

Regular Joint Term, Tuesday Day, 17th Day of October 20 23

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At a regular joint meeting of the Franklin City Commission and Simpson County Fiscal Court held at the Simpson County Historic Courthouse located on the Square in Franklin, Kentucky, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at noon,

Present: Honorable Mason Barnes, Judge Executive
Honorable Marty Chandler, East Magistrate
Honorable Jeffrey Burr, West Magistrate
Honorable Scott Poston, North Magistrate
Honorable Myron Thurman, South Magistrate
Honorable Sam Phillips, County Attorney
Pam Rohrs, Fiscal Court Clerk

Present: Honorable Larry Dixon, Mayor
Honorable Dale McCreary, Commissioner
Honorable Jamie Powell, Commissioner
Honorable Wendell Stewart, Commissioner
Honorable Herbert Williams, Commissioner
Honorable Scott Crabtree, City Attorney
Kenton Powell, City Manager
Cathy Dillard, City Clerk

At noon Simpson County Judge Executive Mason Barnes and Franklin City Mayor Larry Dixon called the regular joint session to order and opened the meeting with prayer by Mayor Dixon and pledge to the American flag led by Judge Barnes. Judge Barnes noted that regular joint meetings are now conducted according to new ordinances setting regular meetings for the third Tuesday in October at noon at the Historic Courthouse and the second Monday of March at 9:00 AM at City Hall.

Parks Director Lisa Deavers reported that athletic leagues are winding up with a total of 1,361 participants this season in baseball, softball, adult softball, flag football, soccer and their first pickleball league. She shared other programs offered this year including their first puzzle palooza, a free Senior Fitness program, Art in the Park, a Power Wheels race for younger children has been rescheduled and a jack-o-lantern trail with a movie in the park and smores is scheduled for October 28th, a theme-related story walk and the Nights of Lights drive-thru during the Christmas season, beginning November 25th and continuing on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings through December 25th with an additional thirty displays to add to last year's fifty. The park has been the site for numerous cruise-in fund raises this past year and a walking-horse show this weekend. Park improvements include cleaning and painting all park buildings, playgrounds have been mulched up to code, tennis, basketball and pickleball courts have been improved at both Lincoln and Jim Roberts parks, and the dog park is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Doors and floors at the Ag Building have also been improved. Additionally, during the holiday season, an ice-skating rink will be available this year from December 14th-21st at the community park. Ms. Deavers's detailed report may be viewed in this meeting's attachment file.

Franklin-Simpson Renaissance Director Kim Roberts presented a plan from Bingle Premier Lighting for a permanent holiday lighting solution for the Historic Courthouse. These energy efficient, low-voltage lights are made by Oelo and may be used for other special occasions or events. Details of this project are also available in this meeting's attachment file. The cost is expected to be \$22 per linear foot and an estimate should be available after a meeting with Bingle here at the Courthouse next week. Mrs. Roberts also announced that Boo Fest would be Saturday, October 21st, and then she will begin stringing lights in trees around the courtyard the first of November in preparation for Small Town Christmas festivities Saturday, December 2nd.

During Emergency Management Director Robert Palmer's update regarding the emergency communications equipment, he reported that the tower, fencing, gravel and pad for the shelter, generator and propane tank are in place at the tower site with the shelter due in November. Once the shelter is in place the infrastructure will be added and microwave dishes will follow, and electrical work will be done with Motorola and KSP working out the technology. Portable radios were not ordered right away so problems could be worked out with the newer technology but have now been ordered and he expects delivery to be announced soon. According to Director Palmer recently purchased law enforcement vehicles have been equipped for the new radio system which is expected to be available by April into May and KSP says they will be ready "pending legalities" relating to the cellular policies and procedures.

Ed and Ryan Holmes with EHI Consultants addressed the joint session reporting and presenting data that has been collected, compiled, and organized from community conversations, surveys, public meetings, advisory committee meetings and social media from the time of their initial meeting with City Manager Kenton Powell and other City representatives January 27, 2022. From this data Franklin Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan has been created and as Ryan Holmes explained since it is a twenty-year plan, will more accurately be called the Franklin Forward 2045 Comprehensive Plan as time has passed, and that Simpson County is considered in the plan. He acknowledged that some of the data has not taken into consideration the latest census data. Ed Holmes spoke about future land use explaining that water, sewer, and roads availability are infrastructures that are key for growth in and adjacent to the city limits. He said that a land use map is required by KRS and requires five-year updates. Recommended updates to zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations should be available by mid-November. There will be a complete compilation of the study that will be presented to city and county governments at a November 30th final public meeting.

It was noted that City Manager Kenton Powell, Mayor Larry Dixon, City Commissioner Dale McCreary, Judge Executive Mason Barnes, and F-S Fire Rescue Chief Leslie Goodrum had met a couple of weeks prior to this meeting to discuss around the clock staffing of the fire department. Optimally, Chief Goodrum would like to have five full-time fire fighters around the clock at the fire station but four would at least allow them to meet an OSHA requirement of two firefighters in and two out for a structure fire requiring entry for rescue as well as the safety issue for firefighters. The ideal roll-out response time is 90 seconds, two minutes at the most when personnel respond from the fire station. He explained that when firefighters are on call for response, it can be up to ten minutes and possibly longer to roll out. Currently from 8-4 Monday through Friday full-time firefighters are at the fire station with after-hours coverage during the week by four volunteer firefighters on-call on stipend. From 7:00 AM Saturdays until 7:00 AM Sundays there are two firefighters at the station on stipend and on-call volunteers. From 7 AM Sundays until 8:00 Monday mornings there are four on-call with stipend ready to respond. When Judge Barnes met with firefighters regarding this discussion, the firefighters felt three people at the station for a 24/7 shift would be best, but if only two around-the-clock are feasible at this time, they felt at least some progress is being made. Whether this issue be completely resolved by decision of these governing bodies or by referendum, consensus was that this is a plan to work toward a true full-time fire department. It was noted during the discussion that some minor building modification will be needed for this plan to be implemented.

Motion by Commissioner McCreary Second by Commissioner Stewart Yes-All
Staff Franklin-Simpson Fire Rescue with a two-person rotation 24-hours a day seven-days a week, 24-hour on/48-hour off rotation around the clock at the fire station with two people on an on-call stipend to be set to respond which will require the hiring of three additional firefighters with city and county equally sharing in that cost.

Motion by Magistrate Poston Second by Magistrate Thurman Yes-Poston, Thurman, Burr, & Barnes Chandler-No
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Magistrate Chandler explained that his "no" vote was because in his opinion four are needed, this is a public safety issue, and has been an ongoing discussion for the seventeen years that he has been in his office. He would like to see the matter resolved with the staffing that is required by OSHA and has been requested by the fire department and Judge Executive Barnes concurred with Magistrate Chandler's explanation for his "no" vote and he would continue to work toward that goal. Judge Barnes reminded folks that the public has a vote in the matter by means of the election process as everyone at these tables is elected, some, every two years, others every four years.

Commissioner McCreary explained that there was no one in these two bodies that would not like to have four or five full-time firefighters and all care about public safety but there needs to be a plan in place to fund this expanded coverage.

Motion by Magistrate Chandler Second by Magistrate Thurman Yes-All
Motion by Commissioner Powell Second by Commissioner Williams Yes-All
Adjourn. (1:39 PM)

See Attachments File October 17, 2023 (Joint).

Mason Barnes
COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE