tour Bus Conference
4. Red Bud Bicycle Ride Event-April 26th
5. Breeder's Cup at Keeneland

Old Business

None

New Business

Water Street Project Update-

Mayor brought the Commission up to date on the street closure at Water/Collins Street for approximately 2 months. He questioned if Mr. Thomas has received a response yet from CSX railroad. Mr. Thomas replied no.

Mr. Thomas informed the commission that the city had a citizen break their leg on Water Street in the construction area after hours because he was looking for bottle artifacts. He

assured the commission that this area is fenced in securely and restricted, but asked them to remind the public not to enter this area as it is a hazard.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Thomas discussed the following items:

1. Gibson Bay Wall Stabilization Project- repairs have started and a temporary green has been put in place.
2. Budget planning for FY 15/16 has begun with various meetings with Sharon Cain and Department Heads.
3. Health Insurance for employees- Informed the commission that the city has meet with Neace Lukins our agent for health insurance and reviewed the projection rates for next year. He added that from that meeting there may be a 20% increase in premiums. Commissioner Morgan questioned if this was from ER visits. Jessica Masters responded that actually the ER visits have decreased since the copay increased last year on ER visits.
4. Parks and Tourism Board have been discussing together on replacement of the Barn located at Irvine McDowell Park behind the Tourism office. He noted that the barn is in bad condition and needs to be rebuilt in the same location with the addition of public restrooms. Lori Tatum added that the out of town tourists that come to the property aren't aware that the restrooms are behind the building and with a new barn, the restrooms would be relocated beside the barn and made more visible. Mr. Thomas handed out a design for the commission to review and added that this project is planning to be budgeted for the next fiscal year with costs being split between tourism and parks departments. Mayor Barnes asked Mr. Thomas to include a projected labor cost even though city employees would be doing the work.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Blythe

1. Noted that he has to get his blood pressure checked every day and thanked the fire department for offering that service at the fire stations. He noted that he doesn't always get the doctor's office and he just stops by the fire stations and employees are welcoming to him. Commissioner Newby also commented that it's good practice for the employees.
2. Commissioner commented that something had been troubling him for 2-3 weeks and he would like to address it with the commission. He mentioned a news article from the Mayor's State of the City Address speech that referenced how wonderful the city is fiscally sound that pointed out 2 people as especially thanking. Commissioner Blythe requested that the commission needs to address the entire commission as a whole not just singling out certain people. Commissioner suggested that maybe during a workshop meeting that the commission work on team building projects. However, he added that he never wants to come across as the commission not working together.

Commissioner Baird

1. Commissioner Baird responded that maybe the Mayor mentioned her during the State of the City address because she was present at the event.

2. Eastway Drive- Requested that a stop sign be placed at the old Eastway Drive and Barnes Mill Road. Commissioner stated that she had a citizen request this since there is an increase in pedestrian traffic at this particular intersection.
3. Amberly Way- Requested that street lines be painted on this street in particular where the businesses are located. She added that since more restaurants and such have opened on this street that traffic has been congested. Commissioner Morgan added that lines need to be painted especially at the intersection area as you exit Amberly Way onto Barnes Mill Road.
4. Barnes Mill/Lancaster Ave- Requested that the traffic light be on a delay for pedestrian traffic. Commissioner added that she has witnessed vehicles not yielding when turning left onto Lancaster Ave from Barnes Mill Road. Commissioner feels this intersection is not safe for pedestrians. Chief Brock noted that Lancaster Ave is a state road, so the State Transportation would need to be contacted about changing the traffic light for a delay.
5. Thanked Wayne Long, Assistant Fire Chief for volunteering to be the auctioneer for the Kiwanis Auction.

Commissioner Newby

None

Commissioner Morgan

1. Street Sweeper- Questioned if the street sweeper was broken or is it set on a schedule. Mr. Thomas responded that it's not broken but due to weather may not have been run on schedule lately. Commissioner Morgan requested that Main Street be completed.
2. Response to Grand Campus tax exempt request that was denied from PVA office. Mayor responded that the City Attorney is keeping up on the progress with the case. Now that the PVA had denied, EKU can now appeal to the Local Tax Board which has 3 representatives. He added that 1 of the members is a representative from the City of Richmond. Mayor also added that he's had a meeting with President Benson and Craig Turner and feels that it will end up in circuit court from multiple appeals.
3. Nuisance Ordinance/ Board- Commissioner requested that a nuisance board be created to address the multiple issues in town. He stated that he has multiple concerns from citizens that reside in Stateland Subdivision that their property value is going down because of the nearby motel. He explained that the motel continues to have police called there for theft, drugs and other illegal activity. Discussion continued on several motels in town that have illegal activity, however still pay transient tax and still considered a motel business. Commission requested copies of the Fire Marshall reports from these motels.

Mayor Barnes

1. Requested that each member of the commission set up a time to meet with him one on one to discuss a couple of things.

Executive Session: KRS 61.810, (f) Personnel

Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. for the purpose of Personnel

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

Out of Executive Session at 10:49 a.m.

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

Adjournment: 10:50 a.m.

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	x	
Mayor Barnes	x	

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk