



PO Box 70 • 109 N Hickory St • Mount Vernon, MO • Phone (417) 466-2122

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 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, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Haymes with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley (teleconference), Deanna McElveen, 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, Public Works Director Joe Kelley, Code Enforcement Officer Terry Moore, Police Chief 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. The following changes were requested:

- City Administrator – Add: NFront Consulting, COVID-19 Pay/Quarantine, MML Regional Meeting, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the agenda with the added changes, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen.

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.

- Donna Pritchard discussed concerns about storm water run-off from the TA Truck Stop into the Sunset Heights subdivision. Ms. Pritchard stated she would like this topic on the next agenda so citizens from that area may also voice their concerns. Discussion was held. Mayor Haymes thanked her for bringing these concerns to the Board and stated he would set up a time to meet with her before the next meeting.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax/Use Tax.** Springer stated the sales tax for June is up \$4,603.46 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$68,599.28 from 2020. Use tax is down from June of last year by \$3,612.63, however for the year use tax is still ahead \$2,232.99 from 2020.
- **City Property.** Springer updated the Board that he has spoken with the Emergency Dispatch representatives about a location south of the location for the new sheriff's office. He stated there is a potential buyer for some of that property, and it is to the point where the property needs to be surveyed, to know the exact boundaries of each of these pieces of property, to determine what is left. The Emergency Dispatch is willing to partner with the City on the cost and the Commissioners will most likely be willing to share the cost, as well. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Thrasher moved to have the City property surveyed on Daniel Drive, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen. Thrasher moved to amend the main motion to add "with dispatch and commissioners sharing cost", seconded by Alderman Phillips. Amendment to motion passed. The main motion is now to have the City property surveyed on Daniel Drive, with dispatch and commissioners sharing cost.

Motion passed.

- **Rain Event.** Springer reported that during the rain event on May 27th there was a discharge out of the detention basin at TA Truck Stop. DNR was called due to diesel fuel being detected in the storm water. DNR is working with TA to capture the contamination. During a flash flood event it is impossible to prevent all the run off during heavy rains when water comes in that quick. Discussion was held.
- **Skatepark.** Springer informed the Board that the construction of the skatepark is complete. The dirt work and landscaping is the City's part. Hillhouse Services will be completing the dirt work, seeding and mulching, as soon as possible, depending on the weather. Community Betterment, Skatepark Committee, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and American Ramp Company are working together to have a grand opening on June 25th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The City would like to have the Mayor and Board of Aldermen present to help cut the ribbon. Springer asked the Board members to let him know if they can be there by 5:00 pm. Discussion was held.
- **Walnut Street/True Value Parking Lot.** Springer started the discussion by stating that Walnut Street is technically a dead end street where it intersects with True Value's parking lot, for years this area has been used as a cut through to the Business Loop. The wear and tear of traffic has taken its toll on the area. They have patched the large potholes numerous times over the years. There are several options for solving the problem:
 1. Close the entrance to the parking lot at Walnut Street.
 2. Continue to patch the potholes.
 3. Repair the parking lot by removing a strip 24 feet wide from Walnut Street to the Business Loop and rebuilding it back as a street.

Discussion was held. Going to reach out to SMOG and see about putting a car counter there and bring back for further discussion.

- **Corn Hole/Food Truck Event.** Springer said the Chamber would like to use part of the square on August 7th to have a Corn Hole Tournament and invite area food trucks to participate, as a fundraiser for the Chamber. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to grant permission to use the green space for a Corn Hole tournament on August 7th, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher.

Motion passed.

- **Personnel Committee.** Springer requested to set a meeting with the Personnel Committee to interview candidates for the City Attorney position. Discussion was held. Meeting is set for Tuesday, June 15th at 6:00 pm.
- **Restrooms at Spirit of '76 Park.** Springer reported that the restrooms should be open tomorrow. There are just some dispensers that need to be installed. Dirt work, seeding, and mulching will be done as weather permits. Discussion was held.
- **NFront Consulting.** SWMPEP Power Pool would like to continue using NFront Consulting Services to continue monitoring the FERC filings for Liberty Utilities for at least another year, to include the polar vortex. As member utility, we will be responsible for out one third portion of the cost. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to continue to use NFront Consulting for another year and pay the City's one third portion of the cost, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Motion passed.

- **COVID-19/Quarantine.** Springer asked about COVID-19 policies, documentation, quarantine, and if the City will continue to pay employees who are out on quarantine. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to extend the City's COVID-19 quarantine payment through June 2021 then revisit it later if necessary, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher.

Motion passed.

- **MML Meeting in July.** Springer informed the Board that the MML Southwest Regional meeting would be held at the MARC on July 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm. This meeting is for all City officials, and they are encouraged to attend.
- **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.** Springer requested to reschedule the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the park. Discussion was held. Meeting is set for June 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

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 \$5,000.00 for to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Thrasher moved to authorize payment for the bills over \$5000.00 as listed, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.

Motion passed.

- **Investments.** Weldy informed the Board that bids were sent out for a \$325,000.00 Certificate of Deposit, as it has matured. Weldy recommended keeping the CD with Old Missouri Bank at 0.5% interest over 18 months. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to keep the CD at Old Missouri Bank, seconded by Alderman Phillips.
Motion passed.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Electric Department – New Service/Expansion.** Kelley stated an industrial customer is expanding and to meet their power needs he is requesting to order a 2500 KVA transformer for \$35,022.60, a 1000 KVA transformer for \$17,807.95, and a primary metering rack for \$7,500.00, since they all have an 18 to 20 week delivery time. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve the ordering of the presented equipment in the amount of \$60,330.55, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.
Motion passed.
- **Utility Billing – Account Correction.** Kelley reported that a utility customer contacted the City because of an increasing change on their account. After review, the issue was found in the billing software. The issue has since been corrected and a credit of \$101,094.32 will be applied to the account. Discussion was held.
- **Water Department – Chlorine Gas Detector.** Kelley requested approval to purchase three budgeted safety detectors and hardware in the amount of \$6,729.00. Alderwoman Lee moved to approve purchase of chlorine gas detectors for \$6,729.00, seconded by Alderman Phillips.
Motion passed.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Conditional Permit – 700 E Center St.** Moore requested approval of the conditional use permit for 700 E Center St to build a backyard cottage, stating that it will meet all of our codes. Moore also requested to add, “The Mount Vernon Municipal Code shall be and is hereby amended at Section 405.450, Use Standards, to add Subsection DD, backyard cottage requirements A-H in Ordinance 2.151.” to the permit certificate. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the conditional use permit for 700 E Center St with the aforementioned addition, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.
Motion passed.
- **May 2021 Permit Report.** Moore presented the Permit Report for April 2021 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.

Police

Chief Hubert held discussion on the following items:

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- **Statistics for May 2021.** Hubert presented the statistics for May 2021 to the Board for review, 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.

New Business

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

- Mr. Springer stated at the walkthrough for the sidewalk project was completed and everything was approved, and MoDOT stated they will be leaving the crosswalk over Main Street. 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 8:24 pm.

Jason Haymes, Mayor

Date

Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

Date