

CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2025

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

Participating Remotely: Council Member John Clark; Director of Public Works Ron Cundiff

Call to Order

Mayor Farnsley called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Discussion of Police Operations

Chief Tony Denham presented to the council recent changes in the department, including new personnel hires and changes to the housewatch program. The chief outlined for the council the department's service, staffing, and budget priorities for the upcoming year. There was a short question and answer session with the council members.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Gibson moved to approve the minutes from January 21, 2025, regular council meeting, and January 29, 2025, special council meeting, seconded by Council Member Furman, and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of the 2024 Financial Audit Report

On behalf of LBMC, Bill Meyer presented the findings of the 2023/2024 fiscal year audit report.

Mayor's Report

- The mayor presented his State of the City address.
 - Prospect's police department's leadership changed to Chief Tony Denham upon Jeff Sherrard's retirement in the fall of 2024. Under Chief Denham's capable leadership, the department has filled two vacancies and has been able to return to 24-hour coverage throughout the city. All Prospect police officers have had substantial experience in previous departments, and most have held supervisory roles. Public safety remains the city's number one priority.
 - Prospect has made significant improvements to Little Hunting Creek Park, including the construction of the John Evans Pavilion and Charlotte's Playground. More recently, the city has completed the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in Harrods Creek Park and continues to work on plans for a boardwalk to connect City Hall to Timber Ridge Drive through Putney Pond Park.

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee sponsored its second season of summer concerts and events, including performances by several bands, Kentucky Shakespeare, and a new Kidz Fest. Other events held include birdwatching walks, the 4th of July celebration, Prospect's 50th birthday party, and the return of the Harrods Creek Park Trail Bash.
- In 2024, Prospect launched a new program, "Art In City Hall". Prospect resident Kathie Sauer chairs the committee which has held six exhibitions to date, with the next exhibition entitled "Winter into Spring" scheduled to open on Sunday, March 23rd at 2 pm, and will closed on May 16th.
- The city has largely recovered from the April 2, 2024, tornadic storm that hit Prospect. The mayor thanked the city's police and public works departments, as well as city partners, Greenscapes and Louisville Metro Emergency Services, for their outstanding work that evening and throughout the long cleanup.
- The city continues to defend a lawsuit brought against it by LDG Development. The parties have filed motions for summary judgment. If the court denies the city's motion, the case is expected to proceed to trial in July 2025.
- In recent years the city has made several improvements to city hall, including repaving and expanding the parking lot, substantial roof repairs, replacement of aging HVAC systems, replacement of some shutters and windows, and the painting of the entire first floor.
- The city is on sound financial footing, having spent \$150K less than budgeted for 2024. The city continues to reserve funds necessary to cover the city's portion of the state pension system shortfall. The city's Investment Committee has made prudent investments with the city's reserves and accumulated surplus to produce approximately \$125K in interest income in the past year.

Financial Reports

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

- Cash on hand totaled approximately \$3.8 million, of which approximately \$2.6 million is unrestricted funds.
- The city has earned approximately 76% of its annual revenue and spent approximately 64% of budgeted expenditures.
- The capital project fund balance is approximately \$97K.
- The restricted Road Aid Fund balance is approximately \$199K.

Commission and Board Reports

On behalf of the Ethic Commission, Chairperson John Embry reminded city officials, appointed officials, and city employees to complete the annual financial disclosure form before March 3, 2025.

On behalf of the Architectural Review Committee, Chairperson Dr. Bob Jacob, updated the council on the committee's activities, including its review of building plans for the proposed re-

development of Prospect Point, and amending of the city's building and swimming pool regulations to allow for the construction of a pool house.

Other Reports

Council Member Gibson reported that the Jefferson County League of Cities [JCLC] met on January 23, 2025, and that the topic of discussion was municipal solid waste. Mr. Gibson announced that he was stepping down as the city's liaison to the JCLC and that Council Member Sandra Leonard would begin acting in his stead.

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

- The search for grants to fund the proposed Putney Pond Boardwalk continues with the hope that construction can begin in the spring of 2026.
- Member Tina Beavin is working with ICF to coordinate this year's invasive plant removal from city parks.
- The 'Owl Prowl' program has been delayed due to the outbreak of avian flu. The committee hopes to reschedule this program later this year.
- The committee has organized a lecture on Cybersecurity, Scams, and Fraud for Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 10 am.
- On Saturday, March 22nd the committee is sponsoring a hike from city hall to Putney Pond led by Cave Hill Naturalist Luke Pearson, to explore the wild soundscapes of Prospect.
- Resident Jacquelin McGrail will lead two spring wildflower walks in Harrods Creek Park, the first on Sunday, April 6th at 1 pm, and the second walk on Saturday, April 19th at 10 am.
- The 2nd annual Kidz Fest has been scheduled for Little Hunting Creek Park on Saturday, June 14th.
- Various concerts and events have been scheduled for the John Evans Pavilion in Little Hunting Creek Park beginning this April and continuing throughout the summer. The itinerary will be announced soon.
- On October 19, 2025, the committee is sponsoring the return of the Louisville Leopards children percussion band to play at the John Evans Pavilion.
- The Harrods Creek Park trail bash will return this year on November 23rd.

Police Report:

Police Chief Denham reported:

- The details of the written report on arrests and call responses were presented.
- The chief reminded residents of the importance of locking their vehicles to avoid car theft.

Old Business


None.

New Business

None.


Adjournment: Council Member Furman moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Evans, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Farnsley declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by:



John S. Carter, City Clerk

Approved:



Douglass Farnsley, Mayor

This meeting was live-streamed on YouTube.