

**CITY OF BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**12/22/2020**

**6:00 PM**

The City Council met in regular session via video teleconference with Mayor Heaton and the following Council Members:

Councilman Joe Buckman  
Councilman David Dones  
Councilwoman Betty Hart  
Councilman Franklin Hibbs IV  
Councilman Bill Sheckles  
Councilman Roland E. Williams

Others present: Fire Chief Billy Mattingly, Chief Financial Officer Aaron Boles, Assistant City Clerk Lisa Burdett, City Clerk Gary Little, City Attorney Audrey Haydon, City Civil Engineer Jessica Filiatreau, HR Director/Risk Manager Greg Ashworth and Human Rights Commission Chairperson Mary Crum Spalding.

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, pursuant to KRS 61.823 (3) (4) and (5), and in accordance with Opinion 20-05 of the Kentucky Attorney General, there was no physical location designated for the public and/or media to view the meeting. This video conference was broadcast for public viewing on Bardstown Cable TV Channels 19.2, 20 and 20.1 and on the City of Bardstown YouTube channel.

Mayor Heaton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**RECOGNITION OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS**

Mayor Heaton recognized and welcomed the newly elected City Council, and said that he was looking forward to working with them during the next two years. He also expressed sympathy to Councilman Williams for the recent loss of his brother-in-law.

**SERVICE REQUEST – WOODLAWN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION**

City Civil Engineer Jessica Filiatreau presented a sewer main extension service request for new lots on Deep Springs Drive in the Woodlawn Springs Subdivision.

**COUNCILMAN DONES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A SEWER MAIN SERVICE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY HORIZON ENGINEERING FOR DEEP SPRINGS DRIVE IN THE WOODLAWN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS AND CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF 6-0.**

**HRB RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations from the Bardstown Historical Review Board were presented by City Attorney Audrey Haydon:

COA-20-159. Chris Dickerson, Applicant/Owner, requests to demolish a shed at 509 North Third Street.

Recommendation: Approval to demolish the shed as proposed in the application.

COA-20-160. Chris Dickerson, Applicant/Owner, requests to demolish part of the building at 509 North Third Street.

Recommendation: Approval to demolish the two portions of the house as proposed in the application with the following condition:

**Condition: The demolition cannot occur until plans for the new construction are approved by the Historical Review Board.**

COA-20-124 AMENDED. Fred Hagan, Applicant/Owner, requests to install a step at 215 East Flaget Avenue.

Recommendation: Approval to install the proposed step with the following condition:

**Condition: The final design of the step will be staff approved.**

COA-20-145. Ellen Bowling (Kelly)/Kelly Family, Applicant/Owner, requests to install signs at 107 West Stephen Foster.

Recommendation: Approval to install the signs as proposed in the application.

COA-20-161. Beth Clark & Kate Bowling/Catherine Clements, Applicants /Owners request to replace signage at 122 North Third Street.

Recommendation: Approval to install the signs as proposed in the application.

Councilman Buckman and Councilwoman Hart recused themselves at 6:08 pm.

COUNCILMAN HIBBS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORICAL REVIEW BOARD FOR COA's #20-159 AND #20-160 WITH THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY THE HRB. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SHECKLES AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 4 TO 0.

Councilman Buckman returned at 6:09 pm.

COUNCILMAN BUCKMAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORICAL REVIEW BOARD FOR COA #20-145 WITH THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY THE HRB. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SHECKLES AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

Councilwoman Hart returned at 6:10

COUNCILMAN DONES MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORICAL REVIEW BOARD FOR COA's #20-124-AMENDED AND #20-161 WITH THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY THE HRB. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 6 TO 0.

**JOINT CITY/COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

Mayor Heaton introduced and welcomed Human Rights Commission Chairperson Mary Crum Spalding. She explained the proposed changes for the Joint City-County Human Rights Ordinance which include adding anti-discrimination language for familial status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. Mrs. Spalding also cited examples of how these changes would benefit the community. Any amendments to the ordinance will have to be approved by Nelson County Fiscal Court, as well as the City of Bardstown. Mayor Heaton said that he will have City Attorney Audrey Haydon draft an ordinance for review at one of the January city council meetings.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

THE MINUTES FOR THE 12-8-2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION AND THE 12-15-2020 SPECIAL SESSION WERE APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

**CAMPUS MASTER SIGN PLAN APPLICATION – BARDSTOWN BOURBON COMPANY**

Mayor Heaton presented a sign application that was submitted by Bardstown Bourbon Company for one large sign and twenty small signs. The application meets the guidelines for the Campus Master Sign Plan, and City Sign Administrator RaShae Jennings recommended approval in a letter to the Council.

COUNCILMAN HIBBS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CAMPUS MASTER SIGN PLAN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY BARDSTOWN BOURBON COMPANY. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HART AND CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF 5-0. Councilman Dones abstained.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

*JEFF CROWE – TOURIST COMMISSION, 3 YEAR TERM BEGINNING 01/01/2021*

*RICK CALDWELL – TREE BOARD, 3 YEAR TERM BEGINNING 01/24/2021*

*NICK KIPPER – TREE BOARD, 3 YEAR TERM BEGINNING 01/24/2021*

COUNCILMAN DONES SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS APPROVED WITH A VOTE OF 6-0.

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilman Williams informed the Council that his brother-in-law had contracted COVID and passed away two weeks ago. He stated that he and other family members have had the virus, and he urged people to protect themselves and others by wearing masks and social distancing.

Councilman Hibbs commented that he appreciated the Mayor, the Council and the city staff, and said that he has enjoyed working with them for the past two years. He also said that he's looking forward to working together for the next two years. Councilwoman Hart agreed, and Councilman Sheckles added that the past two years have been the most enjoyable for him in over 20 years of working in city government.

**CEMETERY DEEDS**

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CEMETERY DEEDS FOR MARTHA AND RONALD MITCHELL, BILLY AVIS, ANGELA POYNTER, ALICIA SONNE AND BRIAN SWEENEY WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

**MAYOR’S UPDATE**

Mayor Heaton congratulated the council members for their re-election and said that he is looking forward to working with them during the next two years. He summarized the recent accomplishments of the City Council and the Administration, and noted the progress and completion of many projects throughout Bardstown. The City of Bardstown has provided essential services without any major disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic and has incorporated many safety protocols to ensure these services will continue around the clock. Highlights of recent accomplishments include the opening of a second fire house, ordering a new fire engine, deploying body worn cameras, and creating a narcotic’s unit in the Police Department. The Finance Department processed 131 relief grants for local small businesses totaling \$193,750 and has secured \$1,244,901 in CARES Act Grant Fund reimbursements. In 2021, the City of Bardstown will commit another \$100,000 to relief grants for small businesses that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. The newly created Blessings Boxes program has distributed over \$3,000 in donated food and essential items throughout the city. Over \$30,000 has been donated by the City to local organizations for Covid-19 relief through the community grant program. Mayor Heaton said that the Electric Department will soon finish a conversion from 4kV to 12kV, enabling the electric system to operate more safely and at a reduced cost. The Public Works Department has completed many large projects this year including downtown water and sewer improvements, and the 3.47 mile John Rowan Boulevard sidewalk project from Highway 62 to Chambers Boulevard. The Cable and Internet Department has been expanding high-speed internet service throughout the city and county, and has established a lifeline tier to ensure children have access to the internet for non-traditional instruction in their homes. To accommodate the growth of businesses and school campuses, the City created a Campus Master Sign Plan amendment to the sign ordinance allowing businesses and school campuses that are larger than 50 acres to have additional signage. Many projects have been completed in the Recreation Department including the renovations of the Recreation Center and Woodson Rogers Park, as well as the creation of the Bardstown Community Park Nature Trails. Mayor Heaton recognized the scope and complexity of the work being done by the City Council and the employees of the city, and in January, will outline goals for the next two years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:14 PM. THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HART AND CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF 6-0.**

**CITY OF BARDSTOWN**

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J. Richard Heaton, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Gary Little, City Clerk