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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023.

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, January 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Haymes with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Dallas Gramm, Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild, and Sue Lee. Absent: Marda Gramm. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Joe Kelley, Counselor Toni Hendricks, Treasurer Shari Weldy, Public Works Director Dustin Davis, Code Enforcement 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. The following changes were requested:

- City Administrator: Remove: Personnel Committee
- New Business: Add: Personnel

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

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, to the Board for approval. The following change was requested:

- Public Works: Add: Going before swimmingly under Pool Update.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting with the aforementioned change, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

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. None brought forth.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax/Use Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax for December is \$219,318.16, that is up \$59,161.62 from the previous year, due in large part to the addition of the local park tax, and year to date sales tax is up \$482,267.47 from 2021. Use tax for December is \$15,437.57, that is up \$917.98 from last year, and year to date use tax is ahead \$118,963.01 from 2021.
- **Audit Agreement.** Kelley requested authorization to sign the agreement with KPM CPAs and Advisors, for the City's yearly audit for 2022. Alderman Fairchild moved to authorize the City Administrator to sign the agreement with KPM CPAs and Advisors for the City of Mount Vernon audit, year ending December 31, 2022, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.

Motion passed.

- **Electric Department Update.** Kelley reported ongoing discussions on a mutual aid with our Southwest Missouri Public Energy Pool (SWMPEP) partner, the City of Monett. This agreement will cover the following items: assistance with outages, small scale maintenance work, and other items related to electric distribution. After both parties have reviewed the agreement, it will be brought back to Council for final approval. Discussion was held.
- **City Hall.** Kelley informed the Board that Answered Pest Management, the City's pest control provider, has found termites in the area around the front door façade and elevator at City Hall. The perimeter of City Hall will be treated. The estimated cost of this treatment will be \$2,080.00. Discussion was held.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the bills paid report, with the addition of bills for MMET for \$4,905.10 and Evans Enterprises for \$544.05, and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Ratify Email Vote.** Weldy requested ratification of the email vote taken on January 17, 2023 to approve payment to Anderson Engineering for \$12,775.38. Alderwoman Lee moved to ratify the email vote on January 17, 2023 approving payment to Anderson Engineering in the amount of \$12,775.38, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

- **Bills over \$5,000.00.** Weldy then presented the bills over \$5,000.00 to the Board for approval, including an additional bill from B & L Waterworks for \$5,331.78. Alderman Beckley moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 including B & L Waterworks for \$5,331.78, seconded by Alderman Fairchild.

Motion passed.

- **Budget Amendments.** Weldy presented the Budget Amendment to the Board for approval. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve the budget adjustments that were presented and to reflect final audit adjustments, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.
Motion passed.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **Equipment Purchase.** Davis requested approval to trade-in the old backhoe and purchase a skid steer from Potter Equipment for \$38,088.00, this is a budgeted item. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to approve the trade-in of the backhoe and purchase the new skid steer for \$38,088.00, seconded by Alderman Gramm.
Motion passed.
- **Electric Department.** Davis requested approval to advertise for the Ground Hand position open in the Electric department. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to approving advertising for the ground hand position in the Electric Department, seconded by Alderman Beckley.
Motion passed.
- **Pool Update.** Davis reported the weather has been uncooperative as of late, however he stated there are valves coming in and they are going to be running wire. The pool house renovation is coming along. They are currently working on plumbing and electric.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore gave a brief update on current ongoing projects in the City and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.

Police

Chief Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistics for December 2022.** Hubert presented the statistics for December 2022 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. The following was brought up for discussion:

- **Police Department.** Kelley reported to the Board that the Police Department currently has several openings and no applicants, and he would like to propose increasing the starting wage for a patrol officer from the current \$17.50 per hour to \$19.35 per hour, an increase in the budget of about \$10,000, in order to be more competitive in the job market. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to increase the starting wage for

new officers by \$1.85 and authorize advertising at the increased wage for the positions, seconded by Alderman Fairchild.

Motion passed.

- **Personnel.** Chief Hubert requested to increase Assistant Chief Griffith's wage by \$1.00 per hour as part of his promotion. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to increase Assistant Chief of Police's wage by \$1.00 per hour, effective retroactively from January 24, 2023, seconded by Alderman Gramm.

Motion passed.

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 7:42 p.m.

Jason Haymes
Jason Haymes, Mayor

2/14/23
Date

Melissa Aduddle
Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

2/14/2023
Date

