

**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

**PAGE ONE**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS ON FACEBOOK LIVE/4:30 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL: MAYOR BRIAN TRAUOGOTT PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS MARY BRADLEY, LAURA DAKE, AND LISA JOHNSON. ALSO PRESENT WAS CITY ATTORNEY BILL MOORE. COUNCIL MEMBER SIEGELMAN ARRIVED LATE AT 4:36PM. COUNCIL MEMBER COLEMAN ARRIVED LATE AT 5:02PM. COUNCIL MEMBER SMITHER WAS ABSENT.**

**DEPT. HEADS: ARIEL O'REEL WAS PRESENT REPRESENTING HER RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT.**

### **Individual Assistance Program**

Mayor Traugott noted that the Individual Assistance Program is the primary focus for today, specifically the parameters of participation and the extent to which individuals can receive assistance. He stated that the Council had received a copy of Municipal Order 2021-16 which details the current parameters to qualify for the Individual Assistance Program. He also stated that he had recently spoken with our DLG representative regarding the CDBG Utility Assistance Grant. The City had originally qualified for up to \$200,000 but DLG is now asking cities to lower their request or forego the grant altogether. DLG is using all funds that are not requested or funded to cities for the CDBG grant to issue COVID grants through an application process. Mayor Traugott said that for an individual to be eligible to receive assistance through the CDBG grant, they must exhaust their allowable funding from all other programs (including local assistance funds, the Homeowners Assistance Fund, LIHEAP, LIWOP, and Healthy at Home). He stated that at the next regular council meeting, he will request approval from the Council to lower the City's request from \$200,000 to \$20,000. He would then like to immediately apply for a COVID grant in the amount of \$180,000 which is the difference. The council continued to discuss the current Individual Assistance Program and it was noted that Community Action has contacted Mayor Traugott 2-3 times regarding an individual who didn't meet the criteria but that they were recommending approval, which he did. He is not given names or addresses when these special instances have occurred. The Council further discussed the current requirements and cap which are: household income less than 300% of federal poverty level, hardship is caused by COVID-19, utility assistance can be up to 2 times for the duration of the program with a total utility assistance capped at \$750.00, and rent/mortgage assistance 1 time with a total rent/mortgage assistance capped at \$750.00. So the total amount of assistance a person can receive is \$1,500.00. The council discussed letting the Mayor continue to decide in special circumstances but Mayor Traugott stated that he does not want the ability to decide. They continued discussions regarding whether to tweak the Municipal Order and possibly give Community Action more discretion, as well as discussing the CDBG grant funds. Mayor Traugott further noted that the CDBG grant will most likely be audited by HUD according to the DLG and that the money can only be used for utilities, not for housing.

### **Economic Development**

Mayor Traugott stated that he does not have an update on Economic Development.

### **Regional Comparison of Taxes and Rates**

Mayor Traugott shared a PowerPoint presentation which compared Versailles taxes and rates to those of other comparable or surrounding Kentucky cities. He noted that Versailles and Midway have the lowest property tax across cities in the state (on a \$200,000 assessed home). Average on city car tax is also well below the average rate. Utility Franchise Tax is two times lower than average in Versailles. Water rates are the fifth lowest while sewer rates are slightly above average. Council member Siegelman stated that the quality of service in Versailles is higher than many across the state. Mayor Traugott added that the annual combined costs of taxes and rates in Versailles is a few hundred dollars below average and Versailles offers a lot of services that other cities do not.

**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

**PAGE TWO**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS ON FACEBOOK LIVE/4:30 P.M.**

Council member Siegelman suggested the possibility of offering a “cleanup” day where Versailles residents can sit out junk/trash to be hauled away for free. Mayor Traugott responded that it didn’t think, logistically, it could be accomplished since the City no longer owns garbage trucks. Council member Dake noted that the county offers free hazardous waste drop-off days at Woodford County Solid Waste. She also suggested the possibility of using volunteers or city employees to help city residents who cannot move heavy items. Mayor Traugott noted that employees could possibly earn volunteer time while council member Coleman suggested using churches for community service.

Council member Johnson addressed the issue of pet waste in public areas. She noted that she counted a high number of dog feces in the open retention basin in Rose Ridge subdivision. Mayor Traugott stated that Section 90.13 of the City’s Code of Ordinances requires the animal excrement be removed by the person in control of said animal. Council member Dake suggested that it may be an opportunity for a Neighborhood Grant to be used to purchase signs, receptacles and baggies. Council member Johnson agreed but suggested only signs with baggies, so they are forced to take it with them. Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.

Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.

**APPROVED:**

---

**BRIAN TRAUGOTT, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

---

**ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK**