

City of Erin
Regular Board Meeting
September 1, 2020

The City of Erin Board of Mayor and Alderman met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Erin City Hall. Those present included: Aldermen Jennifer Warren, Paul Gooden, Betsy Ligon, Wesley Mitchum, Jackie Parchman. Alderman Cecil Baggett and Lisa Moore were absent. Others present included: Angela Neilson – Recorder, Chief Mark Moore, Chief Danny Warren, Liz Buttermore – Houston County Herald, Charles Thornburg – Midway Church of God. Attorney James Stevens attended by conference call.

Mayor Paul Bailey was present and residing.

Brother Thornburg gave the opening prayer and gave a brief overview of the tent revival “Houston County Awakening” that is planned for Sept 13 to the 20th. This revival is a way for the community to come together in prayer in the safest way possible during this pandemic. “Suicide rates are climbing along with drug and alcohol abuse. This is a way to give hope to our community”, Brother Thornburg stated.

First on the agenda, Mayor Bailey asked City Recorder Angela Neilson to swear in the new aldermen that were elected during the August 6th election: Ward 1 - Wesley Mitchum, Ward 2 - Jackie Parchman, Ward 3 - Betsy Ligon. No candidate was elected for the Ward 4 seat. Congratulations to these Alderman on their 4-year term.

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve the August 2020 minutes was made by Gooden, second by Parchman. All said YES.

Communications:

- COVID 19 update: The pandemic on going, we are encouraging the citizens to do the best they can to keep the community safe. Follow the CDC Guidelines: wash your hands, social distance, use common sense.
- Liquor by the Drink Referendum will be on the November 2020 ballot. An ordinance relating to this matter will be presented at the November or December meeting. This Board does not decide – the people of the City of Erin will vote to determine if Liquor by the Drink will pass. All nonresident property right voters will be mailed a ballot. Any questions can be directed to Annette Pulley at the Election Office.

Committee Meetings:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

Motion to Approve Mayor Bailey’s recommendation to appoint Ted Carson as Alderman for the Ward 4 position, as a two-year term, made by Ligon and second by Gooden. All said YES.

Alderman Ted Carson was sworn in by City Recorder Angela Neilson.

Motion to grant permission to apply for the Tourism Industry Recovery Support through the Coronavirus Relief Fund – a \$25,000.00, no match, to be used to promote tourism and display ways to stay safe during the pandemic was made by Warren, second by Carson. All said YES.

Motion to approve Resolution 09012020 – Paving Project 2020 – Community Facilities Grant funding from Rural Development in the amount of \$109,000.00 made by Ligon, second by Warren. All said YES.

Motion to advertise and bid Paving Project 2020 as approved by the Street Committee, with actual street work from that list to be determined based on bid amount verses monies available made by Warren, second by Gooden. All said YES.

Police Report

The report for the month of August was given by Chief Moore as follows:

- Total calls answered – 261
- Citations – 53
- Arrests – 17
- Accidents – 5 (Two with injuries)

Fire Report

Chief Danny Warren gave the fire report for the month of August as follows:

- City of Erin Fire Department responded to (1) EMS assist, (1) residential structure fire, (1) motor vehicle fuel leak, (1) natural gas leak, (1) multifamily dwelling fire (with one civilian casualty), (1) report of smoke coming from within a residence, and (5) motor vehicle accidents. Also, (3) municipal burn permits were issued.
- Chief Warren received inquiries in regards to the municipal burn permits this month. Our Municipal Code requires individuals to obtain a burn permit from the City of Erin Fire Department for any fires that are not cooking, recreation (within reason), or ceremonial. It does not alleviate the need to obtain a burn permit from the TN Division of Forestry. The State of Tennessee burn permits are required October 15th through May 15th of each year, and may be obtained at www.burnsafetn.org. Information as to what may be burned, as well as safe burning practices, may also be found on this site. At no time shall synthetically items, trash or refuse, or constructions materials be burned in the City Limits (as stated in the City of Erin municipal codes).
- The fire at Shamrock Apartments was the largest fire incident since the College Street Apartments fire. A total of 54 emergency services personnel responded to the incident. American Red Cross responded and was able to assist all who were affected. The TBI and the SFMO responded and have been assisting with the investigation. All outside agencies have praised our emergency responders for the timely response, quick and efficient fire attack, quick evacuation of the unit, and quick activation of State and other assisting agencies. Normally, the focus is on the losses during these incidents. Chief Warren made note that (12) occupants of the building (where the fire originated) are safe, over \$100,000.00 of personal property was saved, essential items were recovered for the residents that evening, and that structure will be able to be rehabbed for future occupancy. When the final reports are made available from all entities, Chief Warren will share a synopsis of them and what we must do, as a municipality, to ensure our fire prevention and life

safety remains top tier. As always, Chief Warren invites the Board to attend meetings and training so that everyone is able to further their education of the City of Erin Fire and Rescue services. The Department welcomes any advice the Board has to offer.

Mayor Bailey reiterated to the Board that the Comptroller of the State of Tennessee requires all board members to receive (12) hours of training within (12) months of the initial election or appointment and (12) hours every three years thereafter. Classes are available for free on the Comptroller's website. Each Board member is required to submit the appropriate certificate of completion for each of the (12) hours to the City Recorder in a timely manner. Failure to obtain the required training will result in the Water and Wastewater Financing Board having full discretion to order reasonable sanctions against the municipality that the board member represents as stated in Tenn. Code Ann. §7-34-115(k).

Halloween – Trunk or Treat – October 31st

- Planning to go forward at this time
- Other clubs will meet on September 30 to determine if other plans will move forward:
 - Rec Club – Carnival – set up on Wednesday Oct 28th
 - Chamber – Vendors in the Square – Saturday October 31st
 - Houston County 150th Birthday Celebration Kick off – Wednesday October 28th
 - Legacy Band – Concert in the Square – Friday October 30th
 - Houston County High School Band Concert in the Square – Saturday night, October 31st.
- All will be encouraged to follow the CDC guidelines
 - Safety first, Social Distance, common sense practices, hand washing/sanitization stations, one-way entrance and follow the path to the one way exit for Trunk or Treat

Alderman Jackie Parchman addressed the Board about an experience recently in Stewart County where the topic of conversation was centered on the Shamrock Apartment Fire and how efficient and professional Chief Danny Warren and the City of Erin Fire Department were during the fire, how everyone worked together. Alderman Parchman stated how proud she was to be a part of this Board and her involvement with the Fire Department.

Motion to adjourn made by Parchman, second by Warren. All said YES.

Approved: _____

Paul Bailey, Mayor

Attest: _____

Angela Neilson, Recorder