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The Franklin City Commission convened with Simpson Fiscal Court in **regular joint session** at 6:00 pm on Thursday, **September 3, 2009**, in the second floor meeting room of the Simpson County Court House, public square, Franklin, Kentucky. Elected Officials present were:

**City of Franklin:**

Hon. Mayor Pro-Tem, Henry Stone, chair  
Commissioner Jamie Powell  
Commissioner Wendell Stewart

**Simpson Fiscal Court:**

Hon. Judge-Ex. Jim Henderson, chair  
Magistrate Kelly Banton  
Magistrate Marty Chandler  
Magistrate Charles McCutchen

Absent were City Commissioner Herbert Williams and County Magistrate Larry Randolph. Also present was City Manager, Jim Brown; City Attorney, Scott Crabtree; City Clerk, Kathy Stradtner; County Attorney, Sam Phillips; and Fiscal Court Clerk, Pam Rohrs. F-S High Student Bobby Uhls was present to video tape the meeting. A member of the media, Keith Pyles, was present representing the Franklin Favorite/WFKN

The Fiscal Court had previously been in session and had recessed that meeting. At 6:03 pm, Judge-Executive Henderson reconvened the Fiscal Court and Mayor Pro-Tem Stone called the City Commission in to regular session.

**HEAR THE PUBLIC**

None

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

• **Update on Downtown Security Concerns**

As previously discussed, Simpson County continues to investigate placing security cameras inside the Court House; and recently a public meeting was held with local merchants and law enforcement representatives regarding incidents of loitering, graffiti, and use of foul language on and around the public square. During discussion plans included continued police presence in the area, placing video cameras in strategic places that would allow the identification of under age offenders so that parents or guardians can be notified; City Manager Brown reported Police Chief Todd Holder is in the process of preparing a plan of action to address security issues around the public square.

• **Update on Franklin Housing Authority Project**

Mayor Pro-Tem Stone reported on the completion of more than fifty new apartment units for low income individuals at the Housing Authority. Another project beginning at the Housing Authority is to construct over ten homes on five acres of surplus property the City has donated near the Housing Authority. Plans include construction of three homes this year and one more home each year thereafter. The program is designed to be a "step-up" from apartment rental to home rental and eventually ownership. Content of the project is projected to include responsible and successful apartment renters be given the opportunity to learn the techniques and steps to maintain and own a home. Guidelines for participates, while not

being as stringent as those for apartment renters at the main Housing Authority, will include maintaining a community pleasing habitat.

## REPORTS

- **City Commissioners and County Magistrates**

Mayor Pro-Tem Stone shared the events that led to recent changes in City government. On August 24, Jim Brown resigned as Mayor of the City of Franklin and a few minutes later was then approved as the next City Manager for Franklin. The City Commission had received a number of applications for the position including one from Jim Brown, and following review of each one, felt Mr. Brown was the best candidate for the position. The City Commission has thirty days in which to appoint a replacement. If the Commission does not make the appointment during this time, the Kentucky Governor will choose someone to fill the position. The City Commission fully expects to make an appointment no later than the September 14, 2009 Commission meeting.

A safety issue that is currently of concern to the Magistrates is vehicles, particularly buggies, operating on public roads without safety measures or illumination. Several residents have complained that at dusk or night hours they have run upon or nearly collided with buggies on the road due to their being no safety reflectors or lights on the horse drawn carriage. County Attorney Phillips reported a case on this matter is pending in the courts. After lengthy discussion, consensus appeared to be to issue warnings or citations for any violation of safety rules, such as lack of illumination of a vehicle on any county or city road, and let the courts handle the retribution for such offense.

City Manager Brown gave an update regarding the drop-off/pick-up congestion that occurs on Railroad Street up from Franklin Elementary School (FES). Currently, the school uses an entry off Railroad Street as a drop-off/pick-up area and traffic backs up onto Railroad Street creating a hazard on the narrow street. The School owns an undeveloped alley that runs from Yokley Machine Shop on Cedar Street over to FES and in order to alleviate the present congestion on Railroad Street, plans are to develop the alley to be used for drop-off/pick-up traffic staging. The School requests assistance from the City and County in the form of equipment and labor during development of the thoroughfare.

The City Manager also reported on a need by the Franklin-Simpson Ambulance Service; with the continued growth and congestion that develops in the area of the Hospital, the Ambulance Service has been investigating relocation from their present facility behind the Hospital. The Service desires a space away from residential areas and the City has been able to lease them property on Macedonia Road next to Fire Station No. 1. The Ambulance Service previously reviewed the area and feels this will be a most appropriate site to construct the new facility.

Several questions from citizens have been received regarding mosquito spraying and the use of the bird cannon. The City makes frequent use of their mosquito spraying equipment and assures the public the spray is not toxic. Also, blackbirds are beginning to roost in residential areas again, and the City is using cannon blasts to deter the roosting in communities in the City. According to the State, this loud noise is the preferred method to discourage the pests; only compressed air, no explosives, is being used.

**OTHER CITY MANAGER, CITY ATTORNEY AND/OR COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**


City Attorney Crabtree noted the comprehensive plan for the City needs to be updated, and after discussion with Building Inspector Joe Perry it appears prudent to update and re-adopt the entire document. As soon as the modifications are complete, the document will be presented to each body.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Public was invited to attend the tractor pull that will be held at the Community Park this Saturday night. This is the fifth year for the sanctioned event in Franklin and local sponsorship has allowed all proceeds to go to the Boys & Girls Club of Franklin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion and second was made by the Fiscal Court and all their members voted to adjourn. At 7:05 pm **motion** was made by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Powell to adjourn the City Commission. Ayes: Stone, Stewart, and Powell. Motion carried.

  
Henry Stone, Mayor Pro-Tem  
City of Franklin, KY

  
Kathy Stradtner, City Clerk

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