

# CITY OF HENDERSON – RECORD BOOK

Record of Minutes of Called Work Session Meeting on October 17, 2023

A Special Called Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Henderson, Kentucky, was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at approximately 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, (immediately following the 3:00 p.m. Special Called Meeting) in the third-floor Assembly Room of the Municipal Center, 222 First Street, Henderson, Kentucky.

There were present Mayor Bradley S. Staton, presiding:

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Nicholas E. Whitt  
 Commissioner Austin P. Vowels  
 Commissioner Rodney Thomas  
 Commissioner Robert N. Pruitt, Sr.

**CITY STAFF MEMBERS** included: William L. “Buzzy” Newman, Jr., City Manager; Dawn Kelsey, City Attorney; Maree Collins, City Clerk; Robert Gunter, Finance Director; Karla Beckgerd, Human Resources Specialist; Brian Williams, Public Works Director; Trace Stevens, Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Director; Jordan Webb, Emergency Communications Director; Donna Madden, Executive Assistant; Nancy Stone, Occupational Tax Technician/Parking Enforcement; Bill Raleigh, IT Support Specialist; Victor Carson, IT Network Administrator I; and Briscoe Edwards, Police Officer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dwight Williams; John Stroud; Jim Davis; Elizabeth Davis; Britney Smith, Henderson Homeless Coalition Inc.; Melissa Clements, Henderson Homeless Coalition Inc.; Reverend Charles Johnson, Henderson Homeless Coalition Inc.; Henderson Homeless Coalition, Inc. Members; Jay Randolph, The Chloe Randolph Organization; Kristie Randolph, The Chloe Randolph Organization; Monessa Brooks Bard; Vince Tweddell, Publisher/Editor, the Hendersonian

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**THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:**

**HOMELESS COALITION PRESENTATION**

- ✓ BRITNEY SMITH and REVEREND CHARLES JOHNSON, Homeless Coalition representatives, presented their Mission Statement.
  - Reviewed HUD requirements for an annual count to be conducted in late January.
  - Reviewed that locally they also conduct an annual late summer/fall count using the same forms/format.
  - Explained that during that count they became acutely aware of the services that had been provided by a church that had been located across from the post office on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
    - The church still provides services; however, due to it’s new location they do not have the same interactions.
    - Saw no threats, particularly from those in Community Park.
  - Churches use Good Samaritan funds to partner with 9-1-1 to assist with those that need:
    - Assistance with lodging/shelter.
    - Food vouchers.
    - Fuel vouchers.
  - Interviews conducted during the counts indicates that most list the inability to afford rent and/or mental health issues.

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- Need follow-up once out of shelter program.
  - Thank you to the Pitino Shelter for their continued assistance and support.
    - The Pitino Shelter has agreed to partner with the Coalition/City/County to provide a three-year commitment to provide a dedicated Case Manager position for Henderson/Henderson County.
    - The cost would be \$35,000.00 per year (to be split between City/County)
    - The Case Manager position would be employed and trained by The Pitino Shelter.
    - The Case Manager position would provide:
      - Housing focused case management and counseling.
      - Client assessment and intake.
      - Client paperwork/documentation.
      - Service referral.
      - Ongoing case management and client support.
      - Rent and utility assistance.
      - Program support and operations.
      - Voluntary client sessions capacity building activities – secure donations for clients such as food, toiletries, clothes, bedding, furniture, kitchen utensils, dishes, and other essential items to support clients.
  - Need for office space:
    - The Housing Authority has graciously agreed to provide office space.
    - Apply for grant funding for office supplies.
- Requested 500 bus tokens to be distributed to shelters, Salvation Army, Elevate, Library, AKZ Volunteer & Information Center, and other non-profits that assist with those in need.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to the Case Manager position being a Pitino Shelter employee; funding for the position; who the position would report to; that not everyone wants to be helped – there are those that refuse assistance; that a case manager could build trust with the clients to get more under shelter and provide the care they need; the possible need for a family shelter; some services are needed immediately while infrastructure would be nice, other services are more immediately needed; the County Fiscal Court is interested in conducting a work session for further discussion; it was suggested that this be brought to the City/County Cooperative Study Team for discussion to explore the Case Manager position-unanimous support for further discussion; the difference in homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters; and that there is not a one size fits all solution to this issue, but this would be a start to assess and address the needs of our community.

- ✓ MAYOR STATON indicated that staff had drafted a proposed ordinance to set closing times for certain parks to be from Sunset to Sunrise in the following locations:
  - ❖ Reverend Anthony Brooks Park
  - ❖ Community Park
  - ❖ East End Park
  - ❖ Kimmel Park
  - ❖ All Playgrounds in all city parks except during special events.

MONESSA BROOKS BARD, Madison Street, spoke about the issues in the Anthony Brooks Park and surrounding area, indicating that she doesn't believe that instituting a closing time will solve the problems.

JIM DAVIS, Madison Street, reported that he doesn't want to eliminate the legitimate uses of the park, so he suggested a later closing of 11 p.m. in the summer. He is hopeful that a curfew will address the issues in the parks.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to the parks to be included; the specific times for closing each park; specific activities that are conducted in the various parks; invite public comment from the residents around each of the locations; the various court case laws that have

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been set on violations of park closing times and arrests of the homeless; and that they are hopeful to have an ordinance ready for review before the end of November.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

## DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN PARKING

- ✓ William L. “Buzzy” Newman, Jr., City Manager, reported that during the COVID years parking was relaxed in the Central Business District to encourage and accommodate customers. Subsequently the Parking Enforcement Officer was promoted to another position within the City. The Parking Enforcement Officer position was not filled and for the most part, parking complaints became a thing of the past. It seems that most of the issues are employees of businesses parking in front of their own or other businesses. He suggested to review the parking ordinance to either modify or terminate parking enforcement in the downtown area because we cannot keep something on the books that we are not going to enforce.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to the current parking ordinance, fees, fines; that there is no one solution to this problem; if not getting complaints then look at discontinuing; possibly keep overtime parking violations and modify to eliminate the scatter ticket; have a one day a week, randomly picked, for enforcement to keep everyone honest; it was reported that several business owners have asked a city employee why it is not being enforced and that at least one business owner indicated that they may have to move out of downtown because of other employees taking up all of the spaces in front of and near their business; a member of the Tennis Club requested that continued monitoring/enforcement is needed for the tennis court and Depot parking lots; how this might affect other ordinances relating to residential parking and riverfront boat ramp parking; and it was determined that the former Parking Enforcement Officer would review the current ordinances to make recommendations to legal staff for proposed amendments.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

## MEETING ADJOURN:

MOTION by Commissioner Whitt, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt, to adjourn the meeting.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood:

Commissioner Whitt----- Aye:	Commissioner Thomas--- Aye:
Commissioner Vowels --- Aye:	Commissioner Pruitt----- Aye:
Mayor Staton ----- Aye:	

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mayor Staton declared the Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bradley S. Staton, Mayor  
November 14, 2023

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Maree Collins, CKMC  
City Clerk