

**CITY OF HARRODSBURG
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

DATE: September 25, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: City of Harrodsburg, Conference Room

Mayor Pro Tem Marvin “Bubby” Isham called the special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present, Commissioners; Kerry Anness, Charlie Mattingly and Jack Coleman.

ROLL CALL

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

OPEN FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Isham/Commissioner Coleman to open the floor for public comment on the tax rate. Motion carried unanimously. Nobody from the public attended the meeting.

CLOSE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Isham/Commissioner Anness to close the floor to public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-20 – PROPERTY TAX RATE

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Isham/Commissioner Coleman to approve second reading of ordinance 2025-20 – property tax rate. Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Isham – Yes; Commissioner Coleman – Yes; Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – No. Motion passed.

Commissioner Mattingly said he spoke to several citizens around the city and he has been contemplating on tax rate and he said his thoughts are last year was .0610 the compensating rate this year is .061 which will take in approximately \$10,000 than we took in last year. Commissioner Mattingly said the cost of living now, I know this is just a few dollars for the citizens. He said I know anybody in this room is capable of paying that and more too, but there are a lot of people in this city that are right here at the poverty line and a few dollars makes a lot of difference. He said he has always stated he is for the citizens even though, Commissioner for 13 years going on, I don’t like tax increases unless it is just all necessary. He said I believe we can do a better job with our budget, cutting out waste, maybe looking at areas we can cut that and I believe we need to work harder and I know we are right now at taking in revenue that is owed to the city. He said he knows that is an on-going process. Commissioner Mattingly said his stance is that I cannot vote

for a rate increase of .063, I just think it is the wrong thing for our citizens, no more than it is going to take in. Commissioner Mattingly said we are still going to take in more money this year by leaving the compensating rate, so that is my stance on it. Commissioner Coleman said can I comment. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said yes sir. Commissioner Coleman said he is going to play the old record again, y'all have heard this over and over. He said our revenue went up 10 million dollars last year and we are looking at probable 40 houses that were built last year in this community. He said in the last 10-12 years we've probable had 150-200 houses being built, which means we have 150-200 families in this community when you dial 911. He said all we are doing is providing services. Commissioner Coleman said we are not raising taxes; we are raising revenue to be able to compensate for, I am sure the police calls have gone up, we still have 20 firefighters, we have 200 more families than we had 10 years ago. He said we still have 18-20 police officers. Commissioner Coleman said we can't continue to provide services, adequate services to our community if we don't try to raise revenue based on the growth that we have. He said if that number was not 10 million, if it was 2 million, I might could concur with you. He said we have so many families and we are providing so many services and we are taxing our employees and our departments by not having enough revenue to continue to provide these services. Commissioner Coleman said these families, again when they call 911, they want the police to show up, they want firefighters to show up, they want the streets scrapped in the winter when it snows, they want salt on them and when water lines break, they need someone to fix them. He said this is a very appropriate amount for our community but I think we should try to really consider, of course I support it, when we can raise revenue, we only provide services to these people and we have been blessed in this community over the last 6, 7, 8 years. He said there has been more construction in this community probable then anywhere around and we have more people that need our services. He said I just think this is a no brainer, how much is it Shavonna – Shavonna said it will be \$13,000 between the compensating and the 4% rate. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said it will be \$2.00 per \$100,000 what your taxes will go up. Commissioner Coleman said I know what you are saying Charlie but. Commissioner Mattingly said but don't you believe we have got to do a better job on our budget. He said I think there are areas we can cut and not reduce the service we give the people. He said we can't just raise taxes every year, after year, after year to get revenue to go in the general fund we have got to look at that and do a better job. Commissioner Coleman said we haven't, the city doesn't raise revenue, we haven't raised revenue - in the last 15 years we have raised it twice. Commissioner Mattingly said I know that, but I don't think we are doing a good job and I am right there with it. He said I think the budget has got to be more controllable and we have got to take in revenue that is due to us in other areas that has been neglected over the years. Commissioner Isham said we were a million dollars over budget this year Commissioner Mattingly said that's right, that's our fault. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said we took it out of the general fund because we cut everything we could cut. Commissioner Mattingly said why were we a million dollars over budget. Commissioner Isham said because the city's grown. Commissioner Anness you have to add to that for the growth. Commissioner Mattingly said don't you think the industrial property had a big bearing on it? Mayor Pro Tem Isham said no that counted the industrial property though on that million dollar budget. Commissioner Mattingly said we have a million dollars we have to pay every year, okay, where is that million dollars going to come from. He said we have to do a better job on our budget. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said yes. Commissioner Mattingly said I am speaking for the people, I am here speaking for citizens and yeah, I have asked some of them to come today, but they are not complaining they are just looking at us as Commissioners, as leaders of the city to do a better job with our budget and our revenue and the taxes they are paying. He said that is what

they are looking at, they are wanting a better job from us, me and all of us, the Mayor, the Administrator, everybody. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said I hate taxes worse than anybody and I have always voted against it, I mean always, but this time we have to raise taxes. He said we have to move it up, like Jack said we have to salt these streets, we have so much stuff going on to do. He said \$400,000 a year is all the city takes in. He said library tax takes in like a million two a year and we take in \$400,000 a year. Commissioner Mattingly said but they lowered their tax. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said yeah but they still take in like a million two. He said if you think what we have to operate on and what they operate on, there is something wrong there somewhere, I mean I don't know what it is, well I do know what it is. Commissioner Mattingly said county left theirs the same too, everybody around us left their taxes the same. Mayor Pro Tem said they have all raised theirs through the years and we have always lefts ours down. He said we have raised because I fought taxes, this is my 15th year, I have always voted against taxes up here, always. He said me and Jack we fought tooth and nail over that on this stuff, but this year I seen it on paper. We have to raise the revenue, we have to do it, we have no choice either that or shut some stuff down. Commissioner Coleman said this is just my opinion but the growth that we're having is causing us to have to expend more services and when expending more services, it is causing us to have the deficit and we have to take it out of the budget. He said you can't cut your way into the future, keep cutting your budgets into the future if you've got this much growth as we've got. He said now if we were stagnate, if this was a recession or we weren't having much growth I could understand that, but it proves the point that the growth is causing our budget to be extended more than we have so we have to start putting some revenue in our budget to try to get it caught back up and \$2.00 and something what ever it is. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said \$2.00 per \$100,000. Commissioner Mattingly said its not the amount of money Jack its just the overall situation, what the public perceives that they are not getting the best out of city government. Commissioner Coleman said again you are proving my point; you're proving my point, Charlie. Commissioner Anness said the growth is both a good and bad thing in one sense but you look at the infrastructure improvements that we have been making and are currently making that's a lot of money, but there again we have to have that because of the growth which Jack says we have ancient infrastructure in this city, water lines, sewer lines to be replaced that is several million dollars of work being done. He said people, true they want police protection, fire protection but they also want water, sewer and all that. He said we have undertaken some big projects here recently due to the growth which is a good there, but there again that comes with a cost and somewhere we have to make up that money, so I think this is minimal the increase of \$2.00 per \$100,000. He said on a \$200,000 home, if that is the average home price that is 4 bucks a year on average home so I am for the and I am like Charlie I don't want to see taxes increase and I understand the dilemma some people are in but I can't see that the \$4.00 on \$200,000 home makes an appreciable difference but it does for us. Commissioner Coleman said if you look into the future, this growth is not going to stop. He said we have somebody that has 42 lots they are getting ready to open up, we've got Mackville Road 8 or 9 houses another 16 houses, John Lyons just bought that property on Cornishville Street he is going to put houses there. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said there is a lot of growth coming. Commissioner Coleman said there is a lot coming and we need to stay ahead of the wave or the wave is going to break on top of us and it is about to break on top of us.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-21 – MOTOR VEHICLE TAX RATE

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Isham/Commissioner Coleman to approve second reading of ordinance 2025-21 – motor vehicle tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Isham said we are leaving that the same as it has always been its not being raised. Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Isham – Yes; Commissioner Coleman – Yes; Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – Yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

Motion by/seconded, Commissioner Coleman/Mayor Pro Tem Isham to adjourn at approximately 9:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert O. Williams, Mayor

Shavonna Huffman, City Clerk