



109 N Hickory St  
PO Box 70  
Mount Vernon, MO 65712  
Phone: 417.466.2122  
Fax: 417.466.2513

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE  
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022.**

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 13, 2022, 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, Marda Gramm, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Joe Kelley, Counselor Darlene Parrigon, 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:

- Treasurer: Add: Letters for Bad Debt, Special Sales Tax, Close Municipal Checking Account, Over \$5,000 Bill
- Treasurer: Change: Reimbursement Request 8 – MO Drive

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

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2022 meeting 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. None brought forth.

Ordinance

**Bill No. 2022-29 re:** An Ordinance establishing procedures and requirements for the issuance of administrative search warrants, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2022-29 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 1.304.

**Bill No. 2022-31 re:** An Ordinance annexing real property into the City limits of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2022-31 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 1.305.

**Bill No. 2022-32 re:** An Ordinance imposing a sales tax at a rate of three percent on all tangible personal property retail sales of adult use marijuana sold within the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri, pursuant to article XIV (14), Section 2.6(5) of the Missouri Constitution subject to the approval by the voters of the City at the General Municipal Election to be held on April 4, 2023; designating the form of ballot; and directing the City Clerk to provide notice of said election, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2022-32 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 5.193.

**Bill No. 2022-33 re:** An Ordinance approving and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri, on behalf of said City to enter into a power supply and administration agreement among Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission dba Missouri Electric Commission and the City as a member of the Southwest Missouri Public Energy Pool, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2022-33 was passed with the correction of Missouri in the title, by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 13.114.

## **Department Reports**

### **City Administrator**

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax/Use Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax for November is \$218,361.39, that is up \$27,791.00 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is up \$423,105.85 from 2021. Use tax for November is \$25,231.01, that is up \$11,466.14 from last year, and year to date use tax is ahead \$118,045.03 from 2021.
- **2023 Budget.** Kelley stated that if there were no questions, clarifications, or comments on the proposed 2023 Budget and summary that were presented at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, then he would request approval of the 2023 Budget. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm moved to approve the 2023 Budget, ending December 31, 2023, and to appropriate the funds for the identified expenses, seconded by Alderman Fairchild. Motion passed.
- **Property & General Liability Insurance.** Kelley informed the Board that the City's property and general liability insurance premium for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, is \$198,140.00. This is an increase of 8.6 percent over last year. The increase is due to inflation, budget changes, and increasing Sovereign Immunity limits. Discussion was



held. Alderman Fairchild moved to authorize the City Administrator to sign the property and general liability insurance policy, including the terrorism coverage, and approval to appropriate funds for the premium, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

- **Spirit of '76 Park: Pool House.** Kelley reported that on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, City staff had a conference call with Westport Pools, regarding the bathhouse renovation portion of the project. Westport Pools informed us the original funding allocation of \$400,000 will not cover the cost of the redesign. Westport Pools has solicited subcontractors and the cost for the redesign is \$713, 568.00. This is an increase of \$313,568.00 over the original allocation. Westport Pools has discussed options to reduce costs with their subcontractor, by eliminating some of the bathrooms. If the Board elects to increase the funding amount for the bathhouse this will reduce the estimated \$2.9 million available on the remaining park buildout, and they stated the bathhouse renovation could go into summer. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to approve the original bathhouse design and the extra cost of \$313,568.00, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Spirit of '76 Park – Park Buildout.** Kelley informed the Board that Olsson Engineering has scheduled the park plan to be complete at the end of January 2023. The bidding process will begin after the City's final review and comments. Discussion was held.
- **Highway 39 Interchange.** Kelley stated that in an effort to promote and assist in economic development on the south side of the I-44. This year's budget contained funding in the amount of \$356,000 for work at the intersection on South Highway 39. This work is around Orschlen's Farm Supply and the new travel center. Wilmoth Oil Company has received two invoices from their contractor, Dirtworx. The first invoice is for design meetings, construction oversight and MoDOT coordination, totaling \$6,786.87, and the second invoice is for construction work related to the interchange being completed by subcontractor, Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., totaling \$176,775.24. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to reimburse Wilmoth Oil Company the sum of \$183,562.11 for intersection improvements along south Highway 39, to promote and assist in economic development and authorize the Treasurer to write the check, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

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.
- **Bills over \$5,000.00.** Weldy then presented the bills over \$5,000.00 to the Board for approval, including the addition of one to Southern Uniform & Tactical. Alderwoman Thrasher moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 to include Southern Uniform & Tactical for \$10,371.20, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Reimbursement Request 8 – Missouri Drive.** Weldy informed the Board that she is requesting approval for the City Administrator to sign off on Reimbursement Request 8 for Missouri Drive. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm moved to approve the City Administrator sign off on Reimbursement Request 8 for Missouri Driver for \$230,413.06, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Motion passed.

- **Investments.** Weldy informed the Board that bids were sent out for a \$327,000.00 Electric Fund CD that has matured. Mid-Missouri Banks, Simmon's Bank, and Old Missouri Bank submitted bids. Weldy recommended leaving it at Old Missouri Bank at 4.89% interest. Alderman Fairchild moved to roll over the Electric Fund CD at Old Missouri Bank at 4.89% for twelve (12) months, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Motion passed

- **Bad Debt.** Weldy requested approval to write off a total of \$5,938.09 in bad debt in utilities. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to write off \$5,938.09 in bad debt in Incode, sending \$5,872.75 to online collections, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher.

Motion passed.

- **Past Due Letters.** Weldy informed the Board that letters for unpaid utility bills in the amount of \$4,632.81, had been mailed to customers. Discussion was held.
- **Special Sales Tax.** Weldy stated that all budgeted transfers have been made from Special Sales Tax to the Water and Wastewater for the year. There is still \$21,46.83 left from November revenue and approximately \$44,000.00 from December for an approximate total of \$65,436.83. Discussion was held.
- **Municipal Court Checking Account.** Weldy requested to close the municipal court checking account. The account isn't used since the State moved everyone to Show-Me Courts, and has a balance of \$3.00. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to close the municipal court checking account at Simmon's Bank, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.

Motion passed.

#### Director of Public Works

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **Electric Department – Pole Replacement.** Davis requested approval to hire BBC Electric to complete several tasks in the City, including replacing a few electric poles and hauling and setting a large pad mount transformer for TA. Discussion was held. Alderman Gramm moved to approve hiring BBC Electric to replace poles and set a transformer for a total of \$21,196.64 and for the Treasurer to write the check, seconded by Alderman Fairchild.
- Motion passed.
- **Equipment Purchase – Contract Backhoes.** Davis requested to purchase two state contract bid backhoes from Potter Equipment, with trade-in, for a total of \$25,000.00. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve purchasing a standard backhoe for \$9,000.00 and an extend-a-hoe for \$16,000.00 from Potter Equipment and for the Treasurer to write the checks, seconded by Alderman Beckley.



Motion passed.

- **Equipment Purchase – Administrative Vehicle.** Davis requested approval to purchase a Chevrolet Equinox from Steve Dowdy Motors for an administrative vehicle for staff to use as transportation. Discussion was held. Alderman Phillips moved to purchase the Chevrolet Equinox from Steve Dowdy Motors for 18,450.00 and for the Treasurer to write the check, seconded by Alderman Nelson.

Motion passed.

- **Equipment Purchase – Replacement Truck.** Davis requested approval to purchase a Dodge Ram 2500 from Steve Dowdy Motors to replace the Public Works Director's vehicle that is in disrepair. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to purchase the truck from Steve Dowdy Motors for \$34,950.00 and for the Treasurer to write the check, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Motion passed.

- **Pool Update.** Davis gave the Board an update on the pool renovation project. Davis stated that there have been weather issues as of late, however all the concrete has been poured and the project is still running on schedule. Discussion was held.

#### Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **November 2022 Permit Report.** Moore presented the Permit Report for November 2022 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.
- **Lot Split – 402 & 410 E Division.** Moore stated there are two houses on one lot and the owner would like to split them. The lots would not meet the current lot size the Municipal Code requires. Moore stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission recommends approving the lot split request. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee moved to accept the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission for the lot split in the Sloan's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition Subdivision, seconded by Alderman Gramm.

Motion passed.

#### Police

Chief Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistics for November 2022.** Hubert presented the statistics for November 2022 to the Board for review and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Employment.** Hubert reported that Assistant Chief Jason Lacey has taken early retirement after 27 years in law enforcement. His dedicated service to the City of Mount Vernon is appreciated, and wish him all the best in his new endeavor with Burlington Northern.

#### Old Business

Mayor Haymes requested any old business to be brought to the floor for discussion. The following item was present:

- Mr. Kelley posed the question to the Board, inquiring about cancelling the regularly scheduled meeting on December 27, 2022. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm moved to cancel December 27, 2022 Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Gramm.

#### New Business

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

#### Closed Session

Alderman Phillips moved to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Section 610.021 (2) Real Estate, (3) Personnel, and (1) Litigation, RSMo. 2018, seconded by Alderman Beckley. The following roll call vote was recorded:

AYES: Beckley, D. Gramm, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, M. Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned for closed session at 8:04 p.m.

#### Reconvene from Closed Session

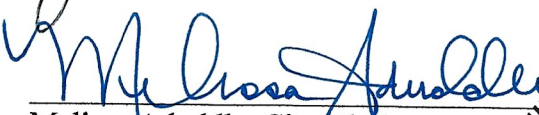
Meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m. Mayor Haymes determined all Aldermen that were present for closed session adjournment had returned to the meeting.

#### 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 8:42 p.m.

  
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Jason Haymes, Mayor

1 / 10 / 23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

1/10/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

