

**CITY OF HARRODSBURG
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: August 25, 2025

TIME: 12 p.m.

PLACE: City of Harrodsburg, Conference Room

Mayor Robert “Bob” Williams called the regular meeting to order at 12 p.m. Members present, Commissioners; Kerry Anness, Charlie Mattingly and Jack Coleman

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Anness – Present; Commissioner Mattingly – Present; Mayor Williams – Present; Commissioner Coleman – Present; Commissioner Isham – Absent

APPROVE PROCLAMATION FOR CONSTITUTION WEEK 2025 FOR THE JANE MCAFEE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve the proclamation for Constitution Week 2025 for the Jane McAfee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor read and presented Susan McGinnis the proclamation designating September 17 through September 23, 2025 as constitution week. Ms. McGinnis stated they were organizing an event on the 17th bells across America, this is a nation wide event. Everyone at 4:00 rings bells, if they have one to bring or they will have some for sale for donation in recognition of signing the constitution on that date. This will be held in front of the judicial building.

DARRIK GRAY – MERCER COUNTY TOURIST COMMISSION SPOKE

Mr. Gray said on behalf of the Tourist Commission he would like to give a special shout out to Michael and his crew, Scott Elder and his crew, and Frank with the city streets. With that we are doing at the tourist commission, without those three it would be impossible. Street closures, getting things ready, security – thank you guys. What they do is invaluable.

Mr. Gray requested street closures for Friday Night on Main on September 12th. The commission had previously approved the closure however, Ragged Edge has a play that day so they have talked to them about moving it more up on main street. So it will go from Poplar up to Office, and all the way to Chiles if you all approve that. We have already spoken to the Fiscal Court to get approval to use the lot out here for Friday Night on Main. All we are asking is to shift your approval up a few blocks that way they can still have the play at Ragged Edge and not interfere with parking and traffic. Street closure needed from Friday, September 12th from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. normally we start shutting the streets down around 3 to 3:30 p.m. and I have already talked to the Judge Executive and she is going to reach out to the judges over at the judicial center to make sure there is not court that day. If there is, then we will have to adjust the starting time that we close. We will not start

closing the side streets until later. It will just be main street, so we can let all the employees get out until 5 p.m. or so.

Mr. Gray requested street closures on behalf of Campbellsville University. They are wanting to host a 5K on September 20th. You will see the CU campus, at the chiropractic school you will see a red dot and they will need barricades. The other one that I do not think you will be able to approve is on the 598 which is a state road. I will tell them that they will have to adjust their route a little bit or get state approval. That will be on September 20th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. That is on hernico not even up to where the fair ground starts. Mayor Williams said if they close off, off of the state road off of 598 we could still approve that. You would not need state approval, would they? Mr. Gray said the only issue he saw was with that one street by their campus, where Steak and Shake was. The rest of that you all could approve but that one road. They could approve unless it closes the street and they are wanting to close a part of that street. Mayor Williams said they are wanting to close a part of the state road. Mrs. Currens said who is this on behalf of? Mr. Gray said Campbellsville University in Harrodsburg. Mrs. Currens said and why are you presenting this? Mr. Gray said because they were not familiar with presenting these and I told them I would present for them. I am helping them plan it, a little bit. Mr. Coleman said so you are thinking they would want to come off of University Drive around the campus there. Mr. Gray said it is a very similar route that Pioneer Days used. Mayor Williams said we still can't authorize for road 598, that is why I was thinking if they could use University Drive off of 598 then 598 would not be brought into the equation. But, since you do not answer for Campbellsville you cannot answer the question. And when is this supposed to be? Mr. Gray said Saturday, September 20th. Mr. Williams said remind me of the times. Mr. Gray said 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Currens said do you know if they have police lined up? Mr. Gray said I do not know that but I can tell them they need to get it. I did tell them they would need to get with the police chief. Mrs. Currens they really need to come and answer questions when they make these requests. Mr. Gray said yeah, I can tell them for the next one. Time is of the essence for them to know and promote it but the decisions is your all's. I am just here. Mrs. Currens said they are going to have to provide us some type of plan showing what they're-how they're going to-are they just putting up barricades? Do they expect police presence there? There is a lot of questions that I don't know the answers too that I would expect us, need to know before we approve something like this. Mr. Gray said that is perfectly fine and I can tell them. Well than I guess that is it then.

Mr. Gray came to go over the Tourist Commission's financials. Mr. Gray said he will go over the Tourist Commission's financials year end, last fiscal year and then also the budget for the upcoming year. On the first page, if you look at our income for the year, it was \$883,815 off of the restaurant tax which was a little over our budget of \$820,000. Room tax was \$160,119 which was \$119 more than we budgeted. And then our third biggest income was \$32,000 off of our interest in our CD's account. So for this year, our total income was \$1,044,596 which was just short of what we budgeted for the year. Some of our bigger expenses, as you go down, you'll see was ARPA money, which was \$98,587. We had to have spent prior to the end of last year. Obviously, then you'll see for about \$46,000 which is television, LEX18 news, and then social media, another \$44,000. Those are big expenses on that side. And, if you flip to the next page in FY24-25 we spent \$37,700 on events, and gave away \$550,244 to different community organizations or events, such as Anderson Dean, the Chamber Foundation as well as many others. So, for our total expenses for the year \$1,093,782 for a loss of \$49,186. Do you have any questions on those from last year?

Mr. Williams said these events and entities that you're sponsoring, are they receiving any profit in their endeavors as events? Mr. Gray said I think that's always the goal when we're giving this money out is for them to start generating revenue. I know originally that money was meant to be seed money. Now we're seeing the request each year go up and up and up. I looked the other day, and I think 2021, which is my first year, we were at \$207,000. As you'll see, almost at \$600,000 given out. We've actually seen the trend the opposite way. The requests are going significantly up. I think this year, you'll see, I think we had requests of almost \$700,000. Let me look. Well they're a little bit lower, \$566,000 this year, but that's also with us taking on-We absorbed Harrodsburg First. So, we took on an additional \$200,000 of that. So, if you add that, we're about \$140,000-we're almost at \$700,000 which as you saw was 70% of the budget. So, it's getting increasingly more difficult to try to find out where to cut those grants. You don't want to say no, but we also only have so much that we can designate for grant requests. Mr. Williams said since 2021, is it the same entities that keep coming back, or have you got new ones? Mr. Gray said we've gotten probably five or six new ones. Mr. Williams said but the same ones? Mr. Gray said the same ones plus five or six new, yes. Anderson Dean obviously is our biggest one, which rightfully so, it's a huge thing for our community. So, we give almost \$200,000 just to Anderson Dean from the restaurant tax. Mrs. Currens said can you talk about your new capital development ideas? Mr. Gray said yeah, I've got in on here. Mrs. Currens said okay, sorry. I thought you were winding down. Mr. Gray said no, I was right in the middle. I know everybody's ready to get out of here. The next is our budget for current fiscal year. You'll see that we're predicting \$828,200 in revenue from the restaurant tax, \$175,000 from room tax, and \$30,000 from interest of CDs. At the bottom of revenue, you'll also see three new line items, which is \$70,000 for sponsorships, \$22,300 for vendors, and our contribution from the Rotary Club for Oktoberfest. Now that we're hosting events, we have three new sources of income there and we have a partnership with Rotary Club for Oktoberfest. We're predicting \$1,191,500 for our income this year, not just from the restaurant tax. And then as you go down expenses, social media, TV again, two of the heavy hitters \$50,000 and \$50,500. If you flip onto the back or the second page in sponsorships and grants, you'll see \$400,000 and like I said, that's down a little bit because now we're doing \$200,000 worth of events from within our office. Beautification \$12,000 and that's some of your flowers. We've actually upped that to try to add more flowers around the community. I know right now some of them have taken a lot of heat this summer, and not all of them are in perfect looking condition. So, we're going to try to address that and get some of those that are dying off the streets and reorganize the ones that are still living. And then if you see infrastructure phase one, I've said it since I've been here, I'd like to take that restaurant tax money and as much as I love the events, I would also like to see some things being built in our community or fixed up, whatever we have to do. So, each year I'd like to start putting some money aside for infrastructure projects. Now, whether we use that all in one year or build it up overtime to start putting back to thing that we can look back in 30 and 40 years and say, hey, that money built this. Don't get me wrong, I love the events probably more than anybody, but also, I do want to be able to look back and say that we accomplished certain things. So that's something I would like to meet with you all individually at some point and discuss your ideas. I've talked to some of you about some ideas you've had and possibly start getting that ball rolling. So, then you'll see operational cost \$54,200 and personnel \$208,000 for total expenses of obviously also \$1,191,500. And I'm going to go ahead and hand out the last handout to you which is our grant request. You were just asking about the ones that we give our to the Mayor. You'll see the ones that they requested verses what we gave. You'll see requests this year were \$566,100. Again, if you take that \$200,00 that we're doing on our own events, that

would have been about \$766,100 worth of money given out. But we knew we had to make some cuts, so we came to \$400,000 even on grant sponsorships. Some of that we give out to are Anderson Dean, The Fair and Horse Show, Chamber of Commerce, the City of Harrodsburg, James Harrod Trust, City of Burgin, Friends of Fort Harrod, Ragged Edge Theater, Ol' Iron Rundown, Adam Fest, Arts Council, Juneteenth, Historical Society, Shaker Village, Tree Board, Native Down Flute Gathering, Blights Over Harrington, Trifecta Fishing Series, Harrington Conservation League. And, then we left a little bit in there for people who come for requests outside of the original requests. Sorry, that's a lot of information today, a lot of talking, but we'll go ahead and get it all to you all. Mayor Williams said well, it looks like you're going in the right direction on the decision to actually put a cap on your grant sponsorship. Mr. Gray said and again, a lot of that is, you know we do have the infrastructure project, which we'd like to see. And, as I told you all earlier, it's kind of you know the requests are getting so high that we have to figure a way out to hopefully make it go the other way. Hopefully they're making money off these events and can put some back and then come back for less. If you all don't have any questions, that's all I've got, or you're welcome to email me. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at 9a.m. so you're welcome to come by to those as well. I appreciate you all letting me speak today.

APPROVE SHIFT STREET CLOSURE APPROVAL FOR FRIDAY NIGHT ON MAIN

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to shift street closure approval to Poplar to Office and down to Chiles on Friday, September 12, 2025 from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE STREET CLOSURES FOR CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve street closures shown on map for Campbellsville University on September 20, 2025 from 7:30a.m. to 9:30a.m. with exception of 598 subject to additional information from Campbellsville University as to detail of closure and their needs. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 11, 2025

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on August 11, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AND PAY DEPARTMENTAL INVOICES

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve and pay the invoices. Motion carried unanimously.

HEATHER TINGLE – MERCER COUNTY YOUNG DEMOCRATS CLUB REQUEST YOUNGS PARK

Heather Tingle, president of the Mercer County Young Democrats Club said to give you some background on why we are making this request, we have recently founded the Mercer County

Young Democrats Club, and it is an organization focused on getting youth involved in the political sphere. And as such, we have made the decision to minimize our membership dues and anyone who is under the age of 18 who wishes to participate would not have any dues required. So we are looking for some low cost options, and Young's Park was one of the places that I was interested in discussing. Mayor Williams said just to let you know, and I have in front of me one of the rental agreements for Young's Park, recently updated. And the rental fee on item five of the rental agreement says that rental fees will be only reduced or waived after a written request is made and approved by the CAO and public works superintendent. Any organization requesting a reduced or waived fee shall provide their Kentucky SOS organization number, complete the rental agreement, and pay refundable security deposit, due at any time of reservation. In order to provide fair use of this center, no one group or individual is permitted to have regularly scheduled evening or weekend rentals more than once per month at a reduced or waived rate. And we-frankly-I don't have a problem with anybody renting Young's Park, key word being renting. It could be rented at a nominal fee, that's something that we would have to discuss, but unfortunately the city is not strong enough fiscally to be able to waive charges on the use of our properties. Because we still have to pay for the overtime that it takes for our public works folks to go in there afterward to clean up and make sure that everything is ready for the next renter. We're renting space at Anderson Dean Park to another political organization and we're charging them a fee per month. So we really can't allow Young's Park or any of, well that's really the only other property that we have control over as far as renting. We can't allow that to be given to one and not to all. Right now the agreement is \$100 for half a day, but I'm thinking a nominal fee of \$25 or \$30 per month just to kind of cover the city's expenses. Is that about right, Stacey? Stacey said I think the last time we discounted it we did it for \$50 because that covers two guys. Mr. Williams said okay, so if it's already been done I guess it's kind of set. Stacey said they didn't take a step on it, but that was what we came up with. Mr. Williams said and those are the two folks that make the decisions, the CAO and the Director of Public Works. So, basically, I guess it would \$50 a month. Ms. Tingle said I can definitely take that information back to our next meeting and share that. Would it be possible for me to take a copy of that rental agreement? Mr. Williams said absolutely. Ms. Tingle said I didn't see any links to it online, I may have just missed it. Mrs. Williams said you can have this one actually if you want it. Ms. Tingle said alright, well thank you for letting me speak.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-16 – REMOVE LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE AT 109 E. POPLAR STREET

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve second reading on ordinance 2025-16 – removing loading/unloading zone at 109 E. Poplar Street. Which is right down here in front of the new barbershop and the photography studio right next to the green space that Derek was talking about earlier. Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Mayor Williams – Yes; Commissioner Coleman – Yes; Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – Yes. Motion passed.

APPROVE STREET CLOSURE FOR THE MERCER COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve street closure for the Mercer County Sheriffs Office from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

Streets will include Main Street from LaFondas to City Hall, Poplar Street from 109 Poplar Street to Larry Catlett's office. For the purpose of photographs of their upcoming calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR WILLIAMS TO SIGN THE HARRODSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANIMAL AGREEMENT

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to sign the Harrodsburg Police Department Service Animal Agreement. The agreement is between the City of Harrodsburg and Officer Brian Beeler. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT TABITHA SHEWMAKER'S RESIGNATION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to accept the resignation for Tabitha Shewmaker with the Police Department effective September 3, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

TERMINATE THE FOLLOWING PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS DUE TO INACTIVITY EFFECTIVE AUGUST 25, 2025

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to terminate the following part-time firefighters due to inactivity effective August 25, 2025.

- Clayton Bottoms
- Daniel Forbing
- Stephen Gardner
- Cory Kitchen
- Jacob Newsom
- Justin Railey
- Jeffrey Tyler Satterly
- Jarred Sexton
- Antonio Thomas

Motion carried unanimously. Mayor said what constitutes inactivity with a part-time firefighter? Stacey said when working on the budget last fiscal year her and Michael got it down to 4 or 5 part-timers, we had a lot of part-timers on the books so this is just cleaning that up. We haven't used them in a couple years. Mr. Williams said when part-time folks are needed is upcoming upon the Fire Chief or CAO to call them in? Stacey said Michael would cover the shifts as needed. Michael said they are called on an as needed basis. Stacey said if we have a fireman that was out on vacation. Michael said or if we get too many calls and need more on shift. They also come to off duty fires. Mr. Williams said let's hope we don't have any of those. Mr. Mattingly said Stacey, has any of these that's on this list responded to a fire? Stacey said not in the last two years. Michael said not in the last two years. Mr. Williams said have they been called? Michael said yes.

APPROVE INCREASING STARTING PAY FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS TO \$15.00 PER HOUR

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve increasing the starting pay for part-time firefighters to \$15.00 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAY INCREASE FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER CHESTER CRAIG

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to approve the pay increase for part-time firefighter Chester Craig to \$15.00 per hours. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAY INCREASE FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER NORMAN HALL

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve the pay increase for part-time firefighter Norman Hall to \$15.00 per hours. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAY INCREASE FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER DAVID WOODARD JR

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve the pay increase for part-time firefighter David Woodard Jr. to \$15.00 per hours. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAY INCREASE FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER CHAD WORTHINGTON

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve the pay increase for part-time firefighter Chad Worthington to \$15.00 per hours. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-18 – AMENDING THE FY26 BUDGET

Commission had first reading of ordinance 2025-18 – amending the FY26 budget.

LUNCHEON ANNUAL ARTS/WRITING CONTEST

Mayor Williams announced that the Board of Commissioners received an invitation from Mercer County Conservation District luncheon for the annual arts and writing contest held on September 19th at Beaumont Inn.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to go into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) Discussions which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee at approximately 12:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to come out of executive session at approximately 1:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to go back into regular session.
Motion carried unanimously.

NO ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor announced no action was taken in executive session.

TERMINATE OFFICER RYAN TARRIE

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to terminate officer Ryan Tarrie in his probationary period. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS REQUIRING OWNER OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO BE PRESENT AT THE PROPERTY WHEN WATER SERVICE IS REQUESTED AT THE PROPERTY

Mayor Williams said this stems from a situation where a property owner requested his water be turned on at a rental property and water was turned on and when the tenants left, they left a valve open that flooded the floor. So, other than the statement that I made regarding what's on the agenda, I agree with what's on the agenda. Mr. Anness said I know Atmos requires someone to be present. Spectrum requires somebody to be present. Lake Village requires somebody to be present. So, I think it behooves all of us for the benefit of customer and city that someone be present, their designee or themselves when water is turned on. Mr. Williams said when someone leaves a property, especially a rental property, you never really know what state of mind they're under and if the city was responsible for all the damage that's done anytime a utility was turned on, we'd go broke paying for repairs. So, what other discussion do we need to have? Mr. Anness said you have to have an ordinance to do this. Mrs. Currens said yeah, I've already drafted an ordinance and I think I just circulated it to Kerry because he was the one that asked for his discussion to take place. I didn't put it in their packets. Oh, it's in your packets. Ordinance 2025-17. I've sense talked to Stacey and we may want to tweak it before-this is just for our discussion purposes. If you all look at it and you're happy with it then we can do first reading on it. But, one of Stacey's suggestions was maybe we want to set certain days of the week and certain time frames like the cable company. Where we say we're going to do turn ons on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to noon and that's not included in this. Mr. Williams said would that be like an item 8? Mrs. Currens said yes. Mrs. Currens said it doesn't have to be. That could just be the water department's way of effectuating the ordinance. We don't have to put that in the ordinance. That way we're not married to certain dates and times if we need to alter them or change them. Mr. Anness said number two says that customers should schedule a service at least 24 hours in advance. So, that kind of takes care of it. You can't come up here and say I want it turned on right now. Mrs. Currens said correct. Mr. Williams said but if we have particular dates and times, particular dates with a time frame, if we set it for Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to noon and somebody in at 10 o'clock and Tuesday, then they can't expect it to be turned on until Thursday. Stacey said Frank and I have been talking about coming up with a work order day or a turn on and turn off kind of day. Because we've had a problem with people coming in and saying I need this done right now and we have leaks. We have other things that our guys aren't just turning water on and off all day. And so, we've been trying to come up with a system that streamlines that anyway. So, this would just play into that. But, whatever day is our day we do

this, be there in this. It's awful, but it's going to have to be a window because if a big leak blows up in the road, that's obviously going to be the priority that we're going to send the most people to. But fortunately, our street department guys know how to help with turn ons and stuff like that. So, we can get somebody to do it, but we won't be able to set a specific time that we'll do it. Mr. Williams said has everybody had a chance to look over? Do you see anything that needs to be added or changed or deleted? Mr. Coleman said I think number two gives you a little cover. Mr. Williams said and then, with that 24 hour notice, you set the dates for whatever you want. Mrs. Currens said yeah, it's at least 24 so I mean, if it turns out that again if we just did it from 9 to noon on Tuesday and they walk in at 1 o'clock on Tuesday, then it may be Thursday before they get on. So, it just says that they have to give us that much notice. Mr. Williams said and that way, you and Frank can assign people to do that and knock them all out pretty quick on the same day. Stacey said we'll pick out the days that make sense. As I've thought about it, probably Friday would be one of them because we don't do cut offs. We try not to do cut offs on Fridays for non-payment because we don't want people to be without water all weekend. So, Friday would be a good day to do turn ons, and then we'll pick another day that makes sense for other scheduling things we have going on. But we'll pick out the days that will do it. Mr. Williams said so, as far as y'all can see, everything that's in there right now is adequate. There's nothing else that needs to be added or taken out. Well, then, since everybody is in agreement with it, why don't we just consider this first reading? And one other thing that I would like to mention in the regard is when people do come in to demand service, don't do it. Don't scream, do not get nasty, do not curse at people in the water department. Their job is to provide service to all customers equally. If you have a problem that you feel the need to cuss at somebody or you feel the need to get mad and immature, you can come see me.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2025-17

Commission had first reading of ordinance 2025-17 – Policy requiring customer to be present when service is initiated.

DISCUSS VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

The recommendation to establish or reestablish the vacant and abandoned property working group. And I'm going to ask our city attorney at this point, where for we stand on ordinances that are necessary to get a Code Enforcement Board or Code Enforcement? Mrs. Currens said well, all of our ordinances have to be reviewed and updated. Not just ordinances necessary for Code Enforcement. So that was, again, something Stacey and I were going to start working on. But it's a pretty monumental task. A lot of our ordinances have not been reviewed in a very long time. So we need to get all of our ordinance up to date because Code Enforcement primarily will deal with abandoned properties, nuisance properties, etc. But it can apply to other ordinances as well. So we really need to make sure that all of our ordinances are up to date. And they're not. I don't know when the last time they were reviewed, but it's been a while. Mr. Williams said and once we had the ordinances in place, I mean we could put together or reestablish a working group. But, there's not a lot we can do until we have the ordinances to cover. Mrs. Currens said well, I think that we can definitely start identifying these properties. This is something that seems to happen from administration to administration. One group of commissioners comes in and they make that a priority. And then when they leave, then those things kind of fall by the wayside.

And then we pick things back up. But, I don't see any problem with going ahead and trying to identify these properties, prioritizing them, doing title checks on them to see who the record owners are, sending letters. I mean, there's a lot of things we can do to start moving forward, even in the absence of a Code Enforcement Board. Mr. Coleman said what we did originally, eight years ago I guess it was, we had the mayor and myself, building inspector, code enforcement, chief of the street person and the fire chief. And we met once a month here at lunch, ate pizza. We were identified because the police department's out, everybody's out all day long. And so these properties were being identified and so there's two ways. So we started like you said, we would find the property, then start researching the deed or if it's abandoned, who owned it, who the family was and try to gain access to it. If we didn't have a lot of liens on it, try to get, our goal was to try to get, our goal was to try to get ownership of the property of the lot. The other part of it was as the police officers were driving around the city, you'd see a house that started becoming grass growing up or getting a little bit dirty. That's an ordinance kind of deal. And so, we would talk to the people, is something going on with you? Can we kind of get the kid to get cleaned up with that? You just don't wake up on Monday morning and the house is abandoned. This is a process you go through. So we were trying to go from both sides of it anyway. But, we would just, we couldn't do anything. We had no authority to do anything. We were just identifying these properties. We had a list, spreadsheet. Logan and all of them would go out every day, the street department kind of monitoring what's going on. And the only two or three things that we, three or four lots that we identified, the commission had to be brought before the commission to do anything, or the county at the time. And that's all that we did. So we can wait for ordinances and all that. But, if it's a working group, I feel like it's been four or five years. And we can just, if you want to do it, that's fine. If you don't, we can wait for the ordinances. But I just feel like as I drive around town, I feel like it's something we could do, and it's not really any extra work for anybody else because they're out, and we just meet once a month. These properties would kind of come up the line, and Erich sometimes would go out and identify with the police. The fire chief, if this is a life safety issue, it's really, really serious, but some of them are. You know, the fire chief can pull a fire, he can pull a meter. Mr. Williams said but the thing is, once you have declared a property to be a threat of imminent danger, you've got about, what is it? Michael said it has to be taken down, I think, within like 48 hours. Mr. Williams said so I mean, and right now we do not have the mechanism to do that. So, I mean we have identified several properties around town that are actually a threat of imminent danger, but until we get some kind of mechanism, there's not much we can do. And I don't know what else at this point we can do, but we can put together a working group and at least have some people checking it out. Mrs. Currens said there are some that I believe have local owners, and we can certainly address that. The problems that we have are where we can't find owners of the properties, and we've had several of those over the years. Mr. Williams said and we still do. Mr. Coleman said at that point, in case you do, you know, I don't like that. But, if there's nobody out there and you can't find anybody, we can get access to it and get the thing down there. There's all kinds of people that will purchase the lot. We did two of them with Habitat houses, but there's a lot of developers now that would eat that up and put a low-income house there. Which is what we need. We've just got to make sure that when we do it, there's not something that's going to blow back on the city.

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-08-25

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to approve resolution 2025-08-25. Authorizing resolution of City of Harrodsburg, are hereby authorized to execute the agreement and to request, offer, or otherwise provide aid and assistance under the terms of the agreement for, and hereby become a party to the Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion by/seconded, Commissioner Coleman/Mayor Williams to adjourn at approximately 1:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert O. Williams, Mayor

Shavonna Huffman, City Clerk