

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2016
CITY HALL
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations:

- 1) Richmond Teen Center Program Update- Erin Moore, Georgia Parks
- 2) Richmond Chamber of Commerce- Mendi Goble

Minute Approval:

- 1) Regular Commission Meeting held on January 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

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

Ordinance 16-04: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Amending Ordinance No. 04-11 Relating to the Ordinance Enforcement Board.

Second Reading

Read by City Attorney

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

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

Ordinance 16-05: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Amending the Code of Ordinances to Repeal Certain Provisions Relating to a Nuisance, to Enact New Provisions relating to a Nuisance, and to Provide that Fines Relating to Codes Violations and Nuisances, Together with Costs Incurred by the City in Abatement, be place on the Tax Bill for the Property in Question and be Subject to Penalty and Interest as City Taxes.

Second Reading

Read by City Attorney

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

Commissioner Blythe expressed that he had concerns with section 3 in regards to trash cans sitting on the street verses in front of their house which may still be visible. However, he added that the Ordinance can always be amended in the future if there presents a problem.

Commissioner Morgan questioned if the city has the ability to place those violation fines on tax bills. Mr. Fowles responded that he has spoken and confirmed with the Finance Director that yes, the city has the ability to place it on the tax bill.

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

Ordinance 16-06: An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Richmond, Kentucky.

First Reading

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Morgan

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

Ordinance 16-07: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Creating a No Parking Zone on a Portion of Cottonwood Drive in the City.

First Reading

Read by City Manager

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

Commissioner Blythe drove by this street and could see the problem with the curve in the road how emergency vehicles and school buses would not be able to get through if cars were parked along both sides of the street.

Mayor Barnes stated there are multiple areas in the city that also face this same issue. He stated that he hoped the safety director would drive the streets to identify these areas of concern.

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

Ordinance 16-08: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond Relating to Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Budget and Amendment thereof- Eastern Scholar House Project.

First Reading

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

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

Order 16-13: An Order of the City of Richmond Promoting a Police Officer to Sergeant.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

Commissioner Blythe commented that he commended the process.

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

Order 16-14: An Order of the City of Richmond Accepting a Retirement by an Employee in the Section 8 Housing Department.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

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

Order 16-15: An Order of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Adopting a Procurement Policy for all Expenditures of Local, State and Federal Funds on the Eastern Scholar House Project.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

Vonda Poynter- FAHE

Ms. Poynter addressed the commission with an explanation of this item.

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

Order 16-16: An Order of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Relating to Eastern Scholar House Project Community Development Block Grant Housing Program.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

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

Order 16-17: An Order of the City of Richmond Awarding a Bid for the Renovation of City Hall Second Floor- Educational Training Conference Room and Office Spaces.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Blythe

Seconded: Mayor Barnes

Mayor questioned commission if there was a problem with the bid.

Commissioner Morgan responded that the bid was too high and that the city has other priorities than a renovated conference room.

Mr. Thomas responded that this project was already approved in the budget.

Commissioner Morgan responded yes that it was approved in the budget just like salaries.

Commissioner Newby stated the bid was too high and he felt there were other priorities in the city.

Commissioner Blythe questioned the rationality of remodeling this area for a conference room. He asked if the city intended to host more in house conferences instead of sending employees elsewhere.

Mayor responded that the cost of the project did increase because there were 5 offices added to the design which better utilize the space for the future growth at City Hall. He felt that this space could be used for training employees, hold board rooms and conferences.

Commissioner Blythe questioned if the offices were already dedicated to someone or a department.

Mr. Thomas responded that yes there are offices for the Safety Coordinator and an Assistant. He felt that the space could be utilized for the healthcare trainings that were discussed previously.

Commissioner Morgan questioned how often we send employees out for conferences. He also questioned what was wrong with the spaces we have now and maybe using Second Street space for conferences.

Mr. Thomas responded that he hoped the city could then host conferences but felt the current Conference Room and Commission Chambers were not conducive for the types of trainings for this room set up.

Commissioner Morgan questioned the capacity for the space.

Philip Hurt, Codes Director addressed the commission on capacity being 30-40 people with the space having moveable tables, chairs and technology capabilities.

Commissioner Morgan questioned the budgeting process and asked if the commission could have the opportunity to include items also in the budget.

Mayor reiterated that this is an Order of the Bid and it was increased due to adding the additional offices. This is actually the second time the city has bid the project due to the first time it was laid out differently.

Mayor asked if there were any other questions. Call the roll.

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

Mayor stated he would like to make a comment toward Commissioner Morgan. He stated that he was confused because Commissioner Morgan wants the city to spend money; votes to spend it and then votes not spend it. Commissioner Morgan responded that he's sorry that the Mayor's confused.

Mr. Thomas questioned where to proceed from here.

Commissioner Morgan responded that he's never been for this project.

Mr. Thomas responded that at this point the bid was not accepted tonight.

No Action Taken

Mayor stated that the project will be rebid and presented again for approval.

Order 16-18: An Order of the City of Richmond Adopting Job Descriptions for the Section 8 Housing Department.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

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

Commissioner Blythe questioned what the difference was between the positions with adding that the paygrades are quite different.

Susan Lillis, Section 8 Director addressed the commission in regards to the 2 jobs pointing out that the Coordinator II writes the grants if the only difference. She expressed that she felt the jobs were the same expect when the city had the create classifications the positions were separated based on current employees' salaries. There is an employee is currently retiring which has more seniority and newer employees that do the same position, but the salaries had a larger gap than the classification scale would allow.

Order 16-19: An Order of the City of Richmond Accepting a Resignation by an Employee in the Police Department.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

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

Public Comments

None

Departmental Reports

None

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Thomas discussed the following topics:

1. President’s Day- City Offices will be closed
2. Last snowfall the city estimated to use \$61,000 in salt and labor.

Board of Commissioner’s Discussion

Commissioner Baird

Absent

Commissioner Morgan

1. Police Department- Thanked Mr. Thomas for providing the memo from Chief Brock which requested the city pay officers for unused vacation due to staffing. Questioned if the city was breaking labor laws for denial of time off to employees and felt there needs to be some conversations regarding the department.
2. He noted that an employee was denied 56 hours of vacation time which means the officers are tired, stressed which can take a toll on individuals. He asked that the city show a more sense of urgency on addressing these issues.
3. KLC Survey & Wage Salary Scale when released needs to be reviewed
4. Noted that an employee lost her Dad today and would certainly hope for everyone’s thoughts and prayers for her.

Commissioner Newby

1. Stated he’s glad to be back after surgery.

Commissioner Blythe

1. Asking for a conversation to place based on Chief Brocks request and having us all work together to get this department back on the right track. I want to make a contribution to whatever is necessary to keep this community safe.
2. Congratulations to the Teen Center on their trip to Washington D.C. which he also there to attend the National Prayer Breakfast by Congressman Andy Barr.

Mayor Barnes

1. Conference Room Bid- Mayor stated that 2 weeks ago disturbing things happened in the in the political arena that is very distasteful. The commission received all the documents regarding the project and to his knowledge no one called with any questions or concerns. He stated that he respects everyone's opinion but felt it was very distasteful that bid was not accepted tonight by the commission. At least the commission could have stated that it's too high instead of saying that you don't like it. He said he was not aware that anyone called, however he'd appreciate a phone call himself to say at least you thought the price was too high. That area has been empty for 2 years and the city needs to be progressive. Mayor stated he didn't understand the lack of communication and there should have been calls made prior to the meeting tonight. He felt it's not fair to the community and the employees to waste time and effort in seeking out the project, accepting bids and then say on TV that you don't like it. He reminded the commission that they don't have to fill out an open records request for information, that all they have to do is call the City Manager. He stated that the City Manager, Codes, IT and other departments have spent a lot of time with drafting and redrafting this space.

Commissioner Morgan responded that he respected the Mayor and his position, and hoped that the Mayor reciprocated the same for his position. He added that their opinion on what's best for city is different.

2. Police Department- Mayor also responded that to hire officer's takes time and Chief Brock only selects the best candidates. He mentioned that all the commission can do is to put the numbers in the budget and let the Chief manage his department.

Commissioner Morgan stated both the Police and Fire Departments are down on staffing.

Mayor Barnes responded that the commission only provides the budget and the City Manager and Chief manage the departments.

Mr. Thomas requested to speak before the meeting adjourned.

Conference Room- Mr. Thomas responded that Commissioner Morgan did contact him about the conference room project. The concerns that Commissioner Morgan asked the City Manager were that he heard equipment had already been purchased, which Mr. Thomas responded no.

Commissioner Morgan added that he contacted Mr. Thomas about a second question as to if a certain office space was dedicated to someone. Mr. Thomas assured him that the office space would be reserved for that employee.

Police Department- Mr. Thomas also responded he doesn't want the commission to think he's not responding the police department shortage because there have been multiple conversations with Chief Brock, Human Resources and the Mayor. However, he wanted the commission to know that he was not prepared tonight to make a presentation but felt he's working on plan for both departments that are down in staffing. He added the Fire Department is getting ready to start another class and thinks that we're all concerned on staffing, but it takes time to replace employees.

Male Citizen approached the podium and asked the Mayor to be recognized.

Citizen questioned what the conference room project was going to use for since he was working on a possible conference center himself which citizens can utilize for much cheaper than a \$100,000.00 construction, plus technology and furniture purchases. He questioned if the money that was allocated for the conference room be better utilized like for a parking garage downtown.

Mayor instructed the citizen was out of order and should have spoken during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Mayor also informed him that he's a for-profit businessman and the city operates as a non-profit. The conference room would be utilized for employee trainings.

Citizen apologized for being out of order and stated he had never been to one of these meetings.

Mayor ended the meeting with reasserting that the city is safe and that the City Manager and Chief and having discussions on staffing. Mr. Thomas responded that there still is some research to be done and wasn't prepared tonight to make a presentation to the commission regarding this matter.

Adjournment: 7:32 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan

Seconded: Commissioner Blythe

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

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk