

Minutes Approved Tuesday, March 23, 2021

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021.

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, March 9, 2021 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 (teleconference), Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild, 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, Officer Greg Griffith, and City Clerk Melissa Aduddle. Absent: Chief of Police David Hubert.

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. The following additions were requested:

- City Administrator to add Project 2021-02 Sanitary Sewer Rehab.
- Code Enforcement to add Permit Report February 2021.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the agenda with the aforementioned changes, seconded by Alderman Nelson.

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Haymes announced this portion of the meeting was set aside to receive input from those in attendance and requested any discussion.

- Dana Preteroti stated that Recovery Month is in September and on behalf of the Lawrence County Role Models group, would like to request use of the Spirit of '76 Park for a gathering to celebrate Recovery Month. Discussion was held. Mayor Haymes thanked Mr. Preteroti for his participation.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Project 2021-02 Sanitary Sewer.** Springer requested authority to solicit bids for the manhole and line reconnect behind the Schreiber plant. Springer stated the estimated cost of the project is \$34,371.00. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm moved to

approve authority to solicit bids for the manhole and line reconnect behind Schreiber, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

- **Skatepark at Gibbs Park.** Springer updated the Board that the City has a meeting scheduled with the contractors on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm to discuss the project including start date and estimated completion. Next, Springer requested approval of Change Order #2, which is for the canopy and bench in the concept plan. The cost of the change order is \$13,000.00, which will be paid for by funds collected by the community to help make the park a reality. This change order is at no cost to the City. Community Betterment would also like to have a check presentation at the park. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve Change Order #2 for the skatepark for \$13,000.00, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Spirit of '76 Park Restroom.** Springer stated that Change Order #2 came about, because after further review of the plans, they noticed there weren't any handicap stalls in the men's and women's restrooms, only the family bathroom. The cost to make the bathrooms ADA compliant is \$3,115.00. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$3,115.00, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

- **Polar Vortex/Electric Cost.** Springer relayed to the Board that the polar vortex that occurred in the middle part of February had a significant impact on the electric and natural gas markets. There was a ten day span from February 10th to February 20th that the price of natural gas went from \$3.00/dekatherm (dth) to around \$1,000.00/dth. The electric market prices increased from \$20-\$30/megawatt-hour (MWh) to \$4,000/MWh. Our power pool (SWMPEP) was able to hedge some of the effects of these record setting prices, however the pool did experience some market exposure due to high demand, unit derates (a generation unit not being able to run at capacity) and outages. The estimated cost of February's power bill \$1,588,381.22. The estimated normal usage cost is \$306,063.45, a difference of \$1,282,317.77. Springer noted that these were only estimates, however, decisions needed to be made how to pay the bill and how to collect for this bill. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to pay the February electric bill out of the electric reserve fund, and paying the reserve fund back by raising the fuel adjustment charge to 0.017024 over a five year period, seconded by Alderwoman Lee. Fairchild amended the main motion to read: "Pay the February electric bill out of the electric reserve fund, and paying the reserve fund back by raising the fuel adjustment charge to 0.017024 over a five year period or until the fund is repaid.

Motion passed.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the bills paid report and requested any discussion. None brought forth.

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- **Bills over \$5,000.00.** Weldy presented the Bills over \$5,000.00 to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee moved to authorize payment for the bills over \$5000.00 for February and March, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Investments.** Weldy reported of a certificate of deposit from the electric fund matured on March 12, 2021, in the amount of \$323,710.38. Only two bids were received, the best being Old Missouri Bank at 0.65% interest over 18 months. Weldy said the CD could also be cashed out and used as surplus. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to cash out the CD and use it toward the February electric bill, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher.

Motion passed.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Seasonal Employment.**
 - Kelley stated it is that time of year to start bringing back the seasonal employees, and requested approval to begin that process. Alderwoman moved to bring back the seasonal employees at the department supervisor's discretion, seconded by Alderman Fairchild.

Motion passed.

- Kelley requested authorization to use Penmac Staffing Services to hire additional seasonal staff. Alderman Fairchild moved to authorize using Penmac Staffing for seasonal employment, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Golf Course – Point of Sale, Teesnap, LLC.** Kelley informed the Board that the golf course would like approval to purchase a point of sale system from Teesnap, LLC. The cost for one year of service is \$7,200.00. This amount does not include any marketing. Discussion was held.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore presented the permit report for February 2021, and requested any discussion. Discussion was held.

Police

Officer Griffith held discussion on the following item:

- **Statistics for February 2021.** Griffith presented the statistics report for February 2021, and requested any discussion. None brought forth.

Old Business

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

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New Business

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

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 8:02 p.m.

Jason Haymes, Mayor

Date

Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

Date