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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri met in a regularly scheduled meeting, at the regular place of meeting, 109 N Hickory Street, on Tuesday, November 14, 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, Logan Phillips, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Joe Kelley, Public Works Director Dustin Davis, Code Enforcement Terry Moore, Chief of Police Dave Hubert, Counselor Toni Hendricks, and Treasurer/Intern City Clerk Shari Weldy.

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. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve the agenda with following changes,

- Personal to Personnel

seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley.

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, to the Board for approval. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2023, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. The following vote was recorded:

AYES: Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips,

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Lee

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Citizen Participation

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

Brittani Bates thanked Joe Kelley for coming to the Tractor Supply Company grand opening and to the Mayor Jason Haymes for being at the Chamber office with a meeting with the Office of Missouri State Treasurer Vivek Malek.

Public Hearing – Transportation Grant

Weldy stated that we were not required per Mo DOT regulations - If no person(s) request to give either oral or written evidence and recommendations three days prior to public hearing, the applicant is not required to hold the public hearing.

The City of Mount Vernon, Missouri is applying for a grant of \$ 331,900.99 under Section 5311 of title 49, United States Code, to assist in financing a public transportation project. This will include \$88,000.00 Capital and \$243,900.99 Operating budget for 2024-2026 state fiscal years. The applicant affirms that the data shown in this application is true and correct.

Ordinance

Bill No. 2023-16 re: First and second reading of an ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to apply for Federal Financial Assistance on Behalf of the City of Mt. Vernon and to Execute any Contract(S) Resulting from such application for any Grants between the City of Mt. Vernon and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for Capital, Operating, and/or Marketing Assistance, Comprised of Federal Funds to be Expended for Commission Approved Transit Projects.

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2023-17 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 14.357.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax for October is \$187,130.18 that is up \$26,633.04 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$88,830.67 from 2022. Use tax for October is \$19,294.00 that is down \$20,206.92 from 2022, and year to date use tax is ahead \$44,349.47 from 2022. Park tax for October is \$46,609.74 that is up \$6,927.83 from 2022, and year to date Park tax was up \$207,676.08 from 2022.
- **Utility Billing Clerk.** Westi Davis has completed the required three-month probationary period and is recommended to be moved to full-time status. Alderman Steve Fairchild made a motion to move Westi Davis from probationary status to full time status in the position of Utility Billing Clerk, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

- **Employee Health Insurance for 2024.** Kelley stated that he received three quotes for health insurance for 2024. The current provider is Cox Health with a renewal cost increase of \$102,707.00. Cigna Health offered a plan with similar benefits to the city's current plan, with the exception, the plan is open access to both Cox and Mercy Facilities. This option would be \$10,514.00 over the current plan. United Health Care option is different to the current plan and is an age-based rate structure, lower annual deductible, lower out of pocket expenses and an increase cost to the employees for prescriptions. For example, an employee currently taking a monthly Tier 4 medication would spend \$1200.00 a year, under the current plan or the proposed Cigna plan, whereas under the United Health Care plan this prescription would cost the employee \$3,600.00 per year. This plan is offered at \$45,362.00 under the current city plan. Kelley recommendation for this year's health care go to Cigna Health at an increased cost of \$10,514.00, this plan will allow the employee the option of Cox and Mercy healthcare providers and does not place the additional cost of prescriptions on the employees. Alderwoman Sue Lee made motion to move to Cigna Health Insurance, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.
- **MoDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Update.** Kelley stated that the city is working with OWN Inc. on the design and construction documents for the Hickory Street sidewalk improvement project. OWN Inc. has established the following tentative schedule for the project.

 - Finish survey work: November 2023
 - Complete right of way plans: December 20~~23~~²³
 - Plans, Specifications and Estimate documents: June 2024
 - Release project for bidding: August 2024
- **November 28th and December 26th Council meetings.** Kelley stated that the meeting on November 28, 2023, is also the same time as the Christmas parade and the Christmas on the square event, so parking might be limited. Kelley also pointed out that December 26, 2023, meeting is the day after Christmas. Kelley asked do they wanted to have a meeting on these two dates. Lowell Phillips made a motion to cancel meeting on November 28, 2023, and determine on December 12, 2023, if the meeting on December 26, 2023, will be cancelled, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. 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 for October and November to the Board for approval. Discussion was held. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 for October and November, seconded by Alderman Dallas Gramm. Motion passed.

- **Additional over \$5,000.00.** Weldy asked since we would not meet until December 12, 2023, for a motion to pay final payment to Rob Building after completion. Alderman Logan Phillips made motion to approve the final payment to Rob Building after completion as determined by Dustin's inspection and approval, seconded by Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.
- **Reimbursement #20 – 76 Park.** Weldy requested approval for the City Administrator to sign off on Reimbursement #20 – 76 Park in the amount of \$149,695.30. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve City Administrator to sign off on Reimbursement #20–76 Park for \$149,695.30, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

Public Works Report

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **WWTP Update.** Davis stated that we received a quote from Hillhouse Services to anchor a mixer that broke loose from the bottom of the South oxidation ditch for \$8,840.00. Alderman Steve Fairchild made a motion for Hillhouse services to re-anchor the mixer in the south oxidation ditch for \$8,840.00, seconded alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.
- **MARC – Equipment Repair.** Davis asked to have Heller Heat & Air replace a bad compressor that Heller Heat & Air originally installed on the south end of gym, the cost would be \$8,011.00.
Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve Heller Heat & Air to replace compressor for \$8,011.00, seconded by Alderman Dallas Gramm. Motion passed.
- **Electric Department: Personnel and Equipment Purchase.** Davis stated that we recently had a lineman quit and need to advertise for the opening. Alderman Steve Fairchild made a motion to advertise for a Journeyman Lineman, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.
Davis is also asking for approval to purchase a 167 KVA single phase pad mount transformer to upgrade electric service at 207 N Market Street (Brightspeed) for \$11,016.00. Alderman Steve Fairchild made a motion to purchase a 167 KVA single phase pad mount transformer, seconded by Alderman Dallas Gramm. Motion passed.
- **Parks Department Maintenance Shop Update.** Davis stated that Rob Building was to start building the park maintenance shop at the end of this week and will have it built in seven to ten days.
- **Public Works Equipment Purchase.** Davis stated that the city was looking to purchase Backhoes one for Street Department for \$9,000.00 and another that will be split with Electric and Water department for \$16,000.00 from Potter Equipment. Alderman Dallas Gramm made a motion to purchase two backhoes for \$25,000.00, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.

Code Enforcement Report

- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission had a public hearing on November 7, 2023, for the Resub division of Land where the new park maintenance building will be built. The city had the land surveyed by Aaron Auston and added a half-acre to the parcel. Moore stated that an ordinance will be coming before the council.
- Moore reported that at the Planning and Zoning meeting he presented a new proposal for the Nuisance ordinance that he is working on and will be bringing back a final draft to replace the current ordinance.
- **October 2023 Permit Report.** Moore presented the Permit Report for October 2023 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.

Police

- **October 2023 Stats.** Chief Hubert presented the Stat Report for October 2023 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.
- **Car update.** Chief Hubert updated the council about the cars he ordered in 2022 stating they told him the cars were to be built in December.

Old Business

None

Committee Reports

Special Committee Report

- Alderman Lowell Phillips stated that the minutes to the meeting that was held on November 2, 2023, would be attached to the minutes of tonight's meeting. Alderman Lowell Phillips stated the committee recommended to lease out the billboard at a cost of \$200.00 per month. Next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2023. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to accept the minutes from November 2, 2023. Minutes have been approved.

Personnel Committee Report

- Alderman Steve Fairchild stated that the minutes to the meeting that was held on October 30, 2023, would be attached to the minutes of tonight' meeting. Alderman Steve Fairchild stated the committee recommended to give the employees a pay raise for most city employees 3.5% to exclude the apprentice lineman program. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to accept the minutes from October 30, 2023. Minutes have been approved.
- Alderman Steve Fairchild stated that the committee interviewed three people out of four for the position of City Clerk on November 6, 2023. Alderman Steve Fairchild stated the committee recommended hiring April Hale for the City Clerk position. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to accept the minutes from November 6, 2023. Minutes have been approved.

Finance Committee Report

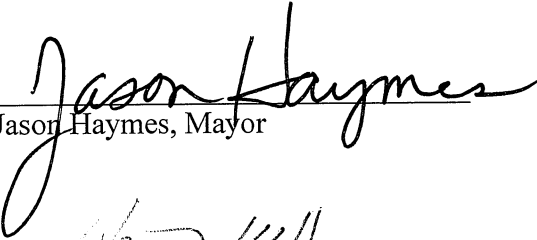
- Alderwoman Sue Lee stated that the Finance Committee ^{met} ~~meet~~ on November 7, 2023, to discuss the 2024 Budget. Alderwoman Sue Lee also stated that the committee will be meeting again on November 16, 2023.

New Business

Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to hire April Hale for City Clerk pending background check and drug test, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

Adjournment

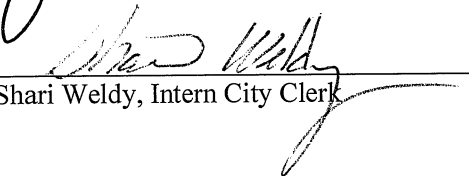
Mayor Haymes announced there being no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Jason Haymes, Mayor

12/12/23

Date



Shari Weldy, Intern City Clerk

12/12/23

Date