

CITY OF HENDERSON – RECORD BOOK

Record of Minutes of Called Work Session Meeting on October 24, 2023

A Special Called Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Henderson, Kentucky, was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., prevailing time, at the Jefferson Elementary School located at 1000 South Alves 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; Holli Blanford, Public Information Officer; Josh Dixon, Fire Chief; Sean McKinney, Police Chief; Jeremy Conrad, Police Major; Steve Davis, Code Inspector; Dylan Ward, Project Manager; Trace Stevens, Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Director; Sam Lingerfelt, Safety & Training Coordinator; David Steele, Sanitation Superintendent; Nancy Stone, Occupational Tax Technician/Parking Enforcement; Theresa Richey, Legal Secretary; and James Elliott, Police Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Cotton, Mayor of Madisonville; Brad Schneider, County Judge Executive; Steve Gold, County Attorney; Herbie McKee, Commonwealth Attorney; Lillie Pruitt; Melissa Clements; Stacey Gilbert; Brittney Smith; Bobbi Jo Marx; Bobbie Jarrett; Nivea Carter; Dwight Williams; Ben Grove; Ryan Monroe; Chad Thompson; Courtney Woolfork; Darlene Marshall Ware; Abby Dixon; Lindsay Locasto; Kevin Gibson; Mi’Oshi Holloway; Tammy Sutton; Harvey Ershig; Matthew Reynolds; Reverend Charles Johnson; Mary Ann Whitledge; Lisa Fulkerson; Katherine Short.

INVOCATION was given by Reverend Charles Johnson, Greater Norris Chapel Baptist Church.

MAYOR STATON gave opening remarks and presented a brief video regarding the inner city and thanked the audience members for the great turnout and especially AKZ for their commitment and participation in each of the committees.

THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

INNER CITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROPOSED PROJECTS

- **BLIGHT/AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Matthew Reynolds discussed the three proposed projects:
 - ✓ Installation of Programmable thermostats and spray in attic insulation up to R38 value
 - Initially limited to identified Clay Street Corridor
 - Review utility bills of participants after three months.
 - Expand the area if results so indicate.
 - Cost if every household in the Corridor participated is \$13,000.00 for thermostats and approximately \$50,000.00 for insulation.
 - ✓ Grants for residential rehabilitation:
 - Application available to all inner-city properties
 - Two pots of money:
 - Homeowner occupied.
 - Landlord properties - exterior aesthetics including siding, gutters, soffit, paint, windows, clean-up.
 - Grant amounts of \$500 to \$15,000 (one property at a time).

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- Would like to start with estimated \$100,000.00 for property improvements.
- BEAUTIFICATION/SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Ryan Monroe presented a video of the committee’s projects.
 - ✓ Committee member Trace Stevens talked about installation of flowerpots in the neighborhood with a self-watering system, weighted to be in the right-of-way in bright colors
 - ✓ Committee member Kathryn Short, talked about food insecurities and the need for a community garden project.
 - ✓ Ryan Monroe discussed a unique communal gathering location for flowers, a garden, multi-sports courts, which include urban soccer courts that are modular courts, customizable to size with the possibility of adding extra features of seating, concession stand and restrooms. There is low cost site survey to assess possible locations of \$4,500. The base multi-sport courts begin at \$70,000.00 up to \$250,000.00. This would consistently draw people to the area, could include a social program to draw young to elder.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Chairperson Kevin Gibson presented the committee’s proposed projects to include:
 - ✓ Energizing the inner city by creating a program similar to the Downtown Henderson Partnership as a stand-alone Inner City Partnership or integrated with DHP. Use existing resources that worked to revitalize the downtown for the inner city.
 - This group would establish short and long-term goals.
 - Plan events and work with the media
 - Strategize to keep guests that come to those businesses in the inner city not only coming back but visiting more inner city businesses.
 - Strategize to retain current businesses and attract new businesses.
 - Update and revise the package of available incentives for both current and new businesses.
- INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – Chairperson Mi’Oshi Holloway discussed the committee’s proposed projects to include:
 - ✓ Receptible litter containers
 - 10 to 15 60-gallon emerald, green colored containers with the city logo to be placed at various locations to assist with keeping trash off the streets and alleyways. (an audience member asked if recycling containers could also be placed throughout the area.)
 - The estimated cost of approximately \$5,500 - \$7,300.
 - ✓ Committee member Chad Thompson discussed affordable Wi-Fi/internet connectivity. Henderson Municipal Power & Light will be starting construction on their expanded fiber network in December which will be available at a cost of \$80 per month.
 - Households with school age children in the Henderson County School System may qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program that provides a \$30 per month discount on internet service. There are other parts of the program for other households that also may qualify for the discount or free service. The website for more information is: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> .
 - ✓ Committee member Dylan Ward discussed sidewalk connectivity:
 - There are corridors where students walk to school with gaps including Mill Street from Pringle to Clay Streets.
 - A five foot wide sidewalk on one side of the street for .4 miles is estimated to cost \$380,000.00.
 - This could be done in phases.

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- ✓ Committee member Mayor Brad Staton discussed alley improvements and continued maintenance:
 - Tree trimming to clear traffic lane and assist with lighting.
 - Due to staffing shortage, \$50,000.00 per year over the next three years will be allocated for outsourced trimming services.
 - Grading gravel alleyways within the entire inner city
 - Assessing and upgrading all alleyways within the entire inner city over the next three years.
 - New app will be rolled out to the public soon for reporting repair/maintenance issues of streets and alleyways.

- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Committee member Sean McKinney presented a proposed project to increase the number of flock cameras within the inner city. The system reads license plates, identifies vehicles by description, does not identify the driver of the vehicle. The system is universally navigated to share nationwide information and maps the travel of vehicles such as the recent two high-profile cases in the area.
 - Twenty flock cameras are requested at a cost of \$2,500.00 per camera/per year plus an additional \$300.00 per camera installation.

- ✓ Committee member Josh Dixon presented a “Sound the Alarm” project.
 - The project would offer smoke alarms from Red Cross with a 10-year battery life free of charge to be installed by volunteers.
 - Volunteers would canvas target areas to bring awareness of the program.
 - Committee member Herb McKee presented a proposed video camera doorbell project. Crime doesn’t happen at convenient times. The installation of doorbell cameras in high crime areas with good video and audio quality will be helpful in deterring crime as well as assist in prosecutions. Several other community programs were reviewed and one thing in common was the ongoing expense.
 - Some companies charge a monthly access fee while others do not provide storage and have no subscription fee.
 - Program completely volunteer basis.
 - No one monitors the footage, only share in the event of an incident.
 - One hundred cameras to start with possibly a phase 2 and 3.

- ✓ Committee member Steve Gold presented a proposed Henderson Enabling Residential Ownership “HERO” project.
 - Housing for officers in the neighborhood.
 - Recruit/retain law enforcement and encourage neighborhood/community policing to eliminate the disconnect between the public and the police.
 - Housing Authority has agreed to support the program by providing low-cost housing that would be available to police officers.
 - Encourage landlords to participate with reduced rental rates and/or rent to own arrangements.
 - Rehab foreclosure homes.
 - Each of these could be provided to the officer at no-cost or very little cost with appropriate commitments of employment.

“No one is truly free who does not feel safe”.

MAYOR STATON wrapped up the meeting indicating that the City continues to work on other projects in the inner city as well as throughout the city: Staff is working on designating open/close times of parks adjacent to residential areas; recently conducted mock city government with 5th graders; approved a Salvation Army donation for Thanksgiving Day dinner and each Commissioner will be volunteering time that day. He reminded everyone that tables were set up with handouts available from each committee and that committee members were also ready and willing to answer questions about the projects; and on your way out don’t forget to post your vote for your top three projects to help us prioritize the budget for these projects. There are also signup sheets if you are interested in serving on a new committee next year. Those committees

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will be: Economic Development; Public Safety; Affordable Housing; Mental Health; and Youth Enrichment with a maximum of fifteen members per committee; and lastly there is a suggestion box in the lobby.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

MEETING ADJOURN:

MOTION by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, 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 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bradley S. Staton, Mayor
November 14, 2023

Maree Collins, CKMC
City Clerk