

AGENDA
CITY OF VANCEBURG
March 4, 2024

- I. WELCOME
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER
- III. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- IV. SUSPEND READING AND APPROVE MINUTES
*February 5, 2024 – Regular Meeting

- V. EPB Report:

- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. 2nd reading of Ordinance #540.36, closing of Old School Lane
 - B. 2nd reading of Ordinance #410.05G, amending Ordinance #410.05E raising revenue fee from 2.5% to 5% for Alcohol Sales

- VII. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Lori Dearfield, presenting 22/23 Fiscal Year Audit
 - B. Resolution #24.01, Crumb Rubber Grant
 - C. 1st reading of Ordinance #220.10A, amending Ordinance #220.10, Altering Definitions and Other Matters
 - D. Appointment of Ian Cooper on the Vanceburg Housing Authority Board to replace Loil Jordan
 - E. Businesses & Homes with no Utilities
 - F. Executive Session

- VIII. UPDATES:
- IX. FLOOR OPEN:
Alex Halsey with the LC Health Department

- X. ADJOURN

March 4, 2024

The **regular meeting** of the Vanceburg City Council was held on **March 4, 2024**, and presided over by Mayor, Dane Blankenship.

Pledge of Allegiance by all and Prayer gave by Councilwoman Cantu.

Council Present:

Kody Willis	Kathy McCann	Angie Patton
Mary McClurg	Nichole Cantu	Joni Pugh

Attorney Stephen McGinnis was in attendance.

Councilman Willis made a motion to suspend and approve the **minutes** of the **regular meeting** held on **February 5, 2024**. Councilwoman Pugh seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis yes	McCann yes	Patton yes
McClurg yes	Cantu yes	Pugh yes

Electric Plant Board Report:

Councilwoman Patton stated the Electric Plant Board is still working with Acumen to find the best contract for the next electric provider. The EPB will be meeting next week and will hopefully have an outcome on this. As of right now both AEP and American Municipal Power are very competitive with their bids.

Councilwoman Pugh stated there are several business owners that are here and would like to voice their opinions regarding the alcohol tax and wanted them to be able to speak before council voted. Mayor Blankenship stated he would open the floor.

Old Business:

Councilman Willis stated he had a property owner contacted him that has an interest on Harper Street & had some concerns about closing it. Attorney McGinnis stated the closing of Old School Lane has no effect on Harper or John Streets. Councilman Willis stated the concern was if an ambulance or fire truck needed to get down the street & how the emergency vehicles would get back out. Mayor Blankenship stated he has spoken to the property owner and said people come across the lane and the old school has been broken into 2x now. Mayor Blankenship stated the closing of Old School Lane is only the lane behind the school. This does not affect anyone on Harper or John Streets. After much discussion Councilwoman Patton ask Attorney McGinnis to read the 2nd reading of Ordinance #540.36, closing of Old School Lane. Councilwoman Cantu made a **motion to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance #540.36, closing of Old School Lane**. Councilwoman McClurg seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis	no	McCann	yes	Patton	yes
McClurg	yes	Cantu	yes	Pugh	no

Councilwoman Cantu ask Attorney McGinnis to read the 2nd reading of Ordinance #410.05G, amending Ordinance #410.05E, raising revenue fee from 2.5% to 5% for Alcohol Sales.

Jarrod Lewis, Manager of Back Alley Spirits addressed council his concerns on raising the alcohol tax from 2.5% to 5%. He stated he understands the original 2.5% tax was to support the police department, but he feels there is a better way to help them out. He stated it is hard enough running a business in a small town with the electric prices the way it is. He supports small businesses and spends his money locally. He stated that it is doubling the tax that is already in order. He feels by doing this it will push people out of town. He feels that there is another solution that could be found. Councilwoman Patton stated that other surrounding cities are 6% on their alcohol sales tax. She stated without tax revenue no government exists. She understands that we are a small community, and we have a budget to work with. The city has not raised property taxes in 50 years. With the economy the way it is we cannot continue to have a city without increasing the taxes. Councilwoman Pugh states that she appreciates Councilwoman Patton's comments, but it is a struggle for these small businesses. Mr. Lewis stated the cities around us have a lot more wealth. He said the workforce is better and bigger. Councilwoman Cantu stated the bottom line is the city is not trying to raise a tax on food, diapers, or baby formula, we are raising a tax on something that people don't have to spend money on.

Donna Polley spoke regarding the raising of the alcohol tax. She states if the council taxes something that gets a benefit for living in city limits that's a fair tax but when a tax is raised for a certain group of people that is a punishment. She says our workforce is out of the county and these businesses are going to lose business if this tax is approved. Councilman Willis spoke and said he has had calls, and emails regarding this tax. He thinks that being able to increase tax revenue without raising taxes is a goal that is something to come up with together. He thought the Sunday Sales tax was a good thing, being able to sell without the increase of raising a tax. Councilwoman Pugh stated she agreed with Councilman Willis on this. Councilwoman Pugh stated she use to have a small business in the city, and it is difficult to be able to keep going.

After much discussion on the raising of the revenue of the alcohol sales tax Councilwoman Patton made a **motion to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance #410.05G, amending Ordinance #410.05E, raising revenue fee from 2.5% to 5% for Alcohol Sales.** Councilwoman McCann seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis	no	McCann	yes	Patton	yes
McClurg	no	Cantu	yes	Pugh	no

There was a tie vote and Mayor Blankenship voted yes.

New Business:

Lori Dearfield presented the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Audit to the council stating it was a clean audit. Councilwoman Patton made a **motion to accept the audit as presented**. Councilwoman McCann seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis	yes	McCann	yes	Patton	yes
McClurg	yes	Cantu	yes	Pugh	yes

Councilwoman Patton made a **motion to accept Resolution #24.01, Crumb Rubber Grant**. Councilwoman Cantu seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis	yes	McCann	yes	Patton	yes
McClurg	yes	Cantu	yes	Pugh	yes

Councilwoman Cantu ask Attorney McGinnis to read the 1st reading of Ordinance #220.10A, amending Ordinance #220.10, Altering Definitions and Other Matters.

Councilwoman Pugh made a **motion to appoint Ian Cooper to the Vanceburg Housing Authority Board to replace Loil Jordan**. Councilwoman McClurg seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis	yes	McCann	yes	Patton	yes
McClurg	yes	Cantu	yes	Pugh	yes

Businesses & Homes with no utilities – Mayor Blankenship stated the city is still fighting this problem even though the city is no longer picking up the trash. Something needs to be done. If homes have no electric then they have no trash pickup. Chief Gilbert stated he is citing these individuals, but people have not acknowledged it. Councilwoman Patton stated a citation needs to be sent to the property owner and the person in the home. Attorney McGinnis stated send it to both and if it is not cleaned up then let it go to court and the Judge can decide then. Mayor Blankenship stated we have cleaned up properties and billed individuals for that. They have 10 days to respond and if no response a copy of the deed is sent to Attorney McGinnis and a lien is placed on the property. He also stated we can force the sell on the properties with liens.

Councilwoman Cantu made a **motion to file the lawsuits for the liens**. Councilwoman Patton seconded the motion.

Vote:

Willis yes	McCann yes	Patton yes
McClurg yes	Cantu yes	Pugh yes

Floor Open:

Anita Bertram with the Lewis County Health Department addressed the council saying the Health Department could be some help on the homes that pertains to rodents. Alex Halsey addressed the council with a 2024 Tobacco Update. He stated as of 2020, an estimated 32% of adults in our county are current cigarette smokers. He went over the environmental impact as well as the economic impact of smoking. He gave us the local resources that are available in our county that can help people stop smoking.

Councilwoman Cantu made a **motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation**. Councilwoman McClurg seconded the motion.

Vote:


Willis yes	McCann yes	Patton yes
McClurg yes	Cantu yes	Pugh yes

Councilwoman Patton made a **motion to come back into regular session with no action being taken**. Councilwoman Cantu seconded the motion.

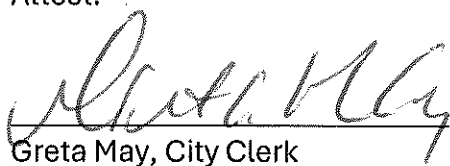
Vote:

Willis yes	McCann yes	Patton yes
McClurg yes	Cantu yes	Pugh yes

Councilwoman Patton made a motion to **adjourn**. Councilwoman McCann seconded the motion. All agreed.


Dane Blankenship, Mayor

Attest:


Greta May, City Clerk