

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
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MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
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: DAN KNIGHT, MIKE MURRAY, T.A. RANKIN, AND ELIZABETH REYNOLDS WERE PRESENT REPRESENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

Public Hearing – 2023 Property Tax

Mayor Traugott opened the Public Hearing stating that the tax rate levied last year was 5.5 cents on every \$100.00 of real property and produced revenues in the amount of \$564,004. This year's compensating rate is 5.4 cents on every \$100.00 of real property and is estimated to produce revenues in the amount of \$581,152. The City of Versailles proposes to keep the current tax rate of 5.5 cents on every \$100.00 of real property which is estimated to produce \$591,914 in revenues. He also stated that revenue expected from Personal Property is \$88,139; revenue expected from Motor Vehicle and Watercraft is \$102,551. The revenue expected from new real property for this year is \$13,767 and the revenue expected from new personal property is \$4,251.47. Mayor Traugott noted that a public hearing is required any time the revenue from the proposed tax rate is expected to produce more than a 4% increase in revenue.

Mayor Traugott opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was received. He noted that the notice for the Public Hearing asked for written comments to be submitted by 4:00pm today. City Clerk Reynolds stated that no written comments were received.

He stated that keeping the proposed tax rate the same would result in increased revenue due to the recently increased assessments of properties across the City.

Mayor Traugott closed the Public Hearing.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY BINGHAM TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

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

At the request of Council member Bradley, City Attorney Moore provided second reading of Ordinance 2023-18 General Taxation Ordinance, as follows:

**CITY OF VERSAILLES
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18
GENERAL TAXATION ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, the total assessment value of all real property subject to general taxation within the City as of January 1, 2023 is \$1,076,208,269; and

WHEREAS, the total assessment value of all personal property subject to general taxation within the City as of January 1, 2023 is \$93,484,001; and

WHEREAS, the total assessment value of motor vehicle and watercraft property subject to general taxation within the City as of January 1, 2023 is \$85,459,386; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized under KRS 132 to levy a tax rate on all real property within the City, as well as having the authority to levy other taxes.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY, TO-WIT:

Section 1. REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

There is hereby levied and imposed an ad valorem tax of 5.5 cents on every \$100.00 of real property assessment subject to being taxed by said City for general government purposes.

Section 2. PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

There is hereby levied and imposed a personal property tax rate of 9.43 cents on every \$100.00 of personal property assessment subject to being taxed by said City for general government purposes.

Section 3. MOTOR VEHICLE AND WATERCRAFT TAX RATE

There is hereby levied and imposed a motor vehicle and watercraft tax rate of 12.0 cents on every \$100.00 of motor vehicle and watercraft assessment subject to being taxed by said City for general government purposes.

The taxes herein levied by said City of Versailles, Kentucky, together with other revenue, license fees, services and other sources of income shall be and same are hereby appropriated from the General Fund for general government operating purposes.

This Ordinance shall become effective after passage and publication as required by law.

All Ordinances in conflict herewith to the extent of such conflict are hereby expressly repealed.

Introduced and given first reading at a meeting of the Versailles City Council, held on the 15th day of August, 2023 and fully adopted after a second reading at a meeting of said Council held on the 5th day of September, 2023.

APPROVED:

BRIAN TRAUGOTT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK

MOTION BY BRADLEY, SECONDED BY DAKE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 2023-18 GENERAL TAXATION ORDINANCE.

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

At the request of Council member Bradley, City Attorney Moore provided first reading of Ordinance 2023-19 Amending Section 35.22 of the Versailles Code of Ordinances to Prohibit Officers and Employees from Receiving Remuneration in Exchange for Public Endorsements of Products or Services.

At the request of Council member Bradley, City Attorney Moore provided first reading of Ordinance 2023-20 Amending Section 35.31 (A) of the Versailles Code of Ordinances to Extend the Deadline for Filing Statements of Financial Interest to January 31.

At the request of Council member Miller, City Attorney Moore provided first reading of Ordinance 2023-21 Amending Section 35.34 (A)(9) of the Versailles Code of Ordinances to Decrease the Amount Due Creditors Required to be Listed on Statements of Financial Interest.

At the request of Council member Bradley, City Attorney Moore provided first reading of Ordinance 2023-22 Amending Section 35.50 of the Versailles Code of Ordinances to Prohibit Members of the Board of Ethics from also Being Candidates for Political Office or an Officer of a Political Party and to Reschedule the Annual Meeting of the Board of Ethics to February 1.

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At the request of Council member Dake, City Attorney Moore provided first reading of Ordinance 2023-23 Amending Section 35.59 of the Versailles Code of Ordinances to Remove the Confidentiality Provisions Relating to Advisory Opinions.

Fire Chief Rankin presented Municipal Order 2023-8 updating position descriptions for the Fire Department. He noted that there were minor changes throughout, as well as the addition of the administrative assistant job description.

MOTION BY MILLER, SECONDED BY BINGHAM TO APPROVE AND ADOPT MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-8 UPDATING POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR SEVERAL POSITIONS WITHIN THE VERSAILLES FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

Mayor Traugott stated that the City had closed on the purchase of the old Kroger building on Friday, September 1st. He presented a lease between the City of Versailles and Versailles Entertainment Investment Group, LLC for the building on Marsailles Road. He stated that this was the group that the council voted to accept their proposal for an entertainment center at that location.

Council member Johnson noted that the copy of the lease received in their packets was inadvertently missing every other page. The Council asked to postpone the vote until later in the meeting so they, and City Attorney Moore, could look over the complete lease agreement.

MOTION BY , SECONDED BY TO APPROVE AND ADOPT MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-10 ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING.

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

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Knight presented the following bids received for the Fiscal Year 2024 Road Fund Projects:

Mago Construction	\$549,554.65
Lexington Quarry Company	\$550,973.80

He noted that the bids were very close to the estimate he had calculated and recommended the low bid as presented.

MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY BINGHAM TO APPROVE THE BID AS PRESENTED BY MAGO CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 ROAD FUND PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$549,554.65.

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

Mr. Knight also presented quotes received for a new salt spreader for the Public Works department as follows:

Central Equipment Co.	\$7,314.00
Dukes A&W Enterprises, LLC	\$8,358.00

MOTION BY MILLER, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE QUOTE AS PRESENTED BY CENTRAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,314.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SALT SPREADER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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

Mayor Traugott requested approval to solicit Qualifications for Streetscape Planning for Lexington Street Redesign.

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MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY DAKE TO APPROVE SOLICITING REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LEXINGTON STREET REDESIGN AS PROPOSED.

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

Council member Johnson suggested adding Frankfort Street down the road.

Mayor Traugott presented a Neighborhood Grant application from Edmonds Cross Townhomes for landscaping at the front entrance.

MOTION BY BINGHAM, SECONDED BY BRADLEY TO APPROVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED BY EDMONDS CROSS TOWNHOMES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500.00 FOR LANDSCAPING AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE.

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

Mayor Traugott circled back to the lease agreement for the old Kroger building that was discussed earlier in the meeting. He noted that City Attorney Moore had now reviewed the complete lease and was able to answer any questions.

MOTION BY MILLER, SECONDED BY JOHNSON TO APPROVE AND ADOPT MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-9 AN ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY AND VERSAILLES ENTERTAINMENT INVESTMENT GROUP LLC; AND TO TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTION AS NECESSARY OR REQUIRED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE LEASE.

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

Presentation – Tax Rate Analysis

Mayor Traugott presented a PowerPoint comparing the tax rates of the City of Versailles to comparable cities throughout Kentucky. He also distributed raw data to the Council for them to review on their own. He noted that the total real property tax burden for a Versailles resident is \$0.917 per \$100 of real property.

Mayor Miscellaneous

Mayor Traugott stated that the teal ribbons on display throughout downtown Versailles are in honor of Ovarian Cancer Awareness.

He stated that the Healthy Aging Summit would be held 10:00am – 2:00pm at KCTCS on Friday, September 8th.

He announced the Brothers Run for suicide prevention and awareness will be held at Big Spring Park on Saturday, September 9th at 10:00am.

Mayor Traugott noted the Versailles Twilight Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd noon until 9:00pm.

He stated that he had recently attended a meeting regarding a STEAM-type maker space and making it a reality here in Versailles, The space would offer dual credit opportunities, hands on experience, and expose creativity. He noted that KCTCS has a vacant space that is being considered.

Mayor Traugott stated that next week's Work Session would be Public Hearing on the Landlord/Tenant Act and materials would be available in pdf form on the City's website.

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He noted that he will not here for the regular council meeting on September 19th due to the KLC Conference. Council member Miller recommended canceling that meeting as well as the regular October 3rd meeting since that is Fall Break week for Woodford County schools. She suggested holding a special meeting between those two dates. The Council agreed to cancel the two regular meetings and hold a special meeting on September 26th at 5:30pm. Mayor Traugott reminded everyone that special meetings are required to adhere to items listed on the agenda.

Council Miscellaneous/ Committee Reports

Council member Bingham stated that the local Food Pantry is hosting a Food Drive Thru event on September 16th 10:00am – 3:00pm.

She also stated that the Versailles Housing Authority is closing their waitlist due to the high number of names on the list. She noted that the units so rarely become available and she didn't want people to assume that they will get a unit just because they are on the list.

Ms. Bingham noted that she had attended a meeting with the President of Kentucky State University to discuss re-enacting the Training and Learning Academy as well as dual credits for an ag program.

Council member Dake mentioned a recent Herald-Leader article about Versailles.

Ms. Dake stated that Bluegrass Greensource has given us the last of their stock of car ashtrays and they are available at City Hall for anyone that would like one for their vehicle.

She noted that the EV Charging Station Committee was originally scheduled to provide an update in September but they are requesting more time as they are in limbo waiting for information on the grant they applied for.

Ms. Dake announced that the 5th issue of the City of Versailles E-Newsletter went out today. She distributed the submitted names to the council for them to each select their three favorite possibilities for the newsletter. The names will then be posted on Facebook for the public to cast their vote.

Council member Johnson stated that the BSADD Committee is waiting for the traffic study to be completed. It is currently about 50% complete. She also noted that they would need to reschedule their next meeting since the special council meeting has been scheduled for that night.

Council member Miller distributed R-1 and R-2 zone maps for the council to review and asked that they discuss it at a later date, specifically as it relates to airbnb's.

Department Directors

City Clerk Reynolds stated that the website should officially go live by the end of this week.

She also noted that City Hall is once again fully staffed, stating that Becky Baldwin had recently started in the position of Tax Clerk.

Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.

APPROVED:

BRIAN TRAUGOTT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK