

**MAY 9, 2023  
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MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
VERSAILLES MUNICIPAL BUILDING/5:30 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL: MAYOR BRIAN TRAUOGOTT PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS CHANTEL BINGHAM, MARY BRADLEY, LAURA DAKE, LISA JOHNSON, GARY JONES AND ANN MILLER. CITY ATTORNEY BILL MOORE WAS ALSO PRESENT.**

**DEPT. HEADS: BART MILLER, MIKE MURRAY, T.A. RANKIN, AND ELIZABETH REYNOLDS WERE PRESENT REPRESENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.**

**LUCAS WITT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, WAS ALSO PRESENT.**

Mayor Traugott stated that Ken Kerkhoff, Chair of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, has been working with First Baptist Church on South Main Street to use their parking lot for downtown events. He presented an agreement, signed by Trustees of First Baptist Church, which would enter the City into a multi-year agreement to make improvements to the parking lot up to \$13,000 in exchange for public parking usage (a minimum of one-year for each \$4,333 expended by the City). He noted that the parking lot improvements include resealing the parking lot and painting parking lines.

**MOTION BY BINGHAM, SECONDED BY DAKE TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR TRAUOGOTT TO SIGN THE EVENT PARKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VERSAILLES AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.**

The vote was as follows: Bingham, Bradley, Dake, Johnson, Jones, and Miller voting aye.

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Council member Johnson asked about any carryover beginning balance. Mayor Traugott stated that General Fund and Enterprise Fund each have a projected beginning fund balance of over \$12 million. He also noted a minor change to the proposed budget that was distributed at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting – the line item for fire department “PPE/Turnout Gear” has been increased to \$76,500 due to a price increase and shipping costs.

Council member Bingham asked about the line item under council capital for “Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Park”, noting that her discussion with residents indicated that they do not want a park but rather increased parking for guests. Mayor Traugott stated that he and Judge Kay, along with Council member Bradley, had met with the residents and there was no clear vision of what the residents as a whole want to see. He clarified that the area that is being considered is two vacant lots that were considered abandoned/blighted and the city had the houses demolished. Ms. Bingham also mentioned a large tree near the road that is concerning for residents. Council member Bradley agreed that the tree is very close to the road, but on private property, and she noted that if the tree is removed then the issue of traffic speeding through the area will worsen.

Council member Bingham also asked about the council capital line item “Apollo Park”. She noted that the current skate park is small and needs improvements. Mayor Traugott stated that additional skate park equipment had been acquired from the City of Dayton by Public Works Director Bart Miller when they closed their skate park, but the equipment does need work and painting. He also mentioned that the goal is to make the concrete pad bigger overall.

Council member Miller asked for clarification about what is included in the council line items “Downtown Improvements/Events” and “Economic Development” which Mayor Traugott provided. He noted that Downtown Improvements includes the monthly contractor cost of the event coordinator and the Economic Development line item includes the monthly contractor cost of the economic development consultant.

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**Council member Dake asked for further information regarding the Regional Economic Comprehensive Strategy through Commerce Lexington which is budgeted at \$10,400. Mayor Traugott, along with input from Lucas Witt, described the purpose of the newly created group which is to provide economic development services to the nine county region around and including Lexington. The group will provide regional services including marketing and legislative services.**

**The Mayor and council discussed the “Assistance Program” line item which will provide assistance through the Woodford County Foundation. The foundation was created at arms-length by Judge Kay, Mayor Traugott, and Superintendent Adkins to provide monies for youth-centered programs. Mayor Traugott mentioned a few things he had in mind when forming the foundation, including assistance with school dance tickets, athletics, field trip fees, etc. He stated that the Foundation has already raised some private funds and their first program has been to pay Chromebook fees that would have been a barrier for 21 high school seniors to graduate.**

**Mayor Traugott also provided an update on the City’s purchase of the old Kroger building at Marsailles Road. He stated that the UHaul representative had just informed him today that the plat will be done this week and we could possibly close on the property next week.**

**Discussion – Procurement Policies**

**Mayor Traugott distributed his proposed changes to the current procurement policies, noting that 99% of the changes are state law changes that take effect in June. He asked City Attorney Moore to put it in official ordinance format for first reading in the next couple of weeks.**

**MOTION BY BINGHAM, SECONDED BY DAKE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO KRS 61.810(1)(b) TO DELIBERATE ON THE FUTURE ACQUISITION OR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

**The vote was as follows: Bingham, Bradley, Dake, Johnson, Jones, and Miller voting aye.**

**MOTION BY BINGHAM, SECONDED BY DAKE TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.**

**APPROVED:**

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**BRIAN TRAUGOTT, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK**