

**ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 01, 2026**

The Elizabethtown City Council met in a Regular Session at 04:30 PM with Mayor Jeffrey H. Gregory presiding. The meeting was held at City Council Chambers, 212 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

PRESENT: Tony Bishop, Marty Fulkerson, Lamar Jones, and Julia Springsteen

ABSENT: Tim Isaacs and Mika Tyler

For others in attendance, please see sign in sheet (Attachment A)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeffrey H. Gregory.
2. **INVOCATION:** Invocation was given by Council Member Marty Fulkerson
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Gregory led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **ROLL CALL:** City Clerk Graham took a roll call of the City Council Members. Council Members, Isaacs and Tyler were absent. There were four members present, constituting a legal quorum.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- May 11, 2026:** Minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 11, 2026, were previously distributed to each Council Member for consideration. There being no corrections or amendments thereto, it was moved by Council Member Springsteen, seconded by Council Member Fulkerson, and carried to adopt the minutes as written. Council Members Bishop, Fulkerson, Jones, and Springsteen voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.
6. **BUDGET MESSAGE: MAYOR JEFFREY H. GREGORY** (Attachment B)

Mayor Gregory read the Budget Message in full. Mayor Gregory stated he is proud of this budget and thanked staff for their hard work. This budget will allow the City to stay ahead of growth, invest in our community, encourage our citizens to live, work and play here and encourage tourism. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 is \$125.8 million.

7. ORDINANCES, FIRST READING, BY MOTION

A. Ordinance #10-2026-Adopting budget for fiscal year 2026-2027

It was moved by Council Member Jones, seconded by Council Member Bishop and carried to read the above Ordinance.

Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Ordinance. City Attorney Howard read the above Ordinance in summary as allowed by law.

B. Ordinance #11-2026-Annexation of 1615 St. John Road

It was moved by Council Member Bishop, seconded by Council Member Jones and carried to read the above Ordinance.

Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Ordinance. City Attorney Howard read the above Ordinance in summary as allowed by law.

C. Ordinance #12-2026-text amendment change for Historic District Overlay Zone

It was moved by Council Member Springsteen, seconded by Council Member Jones and carried to read the above Ordinance.

Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Ordinance. City Attorney Howard read the above Ordinance in summary as allowed by law.

8. MUNICIPAL ORDERS

A. Municipal Order #36-2026- Accepting bid for N Main Street Sidewalk Improvements Phase 3

It was moved by Council Member Bishop, seconded by Council Member Jones, and carried to read the above Municipal Order.

Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Municipal Order. City Attorney Howard read the Municipal Order in full.

It was moved by Council Member Springsteen, seconded by Council Member Fulkerson to adopt and approve the Municipal Order.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Municipal Order #37-2026- Waiving Municipal License Fee for Transit Authority of Kentucky

This municipal order did not receive a motion to read.

C. Municipal Order #38-2026-Approving change order for berm repair at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Jones, and carried to read the above Municipal Order.

Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Municipal Order. City Attorney Howard read the Municipal Order in full.

It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Jones to adopt and approve the Municipal Order.

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Municipal Order #39-2026-Approving change order for Police Department Expansion Project

It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Bishop, and carried to read the above Municipal Order. Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Municipal Order. City Attorney Howard read the Municipal Order in full.

It was moved by Council Member Jones, seconded by Council Member Springsteen to adopt and approve the Municipal Order.

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Municipal Order #40-2026- Approving agreement with the City of Radcliff for Gaither Station Range

It was moved by Council Member Bishop, seconded by Council Member Fulkerson, and carried to read the above Municipal Order. Mayor Gregory asked City Attorney Howard to read the above Municipal Order. City Attorney Howard read the Municipal Order in full. City Attorney Howard stated the agreement will be sent to the Department of Local Government. Chief Thompson said the current range is more than 30 years old and scheduling has been challenging because multiple law enforcement agencies use it. After discussions with Chief Jeff Cross of the City of Radcliff, they identified a suitable site for a new range that would serve both departments. This agreement will allow both cities to continue their partnership and share access to the new range. It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Jones to adopt and approve the Municipal Order.

Motion passed 4-0.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

10. CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Mayor Gregory announced the next City Council meeting will be on June 08, 2026.
- B. Mayor Gregory asked for continued prayers for the family of Firefighter Ryan Druen during his passing and for the Fire Department and City losing a friend and teammate.

11. CLOSE MEETING PURSUANT TO KRS 61.810(1)

Mayor Gregory asked to close the meeting to conduct deliberation on future acquisition or sale of real property by the City. It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Springsteen, to close the meeting. Council Members Bishop, Fulkerson, Jones, and Springsteen voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

12. OPEN MEETING

It was moved by Council Member Bishop, seconded by Council Member Jones, and carried the meeting be opened. Council Members Bishop, Fulkerson, Jones, and Springsteen voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Council Member Fulkerson, seconded by Council Member Springsteen, and carried the meeting be adjourned. Council Members Bishop, Fulkerson, Jones, and Springsteen voted aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.



6/16/2026 | 1:20 PM EDT

JEFFREY H. GREGORY, MAYOR

ATTESTED TO:



6/16/2026 | 1:26 PM EDT

JESSICA J. GRAHAM, CITY CLERK

Elizabethtown City Council Minutes
June 1, 2026

Attachment A

COUNCIL
TONY BISHOP
MARTY FULKERSON
TIM ISAACS
LAMAR JONES
JULIA SPRINGSTEEN
MIKA TYLER



200 WEST DIXIE AVE
PO BOX 550
ELIZABETHTOWN KY 42702
270-765-6121

CITY OF ELIZABETHTOWN
JEFFREY H. GREGORY, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
DATE: June 1, 2026

ED POPPE, CITY ADMINSTRATOR
KEN HOWARD, CITY ATTORNEY
JESSICA GRAHAM, CITY CLERK
JASON DAILEY, AST. ADMINISTRATOR
SETH BREITNER, PARKS & REC
COREY BOND, WWTP
RITA DAVIS, STORMWATER
JULIEN CARLIN, IT
JEFF HAWKINS, FINANCE
DON HILL, PUBLIC WORKS



MATTHEW HOBBS, GAS ENGINEER
AMY INMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION
MARK MALONE, FIRE CHIEF
MICHAEL PAGE, ENGINEER
BETH PYLES, EVENTS
AARON HAWKINS, PLANNING
TERRY SHIPP, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
JEREMY THOMPSON, POLICE CHIEF
JODIE THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



NAME:
Alex Ruiz
Greg Thompson
Karen Macy
James Gray
Jess Huang
DAVID WALTERS
ED Martinez
DANIEL VERGARA
Jeff Camp
Barb Jones

ADDRESS:
EPD
N-E
Pawnee Dr
City of Etown
City of Etown.
EFD
Indborough
File
City of Etown
City of Etown

PLEASE SILENCE PHONES

The City of Elizabethtown will provide quality service to its citizens

Attachment B

BUDGET MESSAGE

In accordance with the authority granted by City Ordinance and State Statutes, the Mayor and City staff have prepared the recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and hereby submit it to the City Council members for their review and adoption.

This proposed operating budget includes appropriations for expenditures totaling \$125.8 million for the operation of general government, debt service, sewer and gas utilities, and the Tourism and Convention Bureau, and is \$1.1 million down from last year's budget of \$126.9 million. Once again, capital spending factors heavily for Fiscal Year 2027 in both cost and number of projects planned. We are proposing using reserves from fund balances and external funding sources to accomplish the various projects included in the 2027 budget. All City departments are planning for anticipated growth due to continued commercial and residential growth. This budget continues preparations for future years.

Continuing with the process of providing competitive wages for our employees, we have included a 3% increase for all employees to maintain our competitive edge with other employers. Once again, no change in the employee contribution for medical insurance coverage is included in this year's budget. In past years we have had more available positions than applicants; now we have many more applicants than open positions. When combining wages with our excellent benefits package and work environments, we feel the City of Elizabethtown is the premier place to work in Hardin County.

The Police Department budget has been set at \$16.8 million. Included is funding for the purchase of thirteen police vehicles as part of the City's fleet replacement program. Once again, the Police Department will continue its community-based programs including DARE, the Citizen's Police Academy, the Cadet Program, and other programs designed to foster relationships between the Police and the community. We will continue our collaboration with both the Elizabethtown and Hardin County School Systems, as well as ECTC, by placing School Resource Officers on their campuses. This partnership has placed ten officers throughout our schools to provide security for our students and teachers. It has been proven that School Resource Officers not only provide additional safety but also have a positive effect on our youth throughout our local schools. The Police Department building expansion will be completed this fiscal year and is providing much needed building capacity due to the growth the Department has seen over the previous several years. The Department is in the final phase of a \$1.5 million radio replacement program that will allow for clear communication between Officers, Dispatch, and other emergency personnel in times of crisis. We are also adding an additional dispatch console to help handle the increased number of calls they receive. The City will continue to administer the grant monies for the Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force and provide its share of the staff as called for by the Inter-Local Agreement that established the unit. Our community sits in a highly traveled corridor between major cities, and this vital program is necessary to stand against the war on illegal drug activity across the region.

The total budget for the Fire Department is \$10.5 million of which \$6.7 million is provided by Insurance Premiums Tax revenues with the balance coming from the General Fund. The budget

BUDGET MESSAGE

contains funding for operations of four fully functioning stations. No new fire trucks have been included in this budget; however, we have appropriated funds for one new vehicle. Also included in this budget is \$800,000 for new radios and dispatch console equipment. This new equipment pairs with the new radios and console being purchased by the Police Department and will allow for optimal communication. Additional funding has been included for repair work needed on a 2014 ladder truck and repairs to Fire Station 1. The approved total firefighting staff is 69.

Alcohol Regulatory fees, which are set at 5%, and Licensing fees are projected to generate \$1.6 million in the upcoming year. These monies will be used to fund ten existing police officer salaries and benefits, one new patrol car, and the operation of the City's ABC department including a full-time ABC Officer who is also a sworn Police officer. Funds have also been appropriated to assist with the enforcement and prosecution of alcohol related offenses with financial assistance provided to the County Attorney and Commonwealth Attorney's offices. As in prior years, these funds will also be used for some of the community outreach efforts including Silverleaf, CASA of the Heartland, and the DARE program.

The Public Works Department plans to supplement its street paving program with \$1.25 million from the General Fund. This funding, combined with monies allocated in the Municipal Aid Road Fund will provide \$1.85 million for resurfacing projects, salt purchases and restriping next year. The City recognizes the need to keep our streets in top condition, as proven by our street paving budget allocation. Public Works has completed their complete Campus renovation, with only \$140K remaining for our Phase 4 renovations of the vehicle storage and fuel pump area. The result is a first-class facility which allows us to maintain our City equipment in top condition. We have included funding to purchase a new vacuum truck, the key to clearing leaves away from the City streets and gutters. The Streets Division has included funding for various road projects totaling \$10.7 million. These projects include the completion of the Commerce Drive extension which will be an important link necessary to support Elizabethtown's Outdoor Music Venue. Other projects include Pear Orchard Northwest improvements, Veterans Way/Towne Drive intersection, sidewalk extensions, and numerous smaller street, curb and gutter projects. Finally, a grant match of \$600,000 is appropriated for the Safe Streets for All program.

While the Spring of 2026 has been relatively dry, we know that the heavy rains will eventually return. It is imperative that the City continue to maintain and develop our Stormwater system. We have seen tremendous growth over the last few years and property that was once vacant land and natural drainage areas have now been developed into housing, retail and industrial space, providing challenges to our City's drainage. This budget includes construction projects totaling \$3.65 million, the largest of which involves the work on Henry Street at \$1 million. Other projects include Village Drive, St. John's Estates, and numerous smaller maintenance and basin projects. Also included is work on Trooper Lake. The restoration of this property involves dredging the lake in a similar manner to Buffalo Lake in prior years. This work will coincide with work being done on the new Mountain Bike trail project on the property. The Stormwater

BUDGET MESSAGE

also
 Department will complete work on the final Phase of the Stormwater Masterplan to help identify those areas in most need of improvement in future years.

The Planning and Development Department remains busy with new developments being proposed throughout the City. Planning's new permitting software is online allowing the community the ability to purchase permits and submit plans online. A Downtown Masterplan was just completed to increase the activity in the heart of the City and provide more space for citizens to visit a vibrant and exciting downtown area. The Planning staff will now begin design of various projects to implement the action activities noted in the plan

The City will also continue to administer the CDBG funds received due to Elizabethtown's designation as an entitlement community. These funds are designed for community development needs to benefit people of low and moderate incomes, and the City will work toward improvements in targeted neighborhoods.

Generally Accepted Accounting Standards dictate that Transient Room Tax and Restaurant Tax revenues are collected and turned over to the Tourism Bureau for disbursement, be included in the General Fund. Restaurant Tax monies are used for debt service on the Elizabethtown Sports Park and future Outdoor Music Venue bond issues. The total annual debt service on the three Sports Park issues is approximately \$1.5 Million. Total Debt Service on the Outdoor Music Venue Bonds \$2.5 Million of which the City is obligated for \$1 Million. Revenues generated from the Restaurant Tax and the Room Tax are projected to be approximately \$5.5 million and \$1.5 million respectively. These revenues are not the City's funds to spend and must be utilized for tourism activities.

In Elizabethtown, we feel our park system and recreational facilities are second to none in the state of Kentucky. The City never stops looking for ways to improve our park facilities and expand our offerings for outdoor activities to our citizens. 2027 will see major changes to the area surrounding Buffalo Lake and we feel that when completed, will provide new and exciting outdoor space for everyone to enjoy. A new trail and construction on the new Outdoor Music Venue is expected to be completed in the late Spring of 2027. We feel it will be a one-of-a-kind facility that is unique to the State. American Legion Park continues to see large crowds at The Water Park, Funtopia Playground, Par 3 Golf Course, and the many pickleball courts. A brand-new pavilion with restrooms for Funtopia and new covered shelter for pickleball will help provide shade and rest areas when needed without leaving the park. Freeman Lake Park will see continued improvements on the North End with trail accessibility and restrooms. The City will begin the development of mountain bike trails on land adjacent to Trooper Lake, and when finished will bring riders from across the country to traverse the trails. Participation in soccer continues to be the number one youth sport in our city. The Department will begin improvements on the Nicholas Street soccer fields in this budget. Money has also been allocated for future parks and trails should opportunities arise. The City recognizes the importance of having first-class park facilities for the enjoyment of both citizens and visitors alike.

BUDGET MESSAGE

Once again, our Events' staff provided another highly successful year of fun and entertainment for our citizens. City-sponsored events are an important part of providing activities for our citizens and visitors, and this year will be no exception. While we are always looking for new ideas to provide great events for our community, those events that are already being enjoyed by everyone will return. This summer we will be holding Cruisin' the Heartland and Lawn Parties at Freeman Lake. The Wine Festival has been a huge success since its move to the month of May. The Heartland Harvest Festival will return, as well as more live music acts, including the Louisville Orchestra, free to all that attend. We are already looking forward to Christmas in the Park. This driving tour through Freeman Lake Park is a wonderful family event that brings in thousands to see the displays. From concerts and movies at the Historic State Theater, festivals, fireworks, parades, and Christmas activities, our community can expect another fun year for all.

Each year the City appropriates funds for improvements and replacements to our aging sewer systems. Funds have been allocated in this year's budget for various sewer work including McCullum/Sunrise Lane, College St/US 62, Harvard/Yale Drive, and miscellaneous smaller projects. Funds have also been allocated to prevent inflow and infiltration of our sewer system. When water gets into our sewer system through stormwater runoff or other sources, it flows to our Treatment Plant, and we spend money on chemicals and time treating clean water. This project works to lessen and hopefully eliminate the infiltration into our Sewer system. Progress is ongoing for the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion based on the needs and anticipated growth of the area. We continue to seek funding from outside sources.

The Natural Gas Fund has budgeted \$410K for capital improvements. This expenditure involves the purchase of two vehicles and installation of a dehydration system that removes moisture from the gas when extracted from the storage field. The Gas Rates are forecasted to be consistent with the current fiscal year and will continue to be adjusted monthly with the only monthly variable being the price of wellhead gas increases and decreases that will be passed on to end users based on our Weighted Average Cost of gas rate methodology. We underwent a rate study in the 2026 fiscal year to determine gas rates for the future. Rates will be adjusted accordingly if inflation dictates.

Once again, no changes to our tax rates are included in the 2027 budget year. Slight increases will be made to our Sewer service rates based on a previously approved ordinance. Increasing rates are not something we take lightly but are necessary in order to continue to provide quality service to our customers. Recent years have brought the announcements of new industries and jobs for our area. The City continues to prepare for the growth of the Ford Energy Complex in Southern Hardin County, and the new Gil Nicely, Jr. Industrial Park. The City has put itself in an excellent position to handle the growth we are seeing as the fastest growing city in the State of Kentucky. The City of Elizabethtown is open for business and welcomes everyone to come Live, Work and Play in our community.