

CITY OF HENDERSON – RECORD BOOK

Record of Minutes of A Regular *Meeting on* July 25, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Henderson, Kentucky, was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the third floor Assembly Room of the Municipal Center, 222 First Street, Henderson, Kentucky, designated as the primary location for this video teleconference meeting allowed under KRS 61.826.

MAYOR STATON led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to our American Flag.

There were present Mayor Bradley S. Staton presiding:

PRESENT:

Commissioner Robert N. Pruitt, Sr.
Commissioner Nicholas E. Whitt
Commissioner Austin P. Vowels
Commissioner Rodney Thomas

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. William L. “Buzzy” Newman, Jr., City Manager
Mrs. Dawn Kelsey, City Attorney
Ms. Maree Collins, City Clerk
Mrs. Holli Blanford, Public Information Officer
Mr. Robert Gunter, Finance Director
Mrs. Connie Galloway, Human Resources Director
Mr. Sean McKinney, Police Chief
Mr. Trace Stevens, Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Director
Mr. Sam Lingerfelt, Safety & Training Coordinator
Mr. Ryan Walenga, Police Major
Mrs. Donna Madden, Executive Assistant
Mr. Travis Owens, Assistant IT Director
Mr. Victor Carson, IT Network Administrator I
Ms. Chasity Bryant, Engineering Intern
Mr. StePhan McGuire, Safety Intern
Mr. Ryan Scott, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Indiana Executive Director
Mr. R. Travis Hays and Family Members
Mr. Dwight Williams
Mr. Vince Tweddell, Publisher/Editor, the Hendersonian
News 44 Crew
Mr. James Elliott, Police Officer

PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION: “Honoring R. Travis Hays”

MAYOR STATON presented R. TRAVIS HAYS with a proclamation recognizing and honoring him for his assistance in bringing an end to the recent search for a convicted double murderer, who escaped from an Ohio prison on May 22, 2023.

SEAN MCKINNEY, Henderson Police Chief, presented Mr. Hays with a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 in appreciation for his cooperation and assistance with the conclusion of the manhunt.

R. TRAVIS HAYS expressed his appreciation and that he was glad to have been able to assist in bringing some closure to the incident.

PRESENTATION: “Big Brothers Big Sisters”

RYAN SCOTT, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Indiana, introduced himself as the new Executive Director, indicating that he would like to bring the Big Brothers Big Sisters back to an active status in Henderson. Mr. Scott reported that he got his start here in Henderson

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and needs men of Henderson to step up to assist the local young men to become good adult men. The commitment is three hours per month for a one year period.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MAYOR STATON asked the City Clerk to read the Consent Agenda.

Minutes: June 27, 2023, Regular Meeting
 July 11, 2023, Called Disciplinary Hearing
 July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:

HOLLI BLANFORD, Public Information Officer, gave a brief update on the Vision Henderson Plan Update - 2023. She reported that the overall Plan, which was adopted in 2015, included 100 big ideas, broken into five categories, of which twelve Riverfront & Downtown projects have been completed; six Community Investment projects have been completed; three Community Viability projects have been completed; and four Landmarking & Sense of Place projects have been completed. Sixty-two of the remaining seventy-five projects are in various In-progress stages.

MAYOR STATON indicated that because this plan will soon be ten years old with a majority of projects well under way, it is time to start planning for the next visioning exercise in 2025.

SEAN MCKINNEY, reported on the financial impact of a Lateral Incentive and Longevity Plan for the Police department. The recruiting incentive would be up to \$15,000.00 per officer (with a goal of bringing in four officers immediately) and the retention incentive would be at 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18 years based on years of service and grade. The Plan would also include an incentive to our returning retirees.

ROBERT GUNTER, Finance Director, reported that he anticipates, based on the highest exposure, the expense would be about \$187,000.00 which is approximately 3.2% of budgeted salaries of the Police department. With the vacancies in the department, this would not cause a hardship on the budget and may assist with recruitment and retention.

WILLIAM L. “BUZZY” NEWMAN, JR., City Manager, requested approval from the Board to present a formal Plan for adoption at a future meeting. Without objection the Board gave unanimous approval to move forward with the Plan.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER PRUITT thanked Police department personnel and Parks & Recreation Director Trace Stevens, and all City employees for working on the fly to assist with the Dust Bowl needs. It was a very successful event.

COMMISSIONER VOWELS reported that he had attended an Economic Development Investor meeting and was very impressed. He further reported that their projects work hand in hand with the Vision Plan. He is very impressed with just how much has been completed over these past few years.

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COMMISSIONER THOMAS echoed Commissioner Vowels' sentiments on just how much has been accomplished over the past few years with everyone working together.

MAYOR STATON indicated that he had received several calls from concerned citizens relating to the trash bin rollout. He reported that one of those concerns was the size of the bins for those that live alone or are unable to maneuver such a large bin. He is happy to report that we will, in the very near future, be able to provide a smaller unit that will work with our new equipment. Public Works staff will be taking orders for the smaller units for future distribution.

WILLIAM L. "BUZZY" NEWMAN, JR., City Manager, indicated that David Steele, Sanitation Superintendent, has done an outstanding job with handling the increase in calls/questions/complaints caused from this rollout. He and his staff have done an extraordinary job. Mr. Newman reported that we are struggling to keep that department staffed. We are hoping that the new bins and the new safer equipment will have a positive impact.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: "Litigation"

MOTION by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt, that the Board of Commissioners go into Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of KRS 61.810(1)(f) for the purpose of discussion relating to possible litigation against the City.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood.

Commissioner Pruitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Vowels --- Aye:
Commissioner Whitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Thomas -- Aye:
Mayor Staton ---- Aye:	

WHEREUPON, Mayor Staton declared the Board adjourned into Executive Session.

MEETING RECONVENED:

MOTION by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Vowels, that the Board of Commissioners reconvene into regular session.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood:

Commissioner Pruitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Vowels --- Aye:
Commissioner Whitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Thomas -- Aye:
Mayor Staton ---- Aye:	

WHEREUPON, Mayor Staton reconvened the Board into regular session.

RESOLUTION NO. 48-23:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SEPARATION AND WAIVER AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF HENDERSON, KENTUCKY AND HEATH COX**

MOTION by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Vowels, to approve the Separation and Waiver Agreement between the City and Heath Cox.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood:

Commissioner Pruitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Vowels --- Aye:
Commissioner Whitt ----- Aye:	Commissioner Thomas -- Aye:

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Mayor Staton ---- Aye:

WHEREUPON, Mayor Staton declared the consent agenda items approved.

/s/ Bradley S. Staton
Bradley S. Staton, Mayor
July 25, 2023

ATTEST:

Maree Collins, CKMC, City Clerk _____

MEETING ADJOURN:

MOTION by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to adjourn the meeting.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood:

Commissioner Pruitt ----- Aye: Commissioner Vowels --- Aye:
Commissioner Whitt ----- Aye: Commissioner Thomas -- Aye:
Mayor Staton ---- Aye:

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mayor Staton declared the Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bradley S. Staton, Mayor
August 08, 2023

Maree Collins, CKMC
City Clerk