

## Cold Spring City Council September 25, 2017

The meeting of the Cold Spring City Council was called to order by Mayor Angelo Penque. Prayer and Pledge to the flag was led by the city clerk. Roll call showed the following council members present – Chris Ampfer, Lou Gerding, Brenda Helton, Michael Ruscher, Adam Sandfoss and Lisa Cavanaugh. Also present were Administrative Officer Stephen Taylor, City Attorney Brandon Voelker, City Clerk Robin Sweeney, Police Chief Steve Collinsworth and Ronnie Hitch, Public Works.

Mayor Penque gave the exit instructions, per Fire Department regulations.

Mayor Penque addressed the first item on the agenda,

*Addition to the agenda - Resolution 17-05* sponsoring proposed zoning text amendment regarding reader board sign regulations, to define variable message reader boards, control and/or limit flashing and animation and for Class 8 signs only and/or other as recommended by staff. Adam Sandfoss made a motion to approve. Lou Gerding seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 6 yeses and 0 noes. **Motion carried.**

*Items of interest to the community* – Fall Festival is Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. From 3 to 7 we will have activities for kids. There will be a hayride that will take the kids around the back of the city building to pick a pumpkin. There will also be a petting zoo and inflatables during that time. We will have a square dance caller for kids and parents to dance on the dance floor. There will also be hot dogs, popcorn and Kona Ice. From 7 to 10 the Nick Netherton band will be playing and we will have food trucks here during that time.

Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is Campbell County Fall Clean Up from 8am to 5pm. This is for Campbell County residents only (must show ID). Participants are required to unload their own vehicle. The Campbell County Police Department and Penderly Park will take furniture, mattresses, trash and debris. The Campbell County Transportation Center will take appliances, car batteries, furniture, mattresses, propane tanks (up to 20lbs) scrap metal, and tires. **NOT ACCEPTED: TV's, liquids, CRT monitors** You can call 859-547-1866 with any questions.

There is Veteran's assistance available at the city building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. This is for Cold Spring residents only so please spread the word if you know a veteran who made need any assistance at all. You can call the city building to set up an appointment with Mike Disney who donates his time to help our veterans.

There will be a drawing to win an American flag at the end of the meeting, Mayor Penque urges all Cold Spring residents to enter their name.

The August 28, 2017 council meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion to approve, Adam Sandfoss seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

The September 11, 2017 special council meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion to approve, Michael Ruscher seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

*There were no scheduled or unscheduled guests.*

*Under old business* – a discussion on the lake project. Steve Taylor addressed council and stated that he included a request for a motion to fund several infrastructure projects at the lake. He is looking for approval from council to spend money on items 1 - 4 that were outlined in the council packets, at a minimum he would like approval for items 1 – 3. Lou Gerding asked for an explanation on items #3. Steve Taylor said that the south side of Matinee Blvd needs to be completed as part of the Matinee road improvement project, but he would also include the north side and the south side of Buning at the same time, we would get a better price doing it that way. Lou Gerding questioned if it would just be the north side of Matinee from US 27 all the way back. Steve Taylor stated that it will be from where the trail will go into the new parking lot, to the stop sign on the north side. There will also be two crosswalks installed there. Adam Sandfoss asked how long items 1 – 4 would take. Mr. Taylor has not bid it yet so he is not sure at this time. Lisa Cavanaugh made a motion to approve funding for items 1 – 4 of the infrastructure projects at the lake. Chris Ampfer seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 6 yeses and 0 noes. **Motion carried.**

*Under new business* – Trick-or-Treat will be held October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

The next item on the agenda was tax Rates for the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year. Brenda Helton asked if there was any urgency on deciding this tonight since it is the first time that it has been mentioned. She would like to discuss it at Caucus if possible. Steve Taylor said we do need some guidance so we can start preparing to send the taxes out, we do not necessarily need a vote tonight. Brandon Voelker stated we may need a public hearing depending on what council wants to do as far as changing the tax rate. If we decide on a rate higher than the compensating rate we would need a public hearing, otherwise we do not. Lou Gerding made a motion to keep the tax rate the same as last year, \$1.64 per thousand for real property. The tangible \$2.00 per thousand, and \$1,69 per thousand for motor vehicle. The trash rate will go up per our contract, it will be \$191.88. Adam Sandfoss seconded the motion. Roll call vote shows 6 yeses and 0 noes. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Penque addressed the council to change the October Caucus meeting date. Council has no problems with that. The caucus meeting will be changed to a special council meeting held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

*Follow up citizen comments-* Steve Trauth addressed council and would like for them to explain the compensating rate to the general public. Steve Taylor said the compensating rate is suggested by the Northern Kentucky Area Development District, that was \$1.66 per thousand. Brandon Voelker added that the compensating rate is what the state says will produce the same revenues. He said that this council has kept the same rate for quite a few years now and as long as government does their job by bringing in new homes and businesses, they will still bring in revenue. Steve Taylor stated that the revenue will continue to go up, even when the tax rate is the same. Steve Trauth commends the city for operating within the budget that they established, he just wanted explanation for the citizens who may not understand.

Steve Trauth also wanted to address the pension. He wants to make sure that the city is aware of what is going on. He said the Kentucky pension is going to blow up the budget. The city needs to keep this in front of us so the we can have a discussion with the finance committee. It started at 64% and now it is up to 80%. Mr. Trauth says we should be very cautious of spending and pay attention to our revenue until this issue is settled. There was some discussion about the background of the pension crisis and possible outcomes. Steve Taylor mentioned the CERS which is 64% is healthier than the KERS, which is 24% funded. Brandon Voelker stated it can happen and it may happen, government can go bankrupt. Mayor Penque stated the he speaks with the City Administrator in regards to this matter every day. He has also spoken with the governor. The mayor and the council are on top of this. Steve Trauth just wanted to offer his business experience and make sure the city is aware of what is going on. Brenda Helton stated that a lot of cities are taking part in the separation resolution and asked if we should entertain that idea. Brandon Voelker said that is what the executive session is about. He said there is a lawsuit that was filed by Ft. Wright and KLS is saying that CERS should be separate.

Bill Farah wanted to thank council for moving forward on the lake project. Many people he has talked to think that this will be a great thing for the city.

*Department reports were submitted in writing.* Brenda Helton said we have not had an animal control report in several months. Steve Taylor asked her what the stance was from the board about that at the last meeting. Brenda Helton said she they haven't had a meeting since then. The city clerk reached out to Teri Baker with animal control and she is extremely busy and will get us reports as soon as she can.

Steve Taylor stated that the Kentucky Department of Water was here for our MS4 inspection. We passed 37 of 38 categories with flying colors. The category that was incomplete was the dry inspection because the state did not like the format we were following. They have supplied a different format to use. They were enthused with what the city has done. The state is very happy with us.

*Council comments* – Lisa Cavanaugh wanted to point out a note from a citizen praising the public works department. She has personally had many compliments about the public works department, that they do a great job and they are always polite. Chris Ampfer said he is happy that the lake project is moving along. Adam Sandfoss reminded everyone to get their flu shots this year.

*Mayor comments* – Mayor Penque thanked Mr. Trauth for coming to the meeting and sharing his thoughts. He hopes more people attend the meetings, if we don't know that it is broke then we can't fix it. He added that the council is very conservative with spending money and they look closely at the money that is spent. The Mayor asked everyone to come to our Fall Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Resident Todd Weiner won the raffle for the American flag.

Lou Gerding made a motion to enter the executive session per KRS 61.810 C – proposed litigation. Adam Sandfoss seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Adam Sandfoss made a motion to come out of executive session. Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion carried.** No action was taken in executive session.

Adam Sandfoss made a motion to adjourn the September 25, 2017 council meeting at 9:15pm. Lou Gerding seconded the motion.

Approved: 10/23/17

City Clerk: /s/ Robin Sweeney

Mayor: /s/ D. Angelo Penque