

MINUTES } CITY OF PIKEVILLE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 3, 1994

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pikeville met in Special Session on Monday, January 3, 1994. The meeting was held in the City Hall Public Meeting Room at 260 Hambley Boulevard.

Pursant to the Open Meetings Law, a copy of the Special Meeting Notice was delivered to each Commission Member and the news media. The meeting was called for the following purposes:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Prayer
- III. Administer Oath of Office to any members not previously sworn in.
- IV. Elect Mayor Pro-Tem
- V. Call of the Agenda
- VI. Minutes: Consider approval of the minutes from the December 28, 1993 special session.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Consider action regarding the credit cards issued on the City of Pikeville
 - B. Consider re-setting regular meeting time, and two regular meetings per month
 - C. Consider uses for the space in City Hall currently occupied by the "Mayor's Office".
 - D. Consider sale of the "Mayor's Office" furnishings.
 - E. Consider elimination of parking spaces reserved for the "Mayor's Office"
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

I. There being a quorum present, Mayor Steven D. Combs called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Commission Members present upon call of the roll were as follows:

MAYOR:	STEVEN D. COMBS
COMMISSIONER:	KENNY BLACKBURN
	WALTER BLANKENSHIP
	SHARON CLARK
	EUGENE DAVIS

II. Buddy Coleman, Minister at the United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

III. It was announced that the Oath of Office had been administered to all Commission Members.

IV. City Manager Johnson explained that traditionally, the Commissioner receiving the greatest number of votes is appointed to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Clark made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn to appoint Commissioner Davis to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried 3 - 0 - 2 with Mayor Combs and Commissioner Davis abstaining from the vote.

V. Mayor Combs announced the Commission could not take any action with regard to this agenda item, Call of the Agenda, because the Commission can only take action or discuss matters which are specifically named on the Agenda. City Attorney Davis confirmed Mayor Combs' statement.

VI. The minutes from the December 28, 1993 Special Meeting were not available for approval.

VII. A. Credit Cards: Mayor Combs explained that the credit card issue had become a special project of his and after reviewing the expenditures, he believes some of those expenditures to be out of line, however not illegal. Mayor Combs voiced his opinion that the policy needed to be changed with regard to out of town travel. He stated a credit card could be kept by the City Manager and overseen by the Commission. All other expenditures could be paid for through a voucher or the employee could be reimbursed. The Mayor said he wanted to see a limit placed on per diem expenses as well as lodging. City Manager Johnson reported that the City has two credit card accounts. One account is issued directly to him as City Manager and is used for his travel as well as the Commission's travel. The other account is used by the staff. Commissioner Blankenship commented that he had previously reviewed the credit card expenses and found nothing wrong and didn't think the City should stop using the credit cards. Mayor Combs stated that part of the problem he has with the credit cards is there were a couple of trips in particular over the course of the last two years where City personnel expended over \$200.00 on one meal. City Manager Johnson reported there were between 6 and 8 persons present for the meeting where \$200.00 was spent on one meal and indicated this was the only meal charged to the credit card during the five day trip to the National League of Cities Meeting in New Orleans. Commissioner Davis voiced his concern about employees who travel and have to wait for reimbursement. He suggested getting some input from the Police Chief, Fire Chief and others who travel

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before establishing a policy. Commissioners Clark and Blankenship questioned the ability to set limits for lodging. Commissioner Blankenship added that employees should stay in the hotel where the conference is taking place to eliminate driving all over town. Mayor Combs explained that these expenses should come before the Commission for approval prior to the employee's departure. Commissioner Blackburn asked the feasibility of issuing a card to the Police Chief and the Fire Chief and letting them be responsible for their respective department's expenditures. Mayor Combs stated that he wanted to go on record as saying that if somebody does abuse the credit card or if something happens that the Commission does not plan for, he would be ready to destroy the credit cards. Commissioner Clark stated that if the Commission couldn't trust the City Manager to administer the budget, control and be responsible for the credit cards, then they didn't have need of him. Commissioner Blankenship commented that the Commission has no administrative duties. Mayor Combs asked Fire Chief Hall what happened when he tried to use the City's credit card. Fire Chief Hall reported that he was told he could not use the card because it had exceeded the limit. City Manager Johnson reported this incident happened about five years ago when the limit on the credit card was set at \$500.00. After that incident the limit was raised to a figure between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Mayor Combs reported that part of the problem was that the monthly credit card statements show an unpaid balance. Mayor Combs stated that State employees receive a \$20.00/day allowance for meals. For larger cities, the rate is increased to \$30.00/day. He added that he did not see how the City of Pikeville could be less restrictive than the State of Kentucky. The Mayor further commented that the credit card shouldn't be used to the extent that it is and should only be used in emergencies. He added that he is vehemently opposed to the City having credit cards and has openly stated that he feels there have been abuses and can document it. Commissioner Clark asked if it would be appropriate to adjourn to an executive session to discuss the Mayor's allegation of credit card abuse by personnel. City Attorney Davis advised that the Commission can not go into executive session to discuss general personnel. She stated she was assuming discussion would only involve one individual. At 7:41 p.m., Commissioner Clark made the motion to adjourn to an executive session for the purpose of discussing a specific personnel matter with regard to credit card purchases. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

At 8:05 p.m., Commissioner Blackburn made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis to reconvene to regular session. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Combs announced the Commission discussed, during executive session, his allegation of abuses or his opinion there were abuses of the credit card. Mayor Combs clarified that with a proper system, per diem limits, and advance planning, the only need for credit card use would be in case of emergencies.

Commissioner Clark made the motion to direct the City Manager to obtain information from other cities to determine their policies with regard to travel and develop a proposed travel policy for the Commission's consideration at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Blankenship seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

B. MEETING DATES: Mayor Combs proposed the Commission consider resetting the regular meeting time to two meetings per month. He explained in an effort to avoid special called meetings or to minimize the number of meetings, it would be advantageous to have two regularly scheduled meetings each month. Commissioners Davis and Blankenship commented that they didn't see the need in having two regularly scheduled meetings per month. Commissioner Blackburn spoke in support of having two meetings because he felt it would benefit the public who may want the opportunity to address their concerns with the Commission. Commissioner Blackburn made the motion to authorize the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to set the City Commission Meetings for the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. The motion died from lack of a second. Mayor Combs announced that he would be calling another Special Meeting for January 10, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

C. MAYOR'S OFFICE SPACE: Mayor Combs called for a motion to eliminate the Mayor's office located in City Hall and asked the Commission to consider allowing the Main Street Program to locate in that office. Commissioner Blankenship commented that the offices in City Hall are crowded and he thinks the administrative staff needs the space. He further commented the decision on how the space is used should be left to the discretion of the City Manager. Commissioner Davis made the motion to eliminate the Mayor's Office at City Hall and leave it to the City Manager's discretion on how the space should be utilized. Commissioner Blankenship seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

D. MAYOR'S OFFICE FURNISHINGS: Mayor Combs called for a motion to sell the furniture in the Mayor's Office by advertising the same or such other reasonable means to obtain a higher price as deemed appropriate by the City Manager. Commissioner Blankenship stated the furniture would be needed

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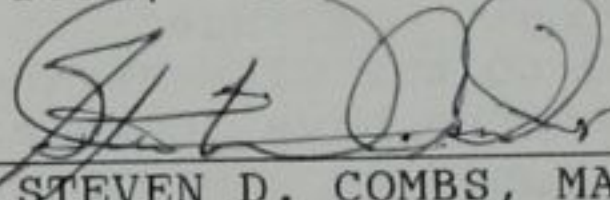
if the office space was to be used by personnel at City Hall. Mayor Combs voiced his opinion that the furnishing were too elaborate. Commissioner Blankenship expressed his thought that it would be difficult to get a very good price for used furniture. City Manager Johnson estimated that the original purchase value of the furnishing was between \$3,000 - \$3,500. Commissioner Blankenship made the motion to retain the furnishings and to leave it to the discretion of the City Manager to decide the use. Commissioner Blackburn seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried 4 - 1 with Mayor Combs voting "no".

E. ELIMINATION OF MAYOR'S OFFICE PARKING SPACES: Mayor Combs called for a motion to eliminate the two parking spaces, adjacent to the City Hall Building, designated as Mayor's Office parking. Commissioner Davis made the motion to authorize the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to eliminate the parking spaces as requested by the Mayor. Commissioner Blankenship seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

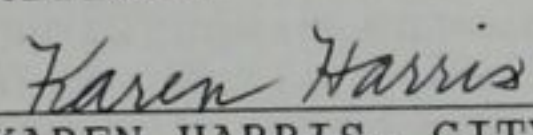
Mayor Combs announced that he would be calling a Special Meeting for January 10, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Items A & B under New Business (Consider action regarding the credit cards issued on the City of Pikeville and Consider re-setting regular meeting time, and two regular meetings per month).

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Blankenship made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis to adjourn. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously. (Adjournment Time: 8:40 p.m.)

APPROVED


STEVEN D. COMBS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


KAREN HARRIS, CITY CLERK