

**RICHMOND CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2022
CITY HALL
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

Mayor Blythe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT: Commissioner Arnold, Brewer, McDaniel, Newby and Mayor Blythe
ALSO PRESENT: Rob Minerich: City Manager, Lisa Cassity: City Clerk, Tyler
Frazier: City Attorney**

Presentations

1. Scout Project- Brandon Long, rank of Life Scout. Boy Scout Troop 401, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Minutes

- 1) Regular Commission Meeting held on January 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Workshop Meeting held on January 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner McDaniel

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Ordinance 22-01: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond Relating to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Budget and Amendment thereof- Richmond Utility Assistance Project, Community Development Block Grant.

Second Reading

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner McDaniel

Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Ordinance 22-02: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond Kentucky Annexing Property into the City Boundaries and Assigning Zone Classifications for 649 Caleast Road.

Second Reading

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Arnold

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Order 22-06: An Order of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Richmond, Kentucky Setting Aside Money and Allocating \$1000 per City Employee from the American Rescue Plan Act to Establish Covid Premium Pay.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner McDaniel

Seconded: Commissioner Brewer

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

City Manager Rob Minerich explained to the commission that Madison County School Board and Eastern Kentucky University both used this model to support their employees that worked during the pandemic. These funds are being allocated from the ARPA funds which every employee will receive that's currently employed since November and not in the process of separation from the city.

Order 22-07: An Order of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Richmond, Kentucky Approving Voluntary Financial Incentive Program for Employees Who have Received Full Doses of Covid19 Vaccine.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner McDaniel

Seconded: Commissioner Brewer

City Manager Rob Minerich explained to the commission that this also is followed by a Eastern Kentucky University model, which is not mandated but rather than a choice by the employee to be vaccinated. We're currently seeing employee shortages within the city and the private sector.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he's done his homework in regards to this order. He's spoken with ECU President McFadden, School Superintendent Gilliam, Berea Mayor Fraley and Madison County Judge Executive Taylor. At the conclusion of these conversations, he stated that he was in support of the incentive in order to keep our community safe.

City Manager responded that again these funds will be allocated from the ARPA money and not out of the general fund.

Mayor Blythe requested clarification on the definition of vaccinated. City Manager responded that its Moderna 2 shots, Pfizer 2 shots and Johnson & Johnson 1 shot. He further provided details of the first and second payout dates. All employees can provide proof of vaccination now for first payout and then again later in June if they so decide to start the vaccination process now.

Commissioner Arnold stated that she can't be support of this legislation by a government and doesn't see how the city has this authority to offer something with strings attached when it's the employees' personal liberties.

Commissioner Brewer interrupted that it's not his personal feelings, but that's what the ARPA funds were intended for just like the twice 80 hours Covid that was entitled to every employee.

Commissioner Arnold rebutted that it's a personal decision but with stipulations attached.

Commissioner McDaniel called for question. Mayor questioned if there was anymore discussion before the vote. No responses.

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Newby		x
Commissioner Arnold		x
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Ordinance 22-03: An Ordinance of the City of Richmond Amending the Annual Budget for the City of Richmond for the Fiscal Year 2022 Estimating Revenues and Resources and Appropriating Funds for the Operations of City Government.

First Reading

Read by Finance Director and City Manager

Motion: Commissioner Arnold

Seconded: Commissioner Newby

City Manager informed the commission that this Ordinance is only for ARPA expenditures.

No Vote Taken

Order 22-08: An Order of the City of Richmond Appointing an Assistant Fire Chief.

Read by City Clerk

Motion: Commissioner Arnold

Seconded: Commissioner McDaniel

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Mayor Blythe added that it's great to see employees moving up the ranks.

Order 22-09: An Order of the City of Richmond Accepting a Bid for the Richmond Armory Demolition.

Read by City Manager

Motion: Commissioner Arnold

Seconded: Commissioner McDaniel

City Manager notified the commission that Bell Engineering has completed the companies references and thinks this is a great time during the winter for this project. He added that this is a great price because companies are just hungry for work right now. This project also qualifies for the ARPA funds for a quality-of-life renovation to the neighborhood.

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Order 22-10: An Order of the City of Richmond, Kentucky Authorizing Action Under KRS 241.069 to Request Additional Quota Retail Package License Commensurate with the Population Increase.

Read by City Attorney

Motion: Commissioner Newby

Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Public Comments –

1. Kenneth Firby- Citizen
Mr. Firby spoke in response to Order 22-07 that the proposal should have been considered hazard pay instead of a medical perspective.
2. Landon Higginbotham- Scout member
Mr. Higginbotham ask the commission to reconsider an appeal on the incentive pay.
3. Bill Mulhern- Citizen
Mr. Mulhern referred to the Polio outbreak back in the 1940's where people refuse the vaccine shot then and now Polio is eradicated.

Departmental Reports- None

City Manager's Report-

1. Reported that the city has received FEMA reimbursement from the last ice storm in the amount of \$130,940. City Manager thanked Stacy Curtis, Corey Lewis and Sharon Cain for tracking those expenses for this reimbursement.
2. The Active Living Center will reopen Wednesday February 2nd and provide programming on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9am-1pm.

Board of Commissioner's Discussion

McDaniel- No report

Arnold- Thanked the Scout Troop for attending the meeting tonight. She explained that her brother made an Eagle Scout rank and has great respect for the leadership and the impact this program has on the community.

Brewer- No report

Newby- No report

Mayor Blythe-

1. Wasn't aware of previous city manager David Graham's passing, but reflected on his service to the city.
2. He also noted that attended Neen Wiggin's funeral services as she served the city on Planning & Zoning Commission for years.

**Executive Session- Per KRS 61.810 (1) (b) Acquisition/ Sale of Property
Per KRS 61.810 (1) (f) Personnel**

At 7:07 p.m. and moved into the Conference Room

Motion: Commissioner Newby
Seconded: Commissioner Brewer

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Newby
Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Action Taken

Motion to accept the employee discipline agreement from the employee hearing that was conducted Friday 1-21-22.

Motion: Commissioner Newby
Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Commissioner Morgan	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner Grant	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

Adjournment at 7:33 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner McDaniel
Seconded: Commissioner Arnold

VOTING:	YES	NO
Commissioner Newby	x	
Commissioner Arnold	x	
Commissioner Brewer	x	
Commissioner McDaniel	x	
Mayor Blythe	x	

ATTEST:


MAYOR

City Clerk