

**City Of Taylor Mill
COMMISSION MEETING
January 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Bell. Commissioner Reis gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Bell. The City Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Bell	Here
Commissioner Kreimborg	Here
Commissioner Kuehne	Here
Commissioner Murray	Here
Commissioner Reis	Here

The Mayor noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Commissioner Kuehne made a motion to accept the minutes from the Commission Meeting on December 10, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Kreimborg made a second. All Commissioners present were in favor.

MOTION CARRIED

GUESTS:

Mayor Bell announced that Commissioner Reis had a presentation to make recognizing Sergeant Patrick Reis for graduating from the FBI National Academy. Commissioner Reis presented Sergeant Reis with a plaque from the FBI certifying that Sergeant Reis completed his course of study with the FBI Academy on December 19, 2014. Sergeant Reis thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the FBI Academy training and stated that it was a once in a life time experience. Sergeant Reis stated that less than two percent of police officers in the world get to complete this course of study. The Commission congratulated Sergeant Reis and thanked him for service.

Mayor Bell commented that the Police Department of Taylor Mill has a high level of professionalism with CALEA accreditation and Sergeant Reis' FBI training was another credit to the Department. Mayor Bell thanked Chief Knauf and Sergeant Reis for their great work in the Taylor Mill Police Department.

Commissioner Reis presented Officer Mike Lyon with an award from Governor Beshear for outstanding achievement in the apprehension of impaired drivers. Commissioner Reis congratulated Officer Lyon and thanked him for his efforts in keeping residents safe. Chief Knauf commented that this was the second time that Officer Lyon had won this award and that he was a three time recipient of the restraint enforcement award as well. Chief Knauf thanked Officer Lyon for the excellent work he does for the Police Department.

Phil Peace of 608 Brandtly Ridge, Covington, KY addressed the Commission. Mr. Peace stated that Tim Kling and John Johnston with UDF were supposed to address the Commission but would not be attending. Mr. Peace thanked the Commission and Ms. Bailey for submitting his paperwork to Area Planning.

LEGISLATION:

Mayor Bell noted there was no legislation to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Bailey stated that the Commission has been working through a policy for the Complete Streets Initiative. Ms. Bailey stated that great strides had been made on that policy. Ms. Bailey stated that consultants, Human Nature, had given her feedback on the policy and that she would like to review the policy with the Planning Commission to discuss how this Initiative fits into Taylor Mill zoning guidelines, specifically in the DTM zones. Ms. Bailey stated that she would have another report and update on this project at the next Commission Meeting.

Mayor Bell stated that he would like to discuss Taylor Mill's tax deadline. Mayor Bell stated that the current policy requires tax payments to be paid on December 31st by 5:00 pm. Mayor Bell stated that he recently became aware that the City does not accept postmarked tax payments. Mayor Bell said he would like to ask the Commission to consider accepting tax payments with a postmark of December 31st. Mayor Bell stated that Kenton County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Federal government all accept tax payments with a postmark. Mayor Bell stated that he thought it would be a good idea to bring Taylor Mill in line with those three taxing authorities.

Mr. Wichmann stated that the ordinance regarding tax deadlines is set annually and could be changed and voted on for the next tax year.

Commissioner Murray commented that the envelopes for each tax payment received should be kept as a record for when the payment was postmarked and actually received.

Ms. Bailey gave the Commission some background on the tax deadline policy. Ms. Bailey stated that this policy was enacted many years ago by a previous City Commission and it has been carried out by Administration for at least fifteen years. Ms. Bailey stated that historically there were problems with payments that were held until the end of the month by corporations or mortgage companies that would postmark payments on December 31st with their postage machines, but were not actually mailing the payments until much later. She stated that when the payments were received late, the Administration staff had to do extra work to back out penalty and interest from each account. Ms. Bailey stated that in an effort to eliminate this problem, the City Commission at that time imposed a deadline of December 31st by 5:00 pm. Ms. Bailey stated that this year fourteen payments postmarked on the 31st were received after the deadline and one of those payments was for thirty-two different properties.

The Commission discussed how companies can postmark mail for a certain date on their postage machines, but not actually mail the payments out on that date.

Commissioner Reis asked Ms. Bailey to estimate the number of people or companies trying to take advantage of the system. Ms. Bailey stated that over the years Administration has tried to establish a very firm policy that tax payments are due by 5:00 pm and that requests for waivers of penalty and interest have been historically denied for any reason. Ms. Bailey stated that clearly communicating and enforcing the tax deadline policy has reduced the number of late payments. Ms. Bailey stated that she would enforce any policy the Commission adopts regarding a new tax deadline.

Ms. Bailey stated the tax software used by the city automatically calculates penalty and interest on late accounts. She stated each payment accepted after the 31st would have to manually re-calculated to remove the penalty and interest.

Mr. Wichmann stated that the Commission could decide on a due date, but once that due date is set by ordinance there is a constitutional provision that prevents the Commission from waiving and penalty and interest that is assessed according to the adopted ordinance.

Mayor Bell asked that the Commission consider accepting postmarked tax bills. Commissioner Kuehne stated that his escrow company advised him that they would send his tax payment out on the 31st. The Commission discussed the practice of some banks that send in the escrow payments after the 31st and the resulting penalties. Ms. Bailey explained that all tax bills are sent to the property owner instead of the escrow company. She commented that mortgages are sold often and the city does not have the capability to keep track of the changes.

Commissioner Murray commented that the current policy is simple and plain. He stated that changing it would be opening the city up to more work and potential problems. Commissioner Kreimborg stated that she agreed with Commissioner Murray and that a change in the tax deadline policy would be more work and trouble. Commissioner Reis stated that he felt changing the policy would allow people and companies to take advantage of the system.

Mayor Bell asked the Commission to consider a change for the future.

Commissioner Kuehne asked how many people have not paid their tax bills. Ms. Bailey stated that there was approximately \$100,000.00 in outstanding tax bills. She stated that this amount was on par with previous years. Ms. Bailey stated that once the first delinquent notices are sent out, that amount usually drops down to approximately \$60,000.00 in outstanding property taxes.

Mayor Bell stated that he would like to see if other cities in Kenton County accept tax payments with postmarks.

REPORTS:

City Administrator

Ms. Bailey introduced Gena Forsyth, the city's new Assistant City Clerk/Special Events Coordinator. She stated that Ms. Forsyth was raised in Taylor Mill and was a graduate of Scott High School. Ms. Bailey said that Ms. Forsyth had a B.S. in management with a minor in business administration from Northern Kentucky University. Ms. Bailey commented that Ms. Forsyth was previously employed with Linnemann Funeral Home serving as a writer, graphic designer and events director. She stated that Ms. Forsyth volunteers with Cincinnati Autism Speaks and Cynthiana National Guard Readiness Group. Ms. Bailey stated that the city was very happy to have Ms. Forsyth on staff.

Mayor Bell commented that Ms. Forsyth would bring the Administration Department to full staff and that Ms. Forsyth would be in charge of updating the city's website. Ms. Bailey stated the first part of Ms. Forsyth's employment was spent taking tax payments. Ms. Bailey stated that Ms. Forsyth was being transitioned to take over the Taylored with Time Senior Group as well as planning the recreation calendar for 2015. Mayor Bell thanked Ms. Forsyth and welcomed her to the city.

Ms. Bailey stated she wanted to give an update on street lights. Ms. Bailey said that the state had changed the requirements for street lights on state roadways. She stated that the city had a pending permit in Frankfort for over a year which was rejected in the fall of 2014. Ms. Bailey stated that since then, the city had hired a consultant from KLH to design street lights for the city along the new parkway and existing KY16 as part of the city's streetscape plan. She stated the process was moving forward and fixtures had been selected, bids were being prepared to go out and the new permit was being finalized that needs to go to Frankfort. She stated that the permit should be approved quickly and hopefully the job could go to bid in late February, a contractor hired in March and lights should be installed soon thereafter.

Ms. Bailey commented that there had been several requests about a street light or traffic signal at the intersection of Old Taylor Mill Road and Honey Drive. Ms. Bailey advised that the state indicated they would not approve the installation of that signal at this time. Ms. Bailey said the stated wants to wait until construction is complete in that area before they will approve the request.

Ms. Bailey addressed the issue of lights on the newly opened section of Pride Parkway. Ms. Bailey advised that the new road being opened up had relived traffic and accidents on Old Taylor Mill Road. Ms. Bailey stated that there had been many complaints about the lack of lighting on the roadway. Ms. Bailey said the city had been proactive and met with Duke Energy when the road was being constructed. Plans were made to keep some old poles in place so that these poles could be moved once the roadway was open and the project released from the contractor in an effort to save money. Ms. Bailey also stated that the city has plans for additional lighting, but that this would be a costly project. Ms. Bailey stated that at the current time the city had to wait for state approval before any lights could be installed. Ms. Bailey reiterated that this is state project which runs on their timeframe and the city is at the state's mercy in terms of completion.

Mayor Bell stated that the city is continuing efforts to get a traffic light at Wayman Branch and Pride Parkway. He stated that letters from Representative Thayer and Representative Kerr have been obtained supporting a traffic signal at that intersection. Mayor Bell stated that school bus safety is an important issue for this intersection as well. Mayor Bell stated that he would be going to Frankfort on February 3rd to support this endeavor.

Commissioner Murray inquired whether street signs were back up on the roadway, particularly on Vincent Drive. Marc Roden affirmed that the sign for Vincent was in place. Mayor Bell stated that the city had a plan to install new street signs along this corridor in the spring or summer of 2015 while utilizing older signs as well.

Fire

Commissioner Murray stated that the Fire Department had forty EMS calls and sixteen fire calls for total of fifty-six calls for the month of December. He stated that no mutual aid was received or given and ambulance billing was \$25,665.00. The last firehouse dance had thirty-three kids in attendance.

Chief Stager stated that the Fire Association donated \$250.00 for a needy family that they adopted for the holidays. Chief Stager stated the Fire Association hosted their holiday party and it was a success.

Chief Stager said the Fire Department ended the year with 707 total runs which was a ten percent increase from last year.

Ms. Bailey stated that there is a vacancy for a full time position in the Fire Department as well as a need for part time firefighters as well. She stated that interviews would be scheduled soon for these positions.

Chief Stager advised that at the February Commission Meeting a decision should be made on a contractor for the SCBA packs. Ms. Bailey stated the next Commission Meeting would be February 4th at 7:00 pm.

Legal

Mr. Wichmann stated that the appeal had been completed for the Spring Hill tax issue and should be decided in about six to nine months.

Maintenance

Commissioner Kuehne thanked Marc Roden and his crew for the good work with snow removal and salting the roads. Mr. Roden stated that he wants to cut down some trees on Old Taylor Mill Road and fix the guard rail as well. Mr. Roden advised that the city has plenty of salt and will be ready for the next snowfall. Commissioner Kuehne complimented the Maintenance Department on the Christmas light display at Pride Park.

Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Kreimborg stated that December was a busy month with the city's food drive, Christmas tree lighting, and Santa's neighborhood visit. Commissioner Kreimborg stated that planning was underway for the 2015 recreation calendar and that the dates are on the city website. Commissioner Kreimborg stated that Tasty Tuesdays kick off with Marco's Pizza on May 19th.

Police

Commissioner Reis stated that Chief Knauf had provided the Commission with some speed recordings on Pride Parkway now that the roadway had opened. Chief Knauf stated that using Trax Pro the police can capture the volume of vehicles traveling and their speed on the road. Chief Knauf advised that the majority of cars are going between 31 and 45 mph. He also stated that 85% of cars on the parkway are traveling at 43-44 mph. He advised that commonly speed limits are set using the 85th percentile rate of speed and accordingly the state is looking at setting the speed limit at 45 mph. Chief Knauf thanked Officer Mills for his assistance in getting this system up and running for the city along with Marc Roden and his crew. Chief Knauf advised that he will be monitoring volume and speed on this roadway.

Commissioner Reis commented that there was an article in the Enquirer that featured Chief Knauf and Sergeant Reis regarding the Cookies for Cops program in the good news section. Chief Knauf thought it was a nice article.

Ms. Bailey encouraged everyone to nominate Taylor Mill businesses for the Best of Northern Kentucky 2015 award in Northern Kentucky magazine. She commented that nomination could be made on-line at BestofNorthernKentucky.com.

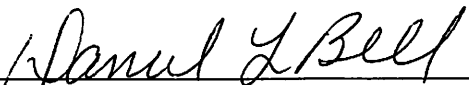
Mayor Bell commented that the McDonald's in Taylor Mill is under new ownership and is now owned by a local company. Mayor Bell advised that the new owners have plans to spruce up the location and upgrade service.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kuehne made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reis made a second. All Commissioners present were in favor.

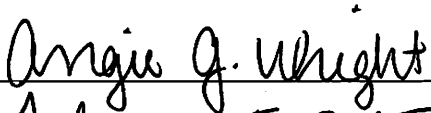
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Next Commission meeting will be Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm.



Mayor Daniel L. Bell

ATTEST: 
DATE: 