

Minutes Approved January 12, 2021

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri met in a regularly scheduled meeting, at the regular place of meeting, 319 E Dallas Street, on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Acting Board President Lowell Phillips with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Deanna McElveen (teleconference), Craig Nelson, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild, Marda Gramm, Sue Lee and Mayor Jason Haymes (teleconference). The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Max Springer, Counselor William Petrus, Jr., Treasurer Shari Weldy, Code Enforcement Officer Terry Moore, Chief of Police David Hubert, and City Clerk Melissa Aduddle. Absent: Director of Public Works Joe Kelley.

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

Approval of the Agenda

Acting Board President Phillips presented the agenda to the Board for approval. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve the agenda with the following additions and removals:

- Add: City Administrator: Lighting the Business Loop
- Remove: City Administrator: Sales and Use Tax

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

Presentation of Minutes

Acting Board President Phillips presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to approve the minutes with no corrections.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

Citizen Participation

Acting Board President Phillips announced this portion of the meeting was set aside to receive input from those in attendance and requested any discussion.

- Mayor Haymes read a letter submitted by Laura Hazelwood in favor of a mask ordinance.
- Lance Powell addressed the Board about his concerns of a mask ordinance.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Northwest Industrial Park.** Springer informed the Board that Christian Woodridge with the Soil & Water Conservation District e-mailed him wanting to know if the City had any property for sale or lease that they could fence and put a small building to store rental equipment for their cost share program for Lawrence County Landowners Springer stated

the City has two (2) parcels in the Northwest Industrial Park, a 2.6 acre parcel located west of Ulmer Excavating and the Cutting Edge. This parcel measures 200.09 feet by 555.88 feet, however there is a ravine that is that is at least fifteen (15) feet deep in the southern part of the parcel and is more of a drainage ditch for the lots to the north and east. The second parcel is the land on which the Fire District is located, which is 4.22 acres. Springer recommended that the City divide the 2.6 acre parcel into the following pieces and give them to the owners of the adjacent lots. The first lot, 200.09 feet by 273.58 feet to Ulmer Excavating and the second lot 200.01 feet by 281.00 feet to the Cutting Edge. Springer also recommended straightening up the west property line and granting a strip of land approximately 20 feet wide and the length of the property to T & C Stainless. Then surveying off the north one (1) acre of the parcel and leasing it to the Soil & Water Conservation District for a nominal amount. If these recommended changes are made it will also put these parcels back on the tax books. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderman Beckley for the City to work with the adjacent owners to straighten up the boundaries of the recommended parcels and lease the property to the Soil & Water Conservation District.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Budget.** Springer presented the budget for 2021 and requested any questions. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to approve the Budget for 2021.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Lighting the Business Loop.** Springer stated that he had a phone call from a citizen that would like the City to light the Business Loop because of the glare with rain. This might not solve the problem and the last time it was brought up the quote was \$400,000 to go from the I-44 to Hickory Street and all of it is in MoDOT's right of way. Discussion was held. The Board requested some research to be done and bring it back.
- **Computers in Police Cars.** Springer reported the Police Department is requesting \$11,212.78 to install docking equipment for each patrol car, at a cost of \$1,687.90 per vehicle, for the officer's laptops. This is a budgeted item. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve the \$11,212.78 request for docking equipment and write the check for purchase.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

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, including at check to Altec for \$19,520.60. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve bills over \$5,000.00 as presented.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Investments.** Weldy reported that she sent out investment bids on a \$216,000 electric fund bond that had matured. Weldy recommended cashing it out and putting the funds in

the checking account, because the checking account accrues 1.58% interest and the highest bid that was received was 1.50%. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to cash out the bond and move it to the checking account.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Letters Wrote in September.** Weldy requested approval to send \$55,224.42 in bad debt to Incode and \$52,944.59 in bad debt to Online Collections. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve the request to send \$55,224.42 in bad debt to Incode and \$52,944.59 in bad debt to Online Collections.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Letters Wrote in December.** Weldy informed the Board that letters for debt collection were sent out in December in the amount of \$6,635.99, and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Other Items of Discussion.** Weldy mentioned that one of the taxi drivers quit, but they were going to try to hold off on hiring a new driver until March when it starts getting busier. Discussion was held.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items, in light of Mr. Kelley's absence:

- **Water & Street Department – 2021 Backhoes.** Springer informed the Board the City has an agreement with Potter Equipment Company to purchase/lease new backhoes every year, and the new backhoes are paid for each December. The City budgeted \$18,500.00 for the 2021 backhoes, but due to a change in the production of the machines, one of the backhoes the City gets is considered a specialty item, because it is an extended backhoe which added \$1,300.00 to the price. Springer requested authorization to purchase the backhoes and write the check for purchase. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderman Beckley for approval to purchase the backhoes in the amount of \$19,800.00 and write the check for purchase.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

- **Electric Department – Right-of-Way (ROW) Tree Trimming.** Springer reported that bids were solicited to trim trees in our ROW. The notice was run in the paper for three (3) weeks and bid packets were sent out to six (6) different companies in our area. Only two (2) bids were received, one from Southwest Tree, LLC of Nixa and Jasco Tree Service of Carthage. The difference between the average hourly costs is \$5.00; however, that can change based on additional equipment that they may use. Jasco Tree Service is who the City currently uses for tree trimming. Discussion was held. Alderman Beckley made the motion, seconded by Alderman Fairchild to accept the bid from Jasco Tree Service, for a term of one (1) year.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Permit Report for November 2020.** Moore presented the Permit Report for November 2020 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.
- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore presented the Planning & Zoning report where he discussed the following items:
 - **1004 S Market Street.** Moore stated that a Notice of Foreclosure has been filed by Greg D. Todd. Moore said has sent two (2) emails to New Rez, LLC fka New Pen Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing and they have not responded to either email. In his last email, Moore informed them that he would be moving forward with the Dangerous Building Notification, if they did not respond by December 8, 2020. Discussion was held.
 - **505 Center Street.** Moore reported he has received a lot split application from Derick Barnes and Jason Robbins. There are two (2) buildings on this parcel, the two-story house facing Center Street and the old Head Start building on the southwest corner of the parcel. After reviewing the lot split, it meets all the criteria for an Article 16 Lot Split. Discussion was held.

Police

Mr. Hubert held discussion on the following item:

- **Statistics for November 2020.** Lacey presented the statistics report for November and requested any discussion. None brought forth.

Old Business

Acting Board President Phillips requested any old business to be brought to the floor for discussion.

- Acting Board President Phillips stated since the Budget was the main purpose for the next meeting, he requested to discuss cancelling the meeting. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to cancel the Board of Alderman meeting schedule for December 22, 2020.

With all present members voting in favor, Acting Board President Phillips declared the motion approved.

New Business

Acting Board President Phillips requested any new business to be brought to the floor for discussion. None brought forth.

Adjournment

Acting Board President Phillips announced there being no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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Jason Haymes, Mayor

Date

Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

Date