

CITY OF PEWEE VALLEY

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

Thursday January 16, 2025

1. The regular meeting of the City Council of Pewee Valley, Kentucky was held on Wednesday March 5th, 2025. In attendance were Mayor Bob Rogers, Council Members: Paige Bjorn, Henry Walser, Emily Rademaker, Norman Schippert, Amanda Mudd, and Rhonda Laguna, city attorney John Singler and clerk Denise Haney.
2. Mayor Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:30PM and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Henry Walser made a motion to approve February 2025, minutes of the City Council Meeting, second by Paige Bjorn and all Council Members present voted in favor.
4. Financial Report: 100% of property taxes have been paid
5. Police Report:
 - Calls/Runs- 4
 - Traffic Stops- 27
 - Warnings- 21
 - Citations- 12
 - Arrests- 0
 - DUI- 0
 - House Watches-2

Chief Healey stated that PSA's regarding weather and safety concerns continue and high visibility patrols in areas of concern will continue as well as assistance with school traffic. The safety audit with KLC was concluded with high ratings and radar locations included Hwy 146, Mount Mercy and Wooldridge.

6. Announcements: John Baggett, the coordinator of the Arbor Day Foundation, will attend the Tree Board meeting on March 17th at 7 pm if anyone would like to attend. Environmental Education Day will be Thursday April 24th in the park at 1 pm. The mayor reminded everyone to be aware that during heavy rains Ash Avenue near the new bypass floods and becomes very dangerous, so be aware and let others know.

Reports from Council

7. **Public Safety-** (Paige Bjorn) – More information is being gathered about a potential 3rd flock camera.
8. **Insurance/Water Quality/ABC Administration-** (Henry Walser)- All insurance has been paid, the MS4 report is in process, and ABC bond has been paid.

9. **Communication/Website-** (Amanda Mudd)- We are continuing the update to the website and there will be a meeting with a company to set up a camera so council meetings can be viewed online. Please sign up for Reach Alert, if you need help please contact Amanda.
10. **Sidewalks/Festivities-** (Emily Rademaker)- Shakespeare in the Park will be Thursday April 17th. The city has accepted a low bid to pave a path on Central Avenue from the stop sign on Peace Lane to the stop sign on the other side of Peace Lane.
11. **Town Hall-** (Norman Schippert)- The drain to the museum has been filled so the floor can be leveled, and the city is still waiting on the replacement door which should come in a week or two.
12. **Waste Management/Central Park-** (Rhonda Laguna) – The Republic Services app for tracking your trash and recycling pickup is ready and information will be available soon and sent out on how to access it.
13. **Roads & Drainage/Environmental Board-** (Bob Rogers)- Bentbrook Place has been paved. Thanks to Glenn Rowland for his roadwork help during the inclement weather.

New Business

A motion was made by Norman Schippert to appoint Allen Ford to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals to replace Paige Bjorn, seconded by Rhonda Laguna and approved by all council members. The mayor thanked Paige for all her work.

John Singler presented by summary the second reading of Ordinance 1, Series 2025 an Ordinance Relating to a Moratorium on Issuance of Permits within Areas proposed for Protection as Historic Districts.

Council Member Emily Rademaker suggested the date on the Ordinance be shortened and some of the language not be so restrictive, as to not impose an undue burden on property owners yet work to find a happy medium for protecting our historic homes, then if more time is needed it can be amended. Amanda Mudd reiterated that the intent of the historic overlay district is not to be overly restrictive or burdensome but provide “common sense” guidelines to help preserve Pewee Valley’s historic character and charm while also protecting our property values. The five major points to consider are: Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Property Value Stabilization or Increase, Economic Incentives, Community Identity and Pride, and Planning and Development Control. Rhonda Laguna advised that the ordinance should provide for critical need if a property owner needs to make an adjustment for health or medical reasons.

Stan Clark asked for clarification of “imminent threat”. Attorney Singler stated that this a blanket moratorium, the language coming from form ordinances.

Stan, who is opposed to the ordinance, stated it is more restrictive than what is currently in place, but the easement, setbacks, lot sizes and road issues need to be addressed as this ordinance has nothing to do with the prevention of subdividing lots, and he doesn’t want people to get the wrong idea that it does. The charm of Pewee Valley is everything, the homes, tree canopy etc..how do you define the historic homes and tell one property owner they can’t do something while their neighbor has no restrictions? Emily

Rademaker informed attendees that Jim Urban is surveying properties that may qualify for historic designation, and the ordinance is temporary as we discuss the best option to draft legislation to protect the historic homes as the overlay committee did for protecting the town square area.

Some residents expressed concern that they did not receive notices regarding the meetings in a timely manner and that the ordinance may be an overreaction to one incident that is occurring. Emily stated that this issue rises periodically, and we are trying to be proactive. Residents want people that have these historic homes potentially designated for protection to be included, and Emily reiterated that March 28th at 6pm is the next overlay committee meeting so please attend for further discussion.

Jon Coffman at 114 Central Avenue asked how an overlay district is defined, is it just historic properties or is it all encompassing within borders. Attorney Singler said they are defined areas with an address within the defined areas. Lynne Macchiarulo of Rosswood Dr. asked if her home, which is historic and surrounded by newer homes, would fall into a historic district and if not, how can they have restrictions and the house next to them not have to abide by these rules. The mayor said that is exactly right, which is why this requires more discussion to be fair and see what the community wants. Attorney Singler stated that is what is under consideration, the consultant is looking at all the individual properties to see if they have historical significance and need to be protected. Jon Coffman says that if boundaries are defined how do you impose this if they are not historical, and he proposed to make all of Pewee Valley a historic overlay district and everyone bears the burden, or an overlay district may not be the answer. Attorney Singler says the intent is to determine which areas should be protected based on the consultant study and then establish within those areas which properties contribute to the goals of the preservation within the regulations.

Ellen Weingardt at 123 Tulip Avenue wants to maintain the integrity of the larger lots and would love something to be in place to protect them.

Clayton Stoess- Would like to have had more notice regarding the ordinance and stated things will change if there isn't protection regarding divisions of properties. Clayton asked about the police budget. Stan Clark informed him that the current budget will basically break even with the 2nd part-time patrol officer taking the place of the OC patrols and the reserves taken were from the budget amendment to purchase the fully equipped police car. The budget will be assessed at the end of the fiscal year with a commitment to preserve the reserve funds.

Pat Harned – Asked if there are any plans to put sidewalks on Maple Avenue. The mayor asked Pat to start a petition to gauge interest in the project.

A motion was made by Emily Rademaker to table Ordinance 1, Series 2025, seconded by Paige Bjorn and approved by all council members.

14. Pay Bills- Motion to pay bills by Paige Bjorn, seconded by Amanda Mudd and all council members approved.

15. Motion to Adjourn made by Henry Walser, seconded by Rhonda Laguna, and approved by all council members