

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2025

Attending In-Person: Mayor Doug Farnsley; Council Members John Clark, John Evans, Christian Furman, Don Gibson, David Holmes, and Sandra Leonard; Police Chief Tony Denham, C.A.O. and City Clerk John S. Carter

Call to Order

Mayor Farnsley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Clark moved to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2025 special council meeting, seconded by Council Member Furman, and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2025 regular council meeting, seconded by Council Member Leonard, and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

- Residents Mark Duke and Lisa Duke expressed their concern about the recent attempt by five unknown individuals to gain access to the property at 5:30 am. They questioned why the police department's response did not include a pursuit of the individuals involved.
 - Police Chief Denham and Asst. Police Chief McKeehan explained that high-speed police pursuits are restricted by state law and agency policy. Pursuits are only authorized if the crime involves a violent felony or poses an immediate threat to the public. Kentucky statutory law requires that police drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, and the Kentucky Supreme Court has ruled that police officers and agencies can be held liable for damages if an officer does not use due regard and the pursuit causes injury or death.
- Resident Sherman Bedford and Carl Matter expressed their concern that the Oldham County section of The Meadows subdivision is not receiving Prospect Police service that its residents pay for through their real estate taxes.
 - Police Chief Denham and Asst. Police Chief McKeehan explained how the state police dispatch system operates, and that Jefferson and Oldham County have their own dispatch. Prospect Police receive notice of police calls from both Jefferson and Oldham County dispatch. They urged residents to use the 9-11 system to reach the appropriate police dispatcher and assured Prospect residents of

Jefferson and Oldham County that they do and will continue to receive prompt Prospect Police service.

- Resident Jacquelyn McGrail expressed her concern over her neighbor's ash tree which she says is damaging her property and is a hazard to the public. She urged the city to take action to have the tree removed.
- Former Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Linda Wardell, spoke on the history of the committee's work and her involvement therein. She thanked the mayor and city council for recognizing her contributions by dedicating the new Harrods Creek stream bridge in her name. She further expressed confidence in the committee's new leadership and current members.

Mayor's Report

- The mayor announced that the 2025/2026 budgets will be presented to the council this evening for a first reading and presented his budget message.
 - The proposed budget is the work product of the budget committee composed of Council Members Clark, Evans, Furman and Holmes, as well as the mayor and city administrator.
 - This budget contemplates raising the ad valorem tax rate from \$0.174 per \$100 of valuation to \$0.183 per \$100 of valuation.
 - Significant elements of the proposed expenditures include:
 - 3% raise to administrative, public works and full-time police officer salaries.
 - 5% increase to part-time police salaries.
 - 6% increase to the assistant police chief's salary.
 - Funding for city hall improvements, including renovation of library bathrooms and painting of the second floor.
- The mayor welcomed the University of North Carolina's Morehead-Cain scholars to the city. Misha Logisa, Sriya Amineni, Mariel Ottinger and Elise Chang are assisting the city with sustainability efforts, including increasing resident participation with recycling and exploring the feasibility of the city moving to solar powered streetlamps and electric vehicles.
- There are several city events scheduled this summer, including,
 - The Ron Jones Quartet Concert, Sunday, June 8th
 - A new Pop-Up Art Exhibition at city hall begins this month, followed by "Natural Elements" art exhibit beginning August 22nd.
 - The Prospect Library Sale will continue for another 10 days.

- The 2nd Annual KidzFest is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th from 10 am to noon at Little Hunting Creek Park.
- The mayor expressed his concern over recent property and car thefts in the city, one of which recently resulted in a collision of the suspect's car with a police cruiser. Fortunately, the officer did not sustain injury, however it demonstrated how Prospect Police put their life on the line every day. The mayor urged residents to remove valuables from their vehicles, lock their vehicles, and secure their garage doors. Resident inaction to these items is leaving the city more vulnerable to crime.

Financial Reports

The City Administrator presented a synopsis of the city's finances for April 2025.

- Cash on hand totaled approximately \$3.9 million, of which approximately \$2.6 million is unrestricted funds.
- The city has earned approximately 95% of its annual revenue and spent approximately 83% of its budgeted expenditure.
- The capital project fund balance is approximately \$97,700.
- The restricted Road Aid Fund balance is approximately \$191K.

Commission and Board Reports

None

Other Reports

Council Member Leonard reported on the Jefferson County League of Cities [JCLC]:

- A subcommittee has been established to review the similarities and differences of the 80+ home-rule cities.
- Metro Louisville continues to review how solid waste is managed within the county and is conducting a cost-benefit study of various solid waste contracts within the county. Ms. Leonard expressed concern about the methodology of this study and its potential to disrupt how Prospect currently contracts for solid waste disposal.
- The next annual meeting is scheduled for September 19th.
- The JCLC City Night at the Slugger Field is scheduled for June 19th.

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Member Carolyn Embry presented an oral and written report.

- The Ron Jones Jazz Quartet will be performing this Sunday, June 8th at the John Evans Pavillion. The Celtic Pig Food Truck will also be at the concert serving food beginning at 6:30 pm.

Police Report:

Police Chief Denham reported:

- The details of the written report on arrests and call responses were presented.
- The department has ordered two new speed-limit carts to replace an old partially functioning speed cart. This purchase will provide the department with 3 speed checking devices to deploy throughout the city.
- On May 19th Asst. Police Chief presented another well received scam and cyberfraud lecture to the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Sisterhood.
- After a two-year investigation the department recovered \$14K from a contractor who accepted payment for a job that was never completed.

Old Business

- Council Member Furman moved for a second reading and passage of **Ordinance 652, Series 2025, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A UNIFORM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**, seconded by Council Member Clark. A roll call vote was held: Yea: Clark, Furman, Gibson and Holmes. Nay: Evans and Leonard. The motion passed 4–2.
This ordinance authorizes the mayor to enter a franchise agreement with Lumos Fiber of Kentucky, LLC.

New Business

- Council Member Holmes moved to approve **Resolution No. 4, 2025, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PROSPECT FOR APPLICATION OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT**, seconded by Council Member Clark. A roll call vote was held: Yea: Clark, Evans, Furman, Gibson, Holmes and Leonard. Nay: none. The motion passed 6–0.
This resolution acknowledges the city's intention to apply for a Recreational Trails Program grant through the Kentucky Dept. of Local Government to fund the development of the proposed Putney Pond Boardwalk.
- Council Member Gibson moved for a first reading of **Ordinance 653, Series 2025, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF PROSPECT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026**, seconded by Council Member Clark. A roll call vote was held: Yea: Clark, Evans, Furman, Gibson, Holmes and Leonard. Nay: none. The motion passed 6–0.
This ordinance is to set the 2025 ad valorem tax rate to be levied on real property.
- Council Member Evans moved for a first reading of **Ordinance 654, Series 2025, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, MUNICIPAL ROAD AID AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUND OF THE CITY OF PROSPECT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026**, seconded by Council Member Clark.
 - Council Member Holmes moved to amend **Ordinance 654, Series 2025**, by funding an additional part-time police officer position, seconded by Council Member Gibson. A roll call vote was held: Yea: Holmes and Evans. Nay: Clark, Furman, Gibson, and Leonard. The motion failed 2–4.

A roll call vote was held on **Ordinance 654, Series 2025**: Yea: Clark, Evans, Furman, Gibson, Holmes and Leonard. Nay: None. The motion passed 6–0.

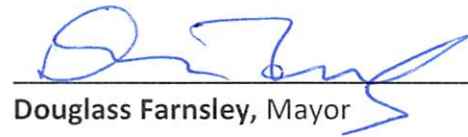
Adjournment: Council Member Evans moved to adjourn, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Farnsley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Prepared by:



John S. Carter, City Clerk

Approved:



Douglass Farnsley, Mayor