

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

DATE: August 11, 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

PROCLAMATION FOR ST. PETER AME FOR 186 YEARS AND PIONEER MAN FOR BISHOP HARRY LEE SEAWRIGHT

Mayor read and presented the Pioneer Seal of Excellence Proclamation for St. Peters African Methodist Episcopal Church to Ms. Diane Mayes.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 28, 2025 AS AMENDED

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on July 28, 2025 as amended. Mayor made a correction – he said at our last meeting on the first reading of ordinance 2025-15 he inadvertently said that it was zone change from I-2 to R-2, it’s actually I-1 to R-2. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AND PAY DEPARTMENTAL INVOICES

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

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-13 - PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT: HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS (I-2)

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve second reading of ordinance 2025-13 - Proposed Text Amendment: Heavy Industrial Districts (I-2). Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Mayor Williams – Yes; Commissioner Coleman – Yes; Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – Yes. Motion passed.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-14 – ZONING AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE. CHANGING 905 N. COLLEGE STREET FROM I-2 B-2**

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve second reading of ordinance 2025-14 – Zoning Amendment Ordinance. Changing 905 N. College Street from I-2 B-2. Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Commissioner Coleman – Yes; Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – Yes; Mayor Williams – Yes. Motion passed.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-15 – ZONING AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE. CHANGING THE SOUTHERN PROPERTY LINES OF ENGLISH AVE
AND DAVIESS STREET FROM I-1 TO R-2**

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to approve second reading of ordinance 2025-15 – Zoning Amendment Ordinance. Changing the southern property lines of English Ave and Daviess Street from I-1 to R-2. Roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows: Commissioner Anness – Yes; Commissioner Mattingly – Yes; Mayor Williams – Yes; Commissioner Coleman – Yes. Motion passed.

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-08-11 – MCGREGOR CAFETERIA PLAN

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve resolution 2025-08-11 – McGregor Cafeteria Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT BRYCE BAKER’S RESIGNATION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to accept Bryce Baker’s resignation effective July 28, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT THE DWSRF 2026 FY LOAN INVITATION (KIA#F26-027)

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to accept the DWSRF 2026 FY Loan Invitation (KIA# F26-027) and authorize Mayor Williams to sign any necessary documents related to the invitation. Mayor said this is an invitation from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority inviting us to apply for a loan for 7.5 million dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-08-11(1)

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to approve resolution 2025-08-11(1). Authorizing resolution of City of Harrodsburg, legal applicant for filing of application and appointing appropriate local government official and successors-in-title as official project representative of federally assisted drinking water revolving fund (state revolving loan program) project, F26-027. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Commission had first reading of ordinance 2025-16 – removing loading/unloading zone at 109 E. Poplar Street

MODIFY THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICER BRIAN BEELER

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to modify the terms of employment for Officer Brian Beeler, that he be hired pursuant to Policy 13, Law Enforcement Canines. This will be effective after the city is provided copies of the canines training certificates and veterinarian records showing that the canine is up to date on all shots. Also, the 5 hours a week for canine care/maintenance pursuant to the law enforcement canine policy will not begin until after all required documents are provided. Mr. Beeler's starting pay that was approved on July 9, 2025 included the \$1.00 per hour for canine pay. Motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

Mayor asked City Attorney, Norrie Currens, if we had any more information that would help in the discussion. She said she did poll some other city attorneys, it looks like the cities of Auburn, Russellville, Warsaw, Morehead and Covington have all said yes to special purpose vehicles. She said the City of Franklin said no. Ms. Currens said those are the only responses that she got. She said she did have some further conversations with Chief Elder about it and she thinks based upon those discussions, her recommendation is going to be that we prohibit them within city limits, unless and until someone comes forward with some type of legitimate business purpose for us to want to reconsider it. She said there is a lot of equipment needs that are required by the state statute. She said she thinks it is going to be very difficult for our officers to police whether if these things become rampant within city limits whether they have horns, lights, tail lights, turn signals, windshields, all the things the statute require. Ms. Currens said she thinks that puts a pretty heavy burden on our police force, that already has a heavy burden on it. She said we don't have an agriculture reason for these to be on our city streets. She said she doesn't know of any business that's operating within the City of Harrodsburg that utilizes these types of vehicles and so absent someone coming forward to advocate that these are necessary either personally or professionally, I think that Chief Elder and I are under the opinion that we should prohibit them in city limits. She said anecdotally I have already heard of several instances where despite the county recent ordinance they have been seen operating on 127. She said she thinks that is a safety hazard, that probable within our city limits we just don't want to condone. Mayor Williams said he presumes that would also prohibit the city vehicle that the fire department and police use during Oktoberfest and such. Ms. Currens said Oktoberfest the streets are closed, she said to her knowledge they trailer it. She said we can have a different discussion about that for a special event, but as a general rule having these types of vehicles on Main Street and on our city streets, our recommendation and you all don't have to follow it, you all get to vote, I don't. She said talking to Chief Elder he felt like it was going to be difficult to police. Commissioner Coleman said I concur with you. Mayor asked if it was going to require an ordinance for the use or would it just be following directly the guidelines of SB63. Ms. Currens said it would require an ordinance. Mayor said could that ordinance be modified to specify vehicles that maybe could

be used on the city streets, like for instance I mentioned the little Japanese pickup truck at the last meeting. He said it is already vehicles, they are already automobiles. Ms. Currens said if they are already licensed automobiles under Kentucky law then they don't require any special type of ordinance. Mayor said so those little pickup trucks, if it's already registered, has a license plate, is road legal. Ms. Currens said Mayor I will be honest with you I don't have a good mental picture of what it is your talking about when you say these little Japanese trucks, but if they are licensed authorized vehicles already then this doesn't impact them. She said this has to do more with what I would call sport utility vehicles, side-by-sides and the statute is pretty specific on the type of equipment that is required on these. She said she thinks a lot of those that you see that are being used for agricultural purposes don't meet the requirements, they don't have windshields, windshield wipers, horns and turn signals and all the things unless they become specially equipped for that purpose. Ms. Currens said she thinks it is just difficult to police that whether or not they have the equipment that is necessary. She said they do have to go get it registered and licensed down at the county clerks office and she thinks there is an inspection process associated with that. Mayor Williams said he is using this one as an example because it is the only one he knows of in town, but it is fully registered, street legal, it has all of the requirements but if we deny the use based on SB63 its encompassed in there as well, right. Ms. Currens said I don't know. Mayor said he thought he had a picture of it. Ms. Currens said for right now we are saying we are going to say no. She said she will be happy to look at that one, but if it's already licensed as a vehicle, not as a special utility vehicle then this wouldn't impact them. This pertains to special utility vehicles and she doesn't know where that one falls. Mayor said he didn't either. Commissioner Mattingly said its just an accident waiting to happen. He said he can see these things causing problems. Mayor Williams said you said with the county ordinance there are already people driving on 127, 68 and other places, when they talk about driving on does that include crossing over the bypass? He said as he mentioned at the last meeting he saw a couple in a side-by-side on Bellows Mill Road sitting at the stop sign waiting to cross over to the other side of the bypass. He asked are they prohibited from crossing or is there a distance they have to drive? Mayor said he doesn't know the details. Ms. Currens said the county ordinance prohibits them on the bypass, prohibits them on 127 so it is their ordinance to enforce and determine. She said the statue itself limits how far you can go on these; you are only allowed to go 20 miles. She said how is anyone ever going to enforce that? Commissioner Anness said it is impossible to enforce that. Ms. Currens said it is impossible to enforce. Commissioner Coleman said originally on the 4-wheeler deal years ago, what cracked the egg was that requirement, oh they are just going to go from one gate to the other gate its going to be 200 feet, lets just make it 200 feet from gate to gate to get to my fields. He said that was a joke, that is what cracked that egg and all hell broke loose. Commissioner Coleman said he agrees with what she is saying. Ms. Currens said she needs to look into if we have to come up with an ordinance specifically prohibiting or if just by doing nothing we are prohibiting, so I will look into that further. Commissioner Mattingly asked if the state allows these vehicles on the state road right now? Ms. Currens said no. Commissioner Anness said we are not required to do an ordinance unless... Ms. Currens said if we were going to approve them then we would have to have an ordinance, but I don't know if we need an ordinance specifically. Commissioner Anness said to not approve them. Ms. Currens said yes. She said she will figure that out next. Mayor Williams said folks I'm not trying to be argumentative I'm just asking a lot of questions I'm going to get. Ms. Currens said that's fine, I just don't know if that type of vehicle falls within this definition or not. She said a special purpose vehicle is specifically defined by the statue as an all-terrain vehicle, utility terrain

vehicle. She said it does say minitruck so maybe it is included. She went on to say pneumatic-tired military vehicle, or full-size special purpose-built vehicle. Mayor Williams said interesting. Mayor Williams asked if Franklin gave a reason as to why they didn't approve it. Ms. Currens said similar to what we just talked about, but they just felt like they didn't want them within city limits and they felt like it was going to be a very difficult thing for their police department to enforce. Commissioner Mattingly asked if this was a federal law or what kind of law, the reason this came about. Ms. Currens said state statute, a state law. She said she thinks the gentleman that was here last time may have been correct. She said she thinks there are places that are looking into tourism related special utility vehicle businesses and some of these things are being passed by cities where they expect those types of businesses to operate. Ms. Currens said we may have someone come forward at some point and want to talk to us a business like that and if so we can always revisit this. Mayor Williams said this bill was sponsored by Brandon Storm a Senator from London. He said down in London and Corbin area you got Daniel Boone State Forest, its big business down there running those things through the forest and I guess its an intent to be able to drive them off the reservation so to speak to restaurants and things of that sort in the populated area and then go back in the same vehicle. He said it was a bill that he sponsored and was passed to provide it state wide, but to give all the municipalities and local governments the choice. Commissioner Mattingly said he is surprised he got enough votes to pass it, it's a safety issue I think, big time. Mayor said it never surprises me the things that we get passed.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR WILLIAMS TO SIGN THE FY 26 HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT DOCUMENTS

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to authorize Mayor Williams to sign the FY 26 Highway Safety Grant documents. Motion passed unanimously.

HIRE SKYLER QUINN AS A FIREFIGHTER

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to approve hiring Skyler Quinn as a Firefighter at \$12.85 per hour effective August 19, 2025 pending drug test, alcohol test, background check and physical. Motion carried unanimously.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Coleman to go into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) Discussions of proposed or pending litigation at approximately 12:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Anness to come out of executive session at approximately 12:55 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.

COMMISSIONER COLEMAN SPOKE

Commissioner Coleman said he wanted to throw something out for discussion next time. He said he would like for us to reconsider or consider reestablishing our vacant property working group. He said it was started in 2017, we ended in 2020. Commissioner Coleman said it has been 8 years and the good news is when I was building inspector, we started a program on a lot of vacant properties we would give someone a \$75 permit, the cheapest permit we had and then we would help work them through. He said as I drive around the city and Kenny Milburn continued all that, there is a lot of properties we had on our list of vacant and abandoned properties in the process of taking them down they been rehab, so that's the good news. He said that has happened on one side, but we still have the other side that I feel like is a detriment to our community.

Commissioner Coleman said property values, financial constraint on homeowners and renters, the impact on our tax revenue, health concerns of the occupants, neighbors and the community. He said this is not today, but for our next meeting you all think about it. He said this is what we did last time, think about it and we lets come back and have an agenda item if you want to. He said you can get with Shavonna if you want to have it, I'm not going to bring it up again if it's okay I would like to have an agenda item we can look at. Commissioner Coleman said the way we did it before was we had the Mayor was Art was there, I was the Commissioner, we had code enforcement, building code inspector, the fire chief and the street supervisor. He said they met at lunch nobody was off time, I bought pizza, we met once a month and we all had our list of houses we would work through. Commissioner Coleman said there is so many things we can do from the code side, from the life safety side, from the Commission side. He said they had no authority to do anything, they would make recommendations for the Commission to adopt. He said he would like for us to consider this and talk about it next time. He said he just wants to throw it out before the next meeting. Mayor Williams said that is something that I will set down and talk to our city attorney about as well, it is something we have worked on some for the last several months, so it is on our minds it is just a matter of getting everything lined up to be able to implement. Commissioner Coleman said it is not rocket science, you just need to get to work.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

ALLOW REFUGE TO USE YOUNGS PARK ONCE A MONTH PENDING AVAILABILITY

Motion by/seconded, Commissioner Coleman/Mayor Williams to allow refuge to use Young's Park once a month pending availability. Motion carried unanimously. City Attorney Norrie Currens said she was speaking with John Kesel at Carpenters Christian. She said previously we allowed them to use Lions Park for what they call refuge which is where they have the homeless population come in once a week and they give them a meal and they provide them with some counseling and resources and that previously used to take place at Lions Park once a week. She said now they are moving locations throughout different areas in the city but they are struggling to find places to meet so he as asked if we would consider allowing them to use Youngs Park on

either the second or third Wednesday of each month to conduct their refuge meeting. She said they basically feed them and then they clean everything up. She said we don't incur any cost associated with that. Commissioner Mattingly asked if it was all day or half day. Ms. Currens said it is just in the evening. Commissioner Mattingly said he doesn't have any problem with it, if nobody else does. Mayor Williams said it is like a homeless Wednesday night service. Ms. Currens said it is part of their ministry. Trish Releford is over it. Ms. Currens said she thinks several churches in the community put that on, partner together to put that on. She said she needed to get with Paige to determine if it was available on those nights, but if it is available on Wednesday nights it wouldn't be every Wednesday night, just one Wednesday a month. She said he would like to see if they could utilize Youngs Park for that purpose. Mayor said probable from a temporary standpoint that would be great, but the hope is they grow enough that they outgrow it. Mayor said Lions Park was a pretty good size place compared to Youngs Park. Commissioner Coleman said he commends them for doing that. Mayor said absolutely. Commissioner Coleman said one of the key components of homelessness is creating relationships, and for people to do that the relationship part of it a wonderful thing. Ms. Currens said so I think we would just need a motion to approve allowing refuge to use Youngs Park once a month pending finding a date that works on the Youngs Park calendar.

ALLOW CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AND MAYOR SIGN A DEED CONVEYING PROPERTY TO LEE AND MARIE CLAUNCH

Motion by/seconded, Mayor Williams/Commissioner Mattingly to allow the city attorney to prepare and the mayor to sign a deed conveying the parcel that the city acquired in 1908, in which the city agreed to convey to Lee and Marie Claunch in 2010 in exchange from them removing the standpipe located behind the child center on College Street. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Currens said Lee and Marie Claunch own a daycare center on College Street next to the old Hops location, for those old enough to remember Hops, Pets in a Tub now. She said when they acquired the property there was another triangular piece of property behind their daycare center where there was a standpipe, the Mercer Water Company, which I guess is the predecessor to the City of Harrodsburg's water department, had a standpipe for use for some type of water something. She said the city acquired that from Mercer Water in 1908 and there is a handwritten deed to that effect. Ms. Currens said in 2010 the Commission voted to give that triangular piece of property behind the daycare center to the Claunch's in exchange for Lee Claunch removing that old standpipe. She said it was voted upon and approved but when they did the deed the deed omitted a portion of that property from its legal description and so I am just asking for authority at this point to prepare and for the mayor to sign a deed correcting that legal description from 2010 when the city agreed to transfer that property to the Claunch's.

MS. CURRENS GAVE AN UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL PARK

Ms. Currens said we have gone through the eminent domain process along with the county to acquire the mineral rights for the industrial park. She said when Jim Justice sold the property, he retained 50% mineral rights interest in that property. She said we have unsuccessfully tried to negotiate and get in touch with them over course of the last year to see if he would transfer those back to us. She said Justice Companies failed to respond to us so we had to go through the eminent domain process and file an action in the Mercer County Circuit Court. Ms. Currens said

last week on Friday Judge Whiteny Johns entered an order granting us our mineral rights so that part of it is concluded. She said they still have the right to appeal the value that was assigned to those mineral rights. She said there was a board, a commission appointed by her to value to mineral rights – they came back and awarded him 0 for those mineral rights. She said he still has 30 days to appeal the value that was given but the mineral rights are now ours, the city and the counties. Ms. Currens said because of that we can now go forward with the closing on the industrial park with KU and we anticipate that closing should be done by the middle of October.

MAYOR WILLIAMS GAVE AN UPDATE ON STACEY MAYNARD

Mayor Williams said she had surgery this morning, for those that don't know she was in a 4-wheeler accident last, a week ago Friday. He said she broke her, fractured her left wrist and fractured and dislocated her right wrist. Mayor said she went to see her orthopedist on Wednesday, he said she was going to have to have surgery on both of them to rebuild and stabilize. He said she went into surgery this morning; we got a text from James a couple of hours ago that she made it through the surgery. He said she is going to be sporting some new jewelry for as long as is necessary, possible forever because they had to rebuild and stabilize with plates and screws. Mayor said that is one thing about our Stacey when she does it, she does it right. Commissioner Coleman said it has to be painful. Mayor said having had similar situations I can say yes, it is. Mayor said we send out all our thoughts and prayers to her and also to James who is her hands for the next probable 6-8 weeks. Mayor said we wish her Godspeed; fast and relatively painless recovery and we will be attempting to do whatever is necessary to maintain her responsibilities here in City Hall.

ADJOURN

Motion by/seconded, Commissioners Coleman/Mattingly to adjourn at approximately 1:10 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Robert O. Williams, Mayor

Shavonna Huffman, City Clerk