

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM
9:30 AM**

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

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

Departmental Reports

Wayne Long- Fire Chief

1. 12 Week Physical Training for recent hires.
2. Short 2 employees currently.
3. Currently working on promotions.

Larry Brock- Police Chief

1. Discussed current staffing
2. 2 employees currently in academy
3. New K9 dog (Jack)

Lori Tatum- Tourism Director

1. EKU Homecoming Committee, parade floats

Unfinished Businesses

- 1) Ordinance 15-18:** An Ordinance of the City of Richmond Levying an Ad Valorem Tax for the 2015 Year upon all Property Situated in the City that is Subject to Taxation.

Second Reading

Read by Finance Director

Mr. Thomas noted that the public hearing was held on 9-11-15 at 9:00a.m. with no citizens in attendance. There was one employee that came to find out the tax rates as they were planning to purchase a new house.

Motion: Commissioner Baird

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

VOTING: YES NO

Commissioner Baird	x	
Commissioner Blythe	absent	
Commissioner Morgan		x
Commissioner Newby		x
Mayor Barnes	x	

Commissioner Baird questioned why two commissioners voted no when there were no comments made prior to the vote.

Commissioner Newby responded that he had spoken with citizens and knew that the city had money, and that he prayed about it and it just didn't feel right.

Mayor Barnes responded that yes the city has 25% in reserve but that doesn't mean we need to go out and spend it. He urged the commission to do their homework and understand that expenses are going up and there is no additional revenue. What if an industry closes or the economy drops. He remembered when he first took office the city only had 1 million and was barely making payroll. The money that the city has is managed and we as elected officials need to plan for the future of the city. He explained that the city can only raise taxes 4% annually and the City of Richmond is in the lowest revenue tier for second class cities. Mayor announced that this would be presented again at the next meeting.

Mayor thanked Sharon Cain for all her hard work and she exited the meeting.

2) New Branding Project the City of Richmond

Mayor asked the commission what were the wishes for the proposed branding project. Commissioner Baird suggested that Lori Tatum- Tourism Director speak on behalf of a branding initiative in general and city logo.

Lori Tatum commented that Bullhorns concept looks great but feels that the city can get the same thing for cheaper. She explained that Tourism is responsible for promoting the city and feels that with her guidance that she can contact other companies and compare pricing.

Commissioner Morgan commented that he agrees that the city needs a new logo but didn't like how Bullhorn took credit at first for the Lexington design. He questioned if the implementation of the new logos were additional costs for putting on vehicles, stationary and brochures, etc.

Chief Brock commented that the vehicle logos for the police department are reflective and do cost more than a normal decal.

Mr. Thomas added that all future vehicles purchased will be white and have a more standard look.

Lori Tatum added that once the logo is designed that we hope all the downtown banners would look the same, stationary, vehicles, etc. As she agreed to take on this project, she asked the commission what do you want, and what is the price that you are looking for with this project. Commission responded get a variety of companies with prices and report back.

Commissioner Morgan suggested that the city reach out to the citizens to ask for ideas on what they feel a logo would represent their city.

Lori Tatum responded that the state came out with the branding “Unbridled Spirit” and it worked. She added that it’s on everything, driver’s license to documents and it works.

New Business

~~–Renaming the Industrial Development Department~~ Topic pulled from agenda

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Thomas discussed the following:

1. Kids Fest went well this past Saturday and Sunday.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Newby

No report

Commissioner Baird

No report

Commissioner Blythe

Absent

Commissioner Morgan

1. Provided photos of park areas that need to be repaired, trash cans to be emptied, weeds in playground, broken water fountains, dead trees, signs that have “wash me” written on it. He questioned at what point are we going to maintain our parks. He added that he stopped by the city barn one afternoon at 3:30pm to find the employees doing nothing. Mr. Thomas responded that the department’s hours during the summer are 7-3:30pm.

Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes added that those type issues all take money and expressed to the commission that he was extremely disappointed that the tax rates were turned down today. He added that we’re not a team and the commission needs to think progressively for the future.

Public Comments

Bill Mulhern- Richwood Subdivision

Mr. Mulhern asked if the city could repaint the lines on the streets as new technology is coming out in vehicles that can detect is the vehicle crosses over the lines.

Executive Session- KRS 61.810 (1) (f) Personnel at 10:25 a.m.

(Conference Room)

Attending: Jessica Masters; Human Resource Director

Exiting Meeting: Lisa Cassity; City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan
Seconded: Commissioner Newby

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

Out of Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan
Seconded: Commissioner Newby

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

Adjournment 11:00 a.m.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan
Seconded: Commissioner Newby

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

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk