

## Cold Spring City Council January 25, 2010

The regular meeting of the Cold Spring City Council was called to order by Mayor Mark Stoeber. Pledge to the flag and prayer was led by the City Clerk. Roll call showed the following council members present – Lou Gerding, Brenda Helton, Rob Moore, Janis Reiman, and Sandy Ross, excused – Stuart Oehrle. Also present were Police Chief Ed Burk, City Clerk Rita Seger, Administrative Officer Michael Vank, and City Attorney Brandon Voelker.

Mayor Stoeber pointed out exits from Council Chambers, per Fire Department regulations.

There will be a drawing for an American flag and pole for residents who stay until the end of this meeting.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the Visit with Santa event was held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission reported that this event was very well attended by approximately 220 children and 219 adults. A survey was distributed during this event, and the results were overwhelmingly favorable for this and other Park Board events.

The next event that the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission is sponsoring is the Cold Spring Night at the Town and Country Sports Complex in Wilder on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 9 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$3.00 and children under three get in free.

Mayor Stoeber presented his annual **State of the City** address. He thanked the citizens for allowing him to serve the community. Mayor Stoeber thanked the city council members for their hard work, and all of their spouses for their support. He thanked Police Chief Ed Burk, Administrative Officer Mick Vank, City Clerk Rita Seger, and City Attorney Brandon Voelker for their around the clock dedication. He thanked all of the city employees who keep our city safe, clean, repaired and in great shape. Mayor Stoeber also gave special thanks to all of the volunteers on our various Boards who have dedicated so much of their time and shared their knowledge to help our community. Thanks to the city's Operation Hug team for their work and support of our troops, who will be deployed to Afghanistan on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be their third deployment.

Mayor Stoeber stated that while the city of Cold Spring is in good shape, it doesn't come without constant vigilance and tough decision making. This year's budgeted revenues are essentially flat due to the overall malaise of the economy. We are no longer in revenue growth patterns. Our core three areas of revenue - property, payroll, and insurance taxes, are slowing down in tandem with the slowing of commercial growth. However, the city is still showing vibrant signs of holding strong. Home sales and prices are still strong and foreclosures are still at a low level. The city has completed another successful financial audit. The city's fifteen year strategic plan is proving to be an invaluable tool for guidance, discussion, debate and decision making. The thirty year street plan keeps the city's single most expensive cost clearly in sight. Our Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission continues to sponsor year round family friendly events that help build our community togetherness. The year 2010 will be another tough year of decision making in order to keep the city ahead of where it needs to be, and to be true to the visions that it has. Mayor Stoeber is optimistic about the current long term vibrancy of our city. A solid plan is in place. Your voice is incredibly important to him and this council. Express your ownership in this community by letting us know what you think, want, like, and more importantly what you don't like.

Police Chief Ed Burk gave his quarterly report. He shared with council and our citizens what the Police Department has accomplished in 2009. Police officers patrolled approximately 129,996 miles in 2009, driving an average of 55.15 miles per shift. There has been a slight increase in community calls for service, such as animal or juvenile complaints, disturbances, domestics, fights and so on. Assists in helping other departments in the area are down from last year. Miscellaneous calls which are 911 calls are flat. Part 1 Crimes, which are calls that come from dispatch to the officers such as robberies, assaults, thefts, and those types of calls, have dropped twenty-three percent from last year. Stolen property was down by fifty four percent. Traffic calls and traffic stops are down four percent from the previous year. Citations issued are down seventeen percent and total arrests for the department are down by twenty-two percent. Investigative calls like alarms, follow-up investigations, and suspicious persons are also down. The police officers took care of 265 offense reports this year, which cover any criminal offense on which they have to write up a report. In 2008 the count was at 358, so there were not as many crimes committed in the city in 2009.

This year 122 residents requested vacation checks while they were away. For the previous year it was only 80. When officers do a vacation check they are required to walk the perimeter of the house once a shift to make sure it is safe and secure which resulted in 4,920 individual checks this year. This is a good thing to do for the citizens in our community.

Chief Burk reviewed the police participation at the various city events during the year. In May they sent out a citizens' survey, with a return of forty percent. This survey gives them a good baseline to compare their progress with future surveys,

which will be done every two years. They began the Neighborhood Focus where officers are assigned to an area and if residents have an issue within their area that requires attention, they can contact their officer for help.

Officer Nick Love left our agency for another, and Officer Les Caudill retired at the end of the year after having worked with the city for eleven years. The Police Department applied for and received the Kentucky League of Cities Safety Grant and used that money for the cruiser video cameras. The department received nineteen accolades commending them for collective actions, primarily from people who had vacation checks. Fifteen letters of commendation were received for specific individual acts. These help boost the morale of the officers and they also give the opportunity to show council that our officers are truly appreciated by the citizens.

A slogan that Councilman Oehrle came up with is "If You See It – Call It". If you see something that is out of the ordinary in your neighborhood and it doesn't look right, call the Police Department and let them take a look and see if it is a genuine issue. Don't wait until three days later when the police can't do much about it. If it is an emergency call 911, otherwise call Campbell County Dispatch at 292-3622. During the day you can call or leave a message on the voicemail for your neighborhood focus officer at 441-6289. Voicemails are checked regularly.

Mayor Stoeber stated that all seems to be going in the right direction, with crime statistics going down and officer contacts with the residents going up. The surveys and neighborhood focus are positive movements.

The minutes of the regular November 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion for approval and Janis Reiman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes of the December 14, 2009 special meeting were reviewed by all. Rob Moore made a motion for approval and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Laird of Home Depot addressed council. He stated that Home Depot works closely with "People Working Cooperatively Inc." and Mr. Laird presented their contact information. If any friends, neighbors, or someone you know who might be hospitalized or in a financial bind needs work done on their houses, then People Working Cooperatively can provide that service. Home Depot works closely with them. Mr. Laird also submitted some literature on the Home Energy Savings Program. Approved experts at Home Depot can tell you how this works so that you can take advantage of the tax rebates that are being given. Home Depot appreciates the Cold Spring community.

Mayor Stoeber stated that many times the needs in your own area tend to get overlooked. It is wonderful that Home Depot, with the help of People Working Cooperatively, is making us aware of this program and how to make contact. Our city administration office can provide their contact information.

Mayor Stoeber stated that it was necessary to **appoint new officers for the Municipal Properties Corporation.** Mayor Stoeber called a temporary recess to the current council meeting.

Rob Moore **called to order the meeting of the Municipal Properties Corporation,** for the purpose of electing 2010 officers. Mr. Moore made a **motion to appoint Stuart Oehrle as Chairman of the Municipal Properties Corporation.** Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Rob Moore made a **motion to appoint Sandy Ross as Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Properties Corporation.** Brenda Helton seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Rob Moore made a **motion to appoint Lou Gerding as Secretary of the Municipal Properties Corporation.** Janis Reiman seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Brenda Helton made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Municipal Properties Corporation and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Stoeber called the regular council meeting back to order.

Departmental reports were reviewed

Mayor Stoeber reported that our Public Works Department has done a nice job of plowing and salting the roads, which were in fine shape after the last snow.

Rob Moore stated that while speaking to Officer Hyett in front of his home, there were two dogs in his side yard. Officer Hyett called animal control, who responded very quickly and picked up the dogs.

Brenda Helton thanked St. Joseph School for the nice thank you cards from the students for the DARE program. She stated that she attended the Insight I-net meeting and would like to discuss this in greater detail at the February caucus meeting. She had concerns that they wanted the first phase kicked in by January 28<sup>th</sup>. Ed Burk stated that it would be a good idea to discuss it in Caucus and we could be connected later.

Sandy Ross also wanted to acknowledge the nice notes sent from St. Joseph School for the DARE program. She thanked the city for putting the Friendship Park sign back in place by the street. She asked if we could include on the February caucus agenda discussions on a citizen survey for the next newsletter. Ms. Ross would also like our next newsletter to include a write up on the different avenues that our residents have in order to become involved in our city, such as volunteering on one of our various Boards. She also questioned the opening on our Planning & Zoning Commission. Mayor Stoeber stated the resignation is not yet final, but there is a thirty day period to fill that position by this body. If anyone is interested they could bring it forth to either council or himself.

Jan Reiman also thanked the kids at St. Joseph School for sending the DARE thank you notes. She had the privilege of reading to the sixth graders last week and it was a lot of fun.

Brandon Voelker referenced a draft which he provided to council about the animal control ordinance that we are looking to change, which will be discussed at the February caucus.

There was no qualifying person present at this meeting to be awarded the American flag and pole

Rob Moore made a motion to enter into Executive Session, per K.R.S. 61.810 – F. Personnel. Janis Reiman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lou Gerding made a motion to come out of Executive Session, and Sandy Ross seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. No action was taken as a result of this Executive Session.

Rob Moore made a motion to adjourn the regular January 25<sup>th</sup> council meeting and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Approved:**

**City Clerk:**

**Mayor:**