

**JULY 11, 2023
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MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION
VERSAILLES POLICE DEPARTMENT/4:45 P.M.**

ROLL CALL: MAYOR BRIAN TR AUGOTT 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: ELIZABETH REYNOLDS WAS PRESENT REPRESENTING HER RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Site Visit – Underground Pathway

Mayor Traugott, Council members Bradley, Dake, Johnson, Jones and Miller, Police Chief Mike Murray, Public Works Director Bart Miller, and Assistant Public Works Director Dan Knight, along with several members of the community, participated in a walk-through of the underground pathway that begins on Depot Street and ends at Spring Run Road in order to visualize connectivity possibilities.

Procurement Policy Changes

Mayor Traugott presented his proposed changes to the City’s Code of Ordinances as they relate to procurement. He noted that the draft includes repealing the current procurement ordinances and adding a new procurement ordinance with all of the information in one place. He stated the changes include changing the dollar amount where bidding is required from \$30,000 to \$40,000 and changing the dollar amount where quotes are required from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Council member Johnson stated that in regards to the “local preference” language, she is more of a fan of free market and letting the market drive which vendor is selected. Mayor Traugott noted that local businesses pay local taxes, which is why he prefers the local preference.

Council member Miller recommended that “Section 4. Small Purchases” be changed to a range such as \$2,000 to \$8,000 so that purchases under \$2,000 aren’t expected to be quoted which can be a timely process and not beneficial when purchasing routine items such as office supplies.

Ethics Code Updates

Council member Dake suggested using “their” instead of “him/her” throughout the ordinance.

Mayor Traugott stated that he believes the Cities of Versailles and Midway and the Woodford Fiscal Court should all adopt the same ethics ordinance, however City Attorney Moore disagrees. Currently the two cities have similar ordinances while the county’s is quite a bit different. Mayor Traugott stated that it could cause an issue when a county appointment and a city appointment to the same Board or Commission do the same thing and one is violating their ethics code but the other one isn’t. He noted that any discussion of Ethics can become a politically charged topic.

The Council further discussed the “Endorsements” section. Mayor Traugott also pointed out the change to “Advisory Opinions” which removes any confidentiality as it relates to those advisory opinions. He noted that this change is due to open records laws which state that advisory opinions are subject to open records.

Uniform Residential and Landlord Tenant Act

Mayor Traugott asked if the Council was still interested in holding a public hearing regarding possibly adopting the Uniform Residential and Landlord Tenant Act. They discussed having an expert, possibly an attorney from Lexington who is very familiar with the Act, address the council prior to a hearing.

Council member Miller asked what the Act does that the City isn’t currently handling with our Code Enforcement Officer? Mayor Traugott stated that the Act requires checklists at move-in and move-out, it requires escrow accounts for deposits, and requires a two day notice for inspections, among many other things.

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The Council further discussed Section 8 housing versus public housing, rent control, and housing affordability.

Council member Dake suggested revisiting the R-2 zone and Airbnb's. Council member Miller referenced studies that show temporary rentals, such as Airbnb, are destroying communities.

Council member Johnson asked how we can restrict temporary rentals but not traditional long-term rentals. She also asked what the end result would be of having a public hearing.

Council member Miller suggested having a Council Work Session with an expert on the Act and then make a decision on whether to move forward with a public hearing.

Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.

APPROVED:

BRIAN TRAU GOTT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK