

**City of Stanford**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

Thursday, April 5, 2018

**I. Call to order**

Mayor Eddie Carter called to order the regular meeting of the City of Stanford Council at 6:31 pm on April 5, 2018 at the Stanford L & N Depot. Councilmember Naren James led the opening prayer and Mayor Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Roll call**

A roll call was conducted, and the following council members were present: Ronnie Deatherage, Scottie Ernst, Sara Givens, Peggy Hester, Naren James, and John Sallee.

**III. Approval of minutes**

- a) Regular Council Meeting – March 1, 2018  
Councilmember James made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Councilmember Ernst seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**IV. East Kentucky Pride Spring Cleanup**

Jane Vanhook, East Kentucky Pride Coordinator for Lincoln County and Stanford, explained that she has been working with Pride for the last 20 years in some capacity and recently attended a workshop where they requested that we do a proclamation. She read a proclamation declaring April as spring cleanup month. A spring cleanup has been planned for April 14<sup>th</sup> after the wildflower walk at Logan Hubble Park. Also, one has been planned for the community of Stanford on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am -12:00 noon. Mayor Carter also mentioned that this would go along with the annual 2-week city cleanup that starts on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Vanhook also explained that we are covered by Bluegrass Greensource. They are part of the Mainstreet Cleanup program which will be on the same day (April 21<sup>st</sup>). Councilmember Hester asked if the area at old Walmart would be included in the cleanup. Ms. Vanhook explained that she is aware of the situation there and would try to talk to them to see if they have any plans to participate in the cleanup.

## V. Old Business

### a) **Second Reading of the Swimming Pool Ordinance**

Mayor Carter asked for changes or comments from James Jarrett, Planning & Zoning, and the Council before the second reading. With no changes, Chris Reed proceeded with the second reading of the swimming pool ordinance.

Councilmember James made a motion to approve the second reading of the swimming pool ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hester. A roll call vote was taken and with all in favor, the motion carried.

### b) **Annexation on 27 South**

Mayor Carter explained that there has been some discussion on leaving out the county garage. He asked Chief Maples to come forth with some figures on the payroll tax. Chief Maples explained that it would be about \$400 per year for the 2 employees that work in the garage. Mayor Carter explained that it would be the Council's call, but he would like to keep the good relationship with the Judge and the workers at the county garage. They do a lot of things for the city.

After some discussion, Councilmember James made a motion to proceed with annexation as planned including the county garage, recycle center and the animal shelter. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ernst. The motion carried with Councilmembers James, Hester, Givens, and Ernst voting "yes" and Councilmembers Sallee and Deatherage voting "no".

### c) **Goshen Cutoff Annexation**

Mayor Carter asked Chief Maples to give an update. Chief Maples explained that he got with Bluegrass ADD and they are doing the analysis on the benefits to the citizens. That should be done by the next council meeting and ready to share the pros and cons. The maps were presented at the last meeting.

Councilmember James asked if anyone has talked to the residents there. Chief Maples indicated that he lives there, and the residents are interested in having trash pickup and police protection. Mayor Carter mentioned that their ISO rating would go from a 5 to a 3 which would help tremendously on their insurance rates. Chief Maples said that Bluegrass ADD would break it down per parcel and show the savings.

James Jarrett, Planning & Zoning, recommended that we go north with annexation instead of south.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a) Cabin at Logan's Fort**

Mayor Carter asked Garlan Vanhook, Architect for Logan's Fort, to come forth and speak about the construction of another cabin at the Fort. Mr. Vanhook explained that Village Restoration is the contractor for the fort cabins. They have completed another cabin and the Fort Foundation wants to go on to the third cabin. A \$5000 retainer is being held until the fireplace is finished. We need approval to go forward with the next cabin at the recommendation of the Fort Foundation and to amend the contract to extend it to the next unit priced cabin. Councilmember Hester asked how are we on money, she has requested a report from the Fort Foundation three times, but one has not been received. Council cannot give a correct vote if we do not know how much money there is to work with. Mr. Vanhook stated he did not know the Fort Foundation's financial circumstances. They are a 501C and they should file reports. Councilmember James said that once built, we have a responsibility for liability, so it behooves even more that the foundation becomes a little more transparent with us. We should not have to go online to get a report. It would be mutually beneficial for both of us. Councilmember Ernst asked how can we give approval to build a third cabin when we don't know how much money the Foundation has to build the cabin.

Mr. Vanhook said that brings up another issue that came up at the last building committee meeting about maintenance. There are some maintenance issues that must be addressed - we can't have our siege if we don't repair the gate. The Fort Foundation's stance is that once they build it, the maintenance has to be dealt with by the city because once built, essentially the city owns it.

Councilmember James made a motion to approve the recommendation to proceed with the building of the third cabin without any restrictions, and to request a financial report by the May meeting, then going forward before any more construction, a financial report should be submitted within 30 days after the end of each quarter. Councilmember Givens seconded the motion and with all in favor, the motion carried.

### **b) Approval for Bluegrass Community Action to Use Lot Behind Presbyterian Church for Garden Space**

Mayor Carter explained that Melissa from Bluegrass Community Action looked at the lot behind the Presbyterian Church to possibly make a garden space which would be laid out in small plots for senior citizens. They are not sure if they want to proceed since the lot is in a floodplain. Chief Maples added that permission

would have to be requested in writing from FEMA to proceed. Mayor Carter asked him to check to see if this might be possible and report back at the next meeting.

c) **Recommendation from Fire Chief Maples to change the billing company from Covenant Solutions, Inc. to Immediate Response Spill Technology, LLC**

Mayor Carter asked Chief Maples to come forward to explain about this new cost recovery service. Chief Maples reminded Council that about a year ago they had talked about the billing company to recoup some money for wrecks and structural fires. Some of the advantages with this new company are a 15% fee vs. 25% with the current company and the new company is local - owned by James Riddle from Shelbyville and the current company is from Alabama. Councilmember James asked about the success from the effort since it was set up. Chief Maples answered that we have collected about \$10,000.

Councilmember James made a motion to proceed with a resolution to change companies from Covenant Solutions, Inc. to Immediate Response Spill Technology, LLC. Councilmember Deatherage seconded the motion and with all in favor, the motion carried.

d) **Temporary Signs**

Mayor Carter explained that Planning & Zoning has had some discussions about temporary signs. In talking to Attorney Reed today, the amendment should come from the Planning & Zoning Board with their recommendations and should be prepared by their Attorney Correll, then presented to the Council. Mayor Carter asked James Jarrett, Planning & Zoning, if this would be possible. Mr. Jarrett said that the sign ordinance is a city ordinance and that Mr. Knouse has been getting the questions about temporary signs. Councilmember Ernst asked what the issue is with the sign ordinance. Mayor Carter asked Mr. Knouse to come forward to explain the problem. Mr. Knouse explained that the problem is only with temporary signs. Currently, you buy a \$25 permit and you can have the sign up for 90 days, then it must be down for 90 days. This affects a lot of the downtown business that put out A-frame signs with the daily lunch special, etc. Councilmember Ernst said that he thought the \$25 fine should be done away with. Downtown is flourishing, we don't need to be nickel-diming the stores – let them do business. Mr. Knouse recommended that the temporary sign fee be done away with provided the setbacks are met. Councilmember Hester brought up her concerns about temporary signs in the historic district.

The matter was tabled until next month to let Attorney Reed draw up an amendment to stop the collection of the \$25 temporary sign permit fee and to allow time to research the issue of temporary signs in the historic district.

e) **Home Occupations**

Mayor Carter asked James Jarrett to explain his recommendations for changes to the ordinance concerning home occupations. Mr. Jarrett explained that Ward Hart passed out a sheet at the last meeting with recommended additions. Attorney Reed suggested that the Planning & Zoning Attorney, Kirk Correll, draft an amendment to the ordinance to be presented at the next council meeting for first reading.

f) **Board Appointments**

(1) **ARB Board**

Mayor Carter explained that he had three recommendations for reappointment to the ARB Board – Peggy Hester, Garlan Vanhook, and Pam Cox. Mayor Carter commended those on the board. They have dealt with some serious issues and done a good job.

Councilmember Ernst made a motion to approve the reappointment of Peggy Hester, Garlan Vanhook, and Pam Cox to the ARB Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Givens and with all in favor, the motion carried.

(2) **Board of Adjustment**

Mayor Carter recommended the reappointment of Rachel Correll to the Board of Adjustment.

Councilmember Deatherage made a motion to approve the reappointment of Rachel Correll to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sallee and with all in favor, the motion carried.

(3) **Economic Development Board**

For information purposes, Mayor Carter made the Council aware that he has chosen to reappoint Jeff Ralston to the Economic Development Board.

g) **Compensating Rate for Taxes**

Attorney Reed made Council aware that it is time to start thinking about the compensating rate for taxes.

## **VII. Councilmember Business**

### **a) Water Billing Concerns**

Councilmember Hester explained that she has received numerous messages in March and February from customers who are disgruntled with their water bills. Greg Snow, one of the complainants, was in attendance and came forward to speak about his situation. He explained that his water bill had doubled – when he went down to ask, there was some miscommunication when he tried to get some answers. About a week ago, Jack & Ryan gave him a call. In December, they read the meters early, then January was cold, and they couldn't read all the meters, so they estimated. Councilmember Hester brought up four other customers that had problems with their water bills. Mr. Withrow from the Water Board said he would take those names and investigate each case. Councilmember James said that he would encourage the Water Department to come up with a process to handle complaints.

### **b) City Clerk Schedule**

Councilmember Ernst handed out a list of city clerk schedules and asked Mayor Carter if it was correct. Mayor Carter said that it was, and informed Council that he had obtained Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond Coverage through the League of Cities from Ward Hart that covers each public employee that is in the office. Mayor Carter explained that he hoped to have a candidate for City Clerk by the May meeting. Councilmember Ernst asked who was serving as the official City Clerk.

Mayor Carter explained to Council that Peggy Orberson is acting as City Clerk. She is doing payroll and taking care of the bills for the City of Stanford. He requested a motion to add Ms. Orberson to the First Southern accounts.

Councilmember Naren James made a motion to give Peggy Orberson the authority to sign checks with Mayor Eddie Carter on all First Southern accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Sallee and with all in favor, the motion carried.

Councilmember Ernst stated that he is getting some complaints that people are not getting help when they come to City Hall – that one hand does not know what the other hand is doing. Mayor Carter explained that the new business license process has caused some problems and some honest mistakes have been made, but it's moving along good and a lot of money has been collected.

c) **Code Enforcement**

Councilmember Ernst expressed concerns about properties that need to be cleaned up or demolished. What can be done to move these along to get them done?

Attorney Reed explained that we want to build up as many liens on these properties as we can to help offset the cost of demolition. He is getting ready to move on to the Young's Grocery property because it may be the easiest one due to the type of lien on it and it is not heir land. House Bill 422 made it easier for us to put the liens on and go in and clean up, but when it comes to demolition, you still have to notify everyone that has an interest in it.

Councilmember James stated that we need to follow the ordinances in a deliberate and systematic way. Attorney Reed stated that is what we are trying to do – it's just the limited resources that we have.

d) **Powell Street Complaint**

Councilmember Hester stated that she has received 2 complaints on the second house on the right on Powell Street. They were cited once and had cleaned up the property, but it is now in bad shape again. Mr. Knouse stated that he would cite them again.

### **VIII. Citizen Comments**

- a) James Jarrett stated that he thinks Council asks Attorney Reed to do more than what you pay him for – you need to look into that and pay him for what he actually does. Mayor Carter stated that he agreed, and they will talk about that when they get into their budget.
- b) Tim Estes came forth representing the Cow Bell Days Committee. Cow Bell Days will be June 14, 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> this year. He asked the Council for their support again. In previous years, the City has been a silver sponsor with a \$500 donation. Councilmember Hester made a motion to continue to support Cow Bell Days with a \$500 donation for 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sallee and with all in favor, the motion carried.
- c) Greg Snow informed the Council of an herb type euphoric drug called Kratom that is being sold at 3 stores here in Stanford. The FDA is having trouble trying to regulate it. The drug is currently legal, but it can be banned, and it would make our community a little safer.

Councilmember Hester contacted the League of Cities and there is no statute in the State of Kentucky since it's not classified as a drug or a medicine. Basically,

he told me until the State does something, the city cannot ban it because it has not been classified.

Councilmember James stated that it is outside of our jurisdiction but advised Mr. Snow to talk to David Meade or Rick Girdler. There was also some discussion about sending a letter from the City to the Attorney General supporting the ban of the product.

- d) Mayor Carter thanked Councilmember James for spending two days in Frankfort lobbying for us to get the hazardous duty retirement increase phased in. The bill passed, and they can only raise it 12% a year over a 10-year period.
- e) Mayor Carter recognized Kenny Smith, a 40-year veteran with our Fire Department who was recently inducted into the Lincoln County Hall of Fame. Also, Mr. Smith and his son both served in Iraq together.

**IX. Executive Session**

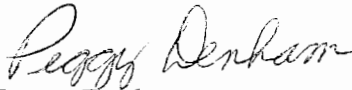
Mayor Carter called for a motion to go into executive session.

Councilmember Ernst made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of pending litigation KRS 61.810. Councilmember Sallee seconded the motion and with all in favor, the motion carried. The time was 9:40 pm.

Councilmember Hester made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilmember Givens seconded the motion and with all in favor, the motion carried. The time was 10:19 pm.

**X. Adjournment**

Councilmember Givens made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember James seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.



Minutes submitted by: Peggy Denham

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Eddie Carter, Mayor