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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, December 12, 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, City Attorney Toni Hendricks, Treasurer Shari Weldy, and City Clerk April Hale.

Guests registering their attendance are listed on the sign in sheet attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Haymes presented the agenda to the Board for approval. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, to the Board for approval. Alderman Scott Beckley moved to approve the minutes, with proposed mentioned changes, from the November 14, 2023, Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. The following vote was recorded:

Mentioned changes: under MoDOT change December 203 to 2023; wherever minutes say Aldermam change to Alderman; under Finance Committee Report change meet to met.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Citizen Participation

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

Kim Simkins presented a complaint about Doty Trash. She would like the City to review the guidelines of the current contract.

Ordinances

Bill No. 2023-18 re: First and second reading of AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY RE-SUBDIVIDING THE LOTS TO MOVE THE BOUNDARY LINE. PART OF: LOT 2, BLOCK 14, MT. VERNON ORIGINAL SURVEY, AND GOVERNMENT LOT 1, SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL QUARTER SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 28 NORTH, RANGE 26 WEST, LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSOURI.

First Reading:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2023-18 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 1.312.

Revised Ordinance Numbers: First and second reading of AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING THE CITY CLERK TO CORRECT ORDINANCE NUMBERS 14.353, 1.309, and 14.354 FOR CLERICAL ERRORS IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND CONFUSION.

First Reading:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Revised Ordinance Numbers were passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Numbers 14.353 is now 14.358, 1.309 is now 1.311, and 14.354 is now 14.359.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Report

- Alderwoman Sue Lee stated that the Finance Committee met on December 7, 2023, to discuss the 2024 Budget and she read aloud the committee report in full.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax for November is \$183,692.59 that is up \$8,956.55 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$97,787.22 from 2022. Use tax for November is \$37,216.47 that is up \$11,985.46 from 2022, and year to date use tax is ahead \$56,334.93 from 2022. Park tax for November is \$43,389.82 that is down \$235.53 from 2022, and year to date Park tax is up \$207,440.55 from 2022.
- **2024 Budget.** Kelley presented the 2024 budget and summary and asked if there were any questions, clarifications, or comments. Alderman Steve Fairchild made motion for the board to approve the 2024 Budget, ending December 31, 2024, and appropriate the funds for identified expenses, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.
- **520 North Spring Park Blvd. – House Bid.** Kelley stated the City had advertised for the sale and removal of a single-family home located at 520 North Spring Park Boulevard. The bid advertisement was published in the Lawrence County Record on October 4th and 11th, 2023, with the sealed bid opening scheduled for November 15th, 2023. One bid packet was distributed, and the property was shown twice by the Public Works Department. At the November 15th bid opening, no bids were received. The City did receive a verbal proposal after the bid opening and Kelley asked if the group could put the proposal in writing. The group, after additional review of the project, withdrew their verbal proposal due to the cost associated with relocating and reestablishing the house. Kelley stated City will revisit demo details and review cost. Alderwoman Sue Lee asked if demo has to be completed in 2024 or if it could wait until after 2024, since this demo was not put in the 2024 budget.
- **Property and General Liability Insurance.** Kelley presented the 2024 property and general liability insurance quote of \$223,976.00. Alderwoman Sue Lee made motion to authorize the City Administrator to sign the insurance policy, including the terrorism coverage, and approval to appropriate funds for the premium of \$223,976.00, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.
- **December 26th Council meeting.** Kelley asked if they needed to have a meeting on December 26, 2023. Alderman Lowell Phillips made a motion to cancel the meeting on December 26, 2023, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the November & December 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 November and December to the Board for approval.

Alderman Scott Beckley moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 for November & December, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

- **Reimbursement #21 – 76 Park.** Weldy requested approval for the City Administrator to sign off on Reimbursement #21 – 76 Park in the amount of \$117,662.25. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve City Administrator to sign off on Reimbursement #21– 76 Park for \$117,662.25, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.
- **Investment Bids.** Weldy requested approval to keep the Electric CD maturity at Old Missouri at 5.38%. Alderwoman Sue Lee moved to keep the Electric CD maturity at Old Missouri at 5.38%, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.
- **Write off bad debt.** Weldy requested approval to write off bad debt of \$5,512.52 (Incode and Online debt collection). Alderman Scott Beckley moved to approve to write off bad debt of \$5,512.52, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.
- **Destruction of Invoices from 2019.** Weldy requested approval for permission to destroy the invoices from 2019. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve the destruction of the invoices from 2019, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.

Public Works Report

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **Electric Department Equipment Purchase.** Davis asked for approval to purchase a Three Phase Pad Mount 500KVA transformer for the park expansion for \$25,495 and informed of the 16-18 week lead time, reminding it was for next year's budget. Alderman Logan Phillips made a motion to approve the purchase of a Three Phase Pad Mount 500KVA transformer for the park expansion for \$25,495, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips.

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

NAYS: Gramm

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Passed.

- **Parks Department Maintenance Building Update.** Davis stated Robb's Portable Buildings dropped off building materials 12/8/2023. Construction began on 12/11/2023.

Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Moore held discussion of the following items:

- **November 2023 Permit Report.** Moore presented the Permit Report for November 2023 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.
- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore reported there was no Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held in December 2023. Moore mentioned that he and City Attorney Toni Hendricks met on December 5, 2023, to discuss a future Nuisance municipal code change.

Police

- **November 2023 Stats.** Chief Hubert presented the Stat Report for November 2023 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.

Old Business

None

New Business

Citizen, Paula Brockwell, wanted to commend Shari Weldy for her excellent work filling in as the Interim City Clerk, as well as training the new City Clerk.

Closed Session

Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:45 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021(3) Personnel, (1) Legal Actions, & (17) Confidential Communications Between Government and Auditor, RSMo., seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. The following roll call vote was recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Discussion was held.


No votes taken; unanimous roll call vote to adjourn close meeting at 9:10 pm. (Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Lee)

Reconvene from Closed Session

Meeting reconvened at 9:11 p.m. Mayor Haymes determined all Aldermen, who were present for closed session adjournment, had returned to the meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Haymes announced there was no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.



 Lowell Phillips, Acting President

1-9-24

 Date



 April Hale, City Clerk

1-9-24

 Date

