

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri met in a regular scheduled meeting, at the regular place of meeting, 319 E Dallas Street, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Haymes with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Deanna McElveen, Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild, and Marda Gramm, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Max Springer, Counselor William Petrus, Jr., Treasurer Shari Weldy, Director of Public Works Joe Kelley, Code Enforcement Officer Terry Moore, Chief of Police David Hubert, and City Clerk Melissa Aduddle.

Guests registering their attendance are listed on the sign in sheet attached to and made a part of the minutes.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Haymes presented the agenda to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen to approve the agenda with the following addition and removal:

- City Administrator: Add: Meeting Discussion
- City Administrator: Remove: Tire Bid

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips made the motion, seconded by Alderman Beckley to approve the minutes with no corrections.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Haymes announced this portion of the meeting was set aside to receive input from those in attendance and requested any discussion. The following citizens requested to be on the agenda:

- Connie Boudreau – Not Present
- Penny Lewsader & Rebecca Thompson – Lawrence County Manor. They came to speak to the Board to support a mask ordinance. Ms. Thompson stated the Manor hasn't had any residents test positive, but they are concerned it is only a matter of time, and would like to see a mask ordinance put in place to protect their staff and residents, who are the most vulnerable population.
- John Hull – Owner, ScreenMasters – Mr. Hull is concerned that if a mask order is put in place, it will hurt his retail business, and stated, that they do what they can to keep customers safe, and socially distance without having to have it mandated.
- Steve Hicks – Pastor at the Church in Action – Mr. Hicks expressed concern that if the City imposed a mandate that the County might do so as well, and questioned whether a

mask mandate might lead into other mandates, such as a limit on the size of crowds. He also said there is a lot of inconsistency in how mandates are enforced. Discussion was held, at length, between the Board and citizens.

Ordinance

Bill No. 2020-027 re: First and seconding reading of an Ordinance calling for the General Election in the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri, for the purpose of electing one Alderman from each of the four wards, each for a term of two years.

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2020-027 was declared passed and sent to the Mayor for signature. Bill No. 2020-027 thus became Ordinance Number 5.186.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Springer updated the Board that sales tax is still up and has been consistently good since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion was held.
- **Small Bucket Truck Repair.** Springer informed the Board that the small bucket truck has a broken hydraulic hose in the mast. The mast must be removed to replace the whole bundle of hoses. Cost for the repairs was quoted at \$20,000.00. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderman Phillips to approve the repair of the small bucket truck for \$20,000.00 and to write the check to pay for the repairs. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.
- **Health Insurance.** Springer reported CoxHealth insurance renewal is 19.8% higher this year, which is an increase of \$4,065.30 per month or \$48,767.00 per year. Anthem's quote was \$130,188.00 per year, or \$31,365.00 per month, with a \$8,500 deductible. United Healthcare's quote was \$310,272.00 annually or \$25,856.00 monthly, with a \$6,900.00 deductible. Discussion was held. Alderman Phillips made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Lee renew the current CoxHealth insurance plan with the 19.8% increase for 2021. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.
- **Request to Change Bank Signatures.** Springer recommended since Shannon is now Deputy Clerk until her retirement she needs to be removed from the bank signatures list and Melissa added as a signatory on the bank accounts. Alderwoman McElveen made the

motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to add Melissa to the signature list on the bank accounts and remove Shannon. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

- **Meeting Discussion.** Springer inquired as to whether the Board would like to have the Council meetings on November 24th and December 22nd or cancel them. Discussion was held. It was decided to have both meetings.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the bills paid report and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Bills Over \$5,000.00.** Weldy presented the Bills over \$5,000 report to the Board for approval. She stated to remove the December checks, and the Doty check amount was \$17,124.67 because another invoice was received. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to approve bills over \$5,000.00 as presented. With all present members voting, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.
- **Treasurer Report – October 2020.** Weldy presented the treasurer report for October to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve the treasurer report for October 2020. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following item:

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant - Update.** Kelley informed the Board that the crew working on repairs to the second sand filter, started work on Friday and should be done by the end of the month. Discussion was held.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistical Report for October 2020.** Moore presented the Statistical Report of September and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth
Rezoning 570 N Spring Park Blvd from M-2 to B-3. Moore stated he has reviewed the rezoning application and it meets the criteria required in the procedure manual and comprehensive plan to be rezoned. The application was presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission. They reviewed the application and recommended it be brought to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen to approve the rezoning application for 570 N Spring Park Blvd, and move forward with putting it in ordinance form. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Police

Mr. Hubert held discussion on the following item:

Resignation of Stephen Nelson. Hubert informed the Board that Stephen Nelson has resigned to go to Barry County Sheriff's Department, and requested approval to advertise for a new officer. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to approve the police department's request to advertise for a new officer. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Committee Reports

- **Parks & Recreation Committee**
 - Alderman Phillips presented the minutes from the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 to the Board for approval. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the minutes approved.
- **Personnel Committee**
 - Alderman Fairchild presented the minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday, September 28, 2020 to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Thrasher proposed an amendment to the minutes to include Max Springer in the eighty-five cent per hour pay increase. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the minutes amended and approved.
 - Alderman Fairchild presented the minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 to the Board for approval. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the minutes approved.
- **Finance Committee**
 - Alderwoman Lee presented the minutes from the Finance Committee meetings held on Thursday, October 22nd, October 29th, and November 5th together, as they were all to discuss the 2021 Budget, to the Board for approval. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the minutes approved.
- **Public Works Committee**
 - Alderman Phillips presented the minutes from the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 to the Board for approval. With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the minutes approved.

Old Business

Mayor Haymes requested any old business to be brought to the floor for discussion. None brought forth.

New Business

Mayor Haymes requested any new business to be brought to the floor for discussion.

- Mayor Haymes presented letters Alderwoman Thrasher had received in favor of a City mask requirement. Discussion was held.

Adjournment

Mayor Haymes announced there being no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jason Haymes, Mayor

Date

Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

Date