

**NOVEMBER 19, 2024
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MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VERSAILLES MUNICIPAL BUILDING/5:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBER LISA JOHNSON PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS CHANTEL BINGHAM, MARY BRADLEY, LAURA DAKE, 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.

Council member Johnson provided a statement on the mayoral vacancy and noted that Governor Beshear's office is working to interview candidates. She stated that they would be appointing someone to fill the term left remaining by Mayor Traugott's resignation.

MOTION BY BRADLEY, SECONDED BY DAKE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

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

Public Comment

Pastor Jo Lauderdale announced that Living Grace is partnering with the American Legion Woodford Post 67 to provide a free Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00pm at Post 67 at 138 South Main Street in Versailles.

Pastor Lauderdale also noted that the Living Grace Warming Station would be open any night that the temperature goes below freezing. The Station is open 7:00pm – 8:00am at 128 East Green Street.

Reverend Floyd Greene spoke in his role as a consultant for Supernova. He stated that Supernova is the leading renewable energy company and that they provide solar panels and EV charging stations at no charge. He stated that the City could qualify to get solar panels put on the roof or get additional EV charging stations which is an opportunity to reduce the budget by using solar energy at no cost. Council member Johnson suggested the matter go to the EV Charging Station Committee and Council member, and Committee Chair, Laura Dake agreed.

Rich Pictor, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation, addressed the council to provide an update on the special projects, including the pickleball courts and Big Spring Park. Mr. Pictor shared pictures of the new pickleball courts and invited everyone to attend a ribbon cutting on Friday, November 22nd at 1:00pm. He also shared pictures of the work that is complete at Big Spring Park. He noted that there will be a 24 hour surveillance camera system that both the Parks employees and the Versailles Police Department will have access to view. Mr. Pictor stated that the Big Spring Park project is on schedule to be completed in April, 2025.

City Attorney Moore stated that there is a sixteen foot section of land between the City's property at 274 High Street and the neighboring property. Many years ago the land was designated as public access. He noted that the City would like to have the land but that the neighboring property owner is unwilling to agree to the terms as they would prefer for it to be left open as it is easier for their tenant to access the backyard. Mr. Moore stated that the City can close without agreement by filing an action with the court and the property would be split down the middle. If the City proceeds in this manner, then they will owe the neighboring property owner for devaluation of their property which is estimated to be less than \$2,000. Mr. Moore asked for authority to proceed with taking it to court for the City to get their half. He noted that after the City gets their half (8 feet), then the can put in the driveway and they will only be lacking 1.5 feet to be conforming.

MOTION BY JONES, SECONDED BY BRADLEY TO AUTHORIZE CITY ATTORNEY BILL MOORE TO PROCEED WITH ACTION TO CLOSE THE PASSWAY BETWEEN 274 HIGH STREET AND THE ADJOINING PROPERTY.

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

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Nola Serber, Special Projects Coordinator, provided an update on the scheduled Christmas events. Mrs. Serber distributed a calendar of events and noted that Community Trust Bank is the main sponsor. She stated that the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting is December 6th and the Christmas Parade is December 7th, with forty floats already registered to participate. She also invited everyone to attend the Versailles Market and Entertainment District Christmas on December 14th from noon until 5:00pm and will include a iceless skating rink, bounce houses, s'mores stations, and more. Mrs. Serber stated that the Visit Woodford calendar, on the Tourist Commission website, allows each agency to post all of their public events in one place. Council member Johnson asked about the blank landing page on the City website for "The District" and Mrs. Serber stated that they are working with the website company to create the page with the calendar embedded. City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds stated that she could link to the calendar and add some other content to the page until Mrs. Serber could get it up and running in the format she wants it in.

City Clerk Reynolds noted that everyone should have received a copy of Municipal Order 2024-7 and a copy of a Neighborhood Grant application as submitted by The Shire at Helmsley II. She stated The Shire has already been approved for two neighborhood grants previously and that Municipal Order 2024-7 states that "neighborhoods and areas that have previously been awarded two grants will not be considered for another grant until February 1, 2025". Mrs. Reynolds stated that Bob James, a resident of The Shire, has asked the council to reconsider that language and go ahead and approve their third application so that they can go ahead and get planting done before winter. The council further discussed the request and no motion was made to amend the Municipal Order. Council member Johnson stated that The Shire's application would be considered at the first meeting in February, 2025.

Council Miscellaneous/ Committee Reports

Council member Bingham thanked everyone for their support in her recent run for State Representative. She stated that she was appreciative and grateful.

Mrs. Bingham noted that she working to fill stockings to be handed out at the Living Grace Warming Station during December. She handed out Christmas stockings and asked each person to spend approximately \$25 to fill the stocking with items that may be useful for those who do not have a home. She asked that stockings be returned to her at the December 3rd council meeting.

Council member Dake stated that they are working on the Safe Streets for All grant application that must be filled out to get the money that we have been awarded.

Council member Johnson stated that the Water and Sewer Committee had met and they are recommending a sewer adjustment in the amount of \$241.64 for 130 Maple Street.

MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY BRADLEY TO APPROVE THE SEWER ADJUSTMENT FOR 130 MAPLE STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$241.64.

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

Council member Johnson adjourned the meeting without objections.

APPROVED:

LAURA DAKE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK