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## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

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, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Haymes with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Steve Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, 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 David Hubert, Legal Counsel Beth Crosland, Treasurer Shari Weldy, and City Clerk April Hale. Absent: Alderman Dallas Gramm.

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, proposing one change to move the Police Department Report up under the Treasurer Report. 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, January 23, 2024, to the Board for approval. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024, Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Alderwoman Sue Lee abstained. Motion passed.

### **Citizen Participation**

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

Geoff Ford, City of Mount Vernon Parks Supervisor, wanted to Thank all involved in getting the Parks Maintenance Shop completed, including but not limited to: Dustin Davis, Joe Kelley, City of Mount Vernon Electric Department staff, City of Mount Vernon Public Works staff, and Shari Weldy.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **The MARC Committee Report**

- Alderwoman Sherie Thrasher read aloud the committee report minutes of the meeting that was held on January 31, 2024. Report is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Haymes moved to approve the committee report of The MARC Committee Report and to accept the recommendations of the report. Motion passed.



## **Department Reports**

### **City Administrator**

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Hickory Street Sidewalk.** Kelley reported the City received Pay Request #2 prepared by Own Inc (formerly Anderson Engineering) for design work on the Hickory Street Sidewalk project. This is a 75% federal and 25% local grant funded project through the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Alderman Logan Phillips made motion for the board to authorize the City Administrator to sign the MoDOT reimbursement request #2 in the amount of \$7,464.66 for design work on the Hickory Street Sidewalk Project, seconded by Alderman Craig Nelson. Motion passed.
- **Fuel Bid.** Kelley reported on February 1st, 2024, the bid opening for City-owned and transit vehicles was held. Prior to the bid opening, the City directly solicited four local fuel suppliers, published the bid notice in the paper, and responded to three additional requests. At the bid opening, the City only received one bid, from Warsaw Oil Company Inc/Wilmoth Enterprises Inc, for the City transit vehicles. Because no bids were received for City-Owned vehicles, the City contacted Warsaw Oil Company Inc/Wilmoth Enterprises Inc (current fuel supplier) to see if they would extend the 2019 bid. Warsaw Oil Company Inc/Wilmoth Enterprises Inc will extend the 2019 bid. Kelley recommended the City use Warsaw Oil Company Inc/Wilmoth Oil Company Inc to supply fuel for City-Owned vehicles. Resolutions to be presented later in the meeting.
- **Missouri Drive.** Kelley reported the City's engineering firm, Own Inc, has been working with the County's design team to connect the future Lawrence County Health Department Building to the City sewer system. The connection will be complete with the installation of a pump station and forced main. Own Inc has reviewed the project and recommended Webtrol of St. Louis, Missouri as the pump supplier. Alderman Steve Fairchild made motion to authorize the purchase of the recommended sewer lift station from Webtrol of St. Louis, Missouri in the amount of \$9,642.83, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.
- **2021 Polar Vortex.** Kelley reported on March 9, 2021, the Board of Alderman voted to use electric reserve funds to cover cost associated with the 2021 Polar Vortex (also referred to as Winter Storm Uri), and to reimburse the reserve account by raising the fuel adjustment charge to 0.017024 cents over a five-year period or until repaid. During the ten-day storm event, wholesale electric market prices saw increases from \$20-\$30 per megawatt-hour (MWh) to \$4,000/MWh. These cost increases had a direct impact on the City's Electric Department of approximately \$1.5 million dollars. In February 2024, approximately two-years earlier than estimated, the reserve account has been reimbursed and the fuel adjustment charge will be returning to the pre-storm amount.

### **Treasurer**

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:



- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented January & February 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 January & February to the Board for approval.

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

- **City Administrator to sign Reimbursement – 76 Park.** Weldy requested approval for the City Administrator to sign Reimbursement to Branco for the Park Expansion in the amount of \$131,404.95. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve City Administrator to sign Reimbursement to Branco for the Park Expansion in the amount of \$131,404.95, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.

### Police

Chief David Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Patrol Vehicles.** Hubert reported one vehicle is ready and reminded the Board of Aldermen that the second vehicle was cancelled. Hubert reported that Jasper County had ordered two Interceptors, but they are declining their order. These two Interceptors are available to the City of Mount Vernon for purchase. Hubert proposed the City of Mount Vernon purchase all three vehicles, two of which are budgeted. Alderwoman Sue Lee made a motion to approve the purchase of one additional patrol vehicle for \$61,679.00 and authorize payment for all three vehicles in the total amount of \$149,650.00, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.
- **Med Calls.** Alderman Craig Nelson asked Hubert why he is getting called about our Police officers cancelling Med Calls and stated there has been three incidents in the last month reported to council members. Hubert reported the reason was COVID and not exposing his officers. Alderman Steve Fairchild and Alderman Logan Phillips also voiced concerns with cancelling Med Calls and mentioned the least expected would be to investigate. Alderman Logan Phillips asked if our Police Department would respond to the Med Calls moving forward. Hubert responded that he understood.

### Public Works Report

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **Golf Department Equipment Purchases.** Davis reported in April of 2023 the Cushman truckster, that the sprayer was on, broke down. The unit was shipped off to Kansas Golf and Turf Inc. The mechanics tried to get the unit running even with the help of Cushman Tech. Unfortunately, the truckster has been deemed unrepairable. The following bids have come in to replace the spray unit with 150-gallon turf trailer sprayer: S&H \$6,450 self-contained with engine on the front; S&H \$6,020 No engine on the front, PTO driven, limited to one piece of equipment, Reddick Equipment \$9,041.80. This is not a budgeted item. The liquid chemicals that were purchased in 2023 will be used for 2024 to make these funds available for this unbudgeted expense. Davis recommended using the liquid chemical funds to purchase the turf trailer sprayer from S&H. Davis is seeking to purchase a 150 gallon turf trailer sprayer for the golf course for \$6,450.00.



Davis is also seeking approval to purchase budgeted granular chemicals for \$13,040.60.

Alderdwoman Sue Lee moved to approve the purchase of a 150 gallon turf trailer sprayer for the golf course for \$6,450.00, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.

Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the purchase of the budgeted granular chemicals for \$13,040.60, seconded by Alderdwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

- **Parks Department.** Davis asked for approval to bring seasonal employee, Larry Boxx, back for 2024 at the supervisor's discretion pending background check and drug test. Alderman Logan Phillips made a motion to approve bringing back seasonal employee, Lary Boxx, for 2024 at the supervisor's discretion pending background check and drug test, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.
- **Update on Spirit of 76 Park Expansion.** Davis was asked to get an aerial shot of the Park Expansion project in progress. The picture was passed for viewing. Davis mentioned they are scheduling the electrical portion of the expansion for later this month or first of March. Project should wrap up in June.
- **Discussion on SWMO Project.** Davis reported he would soon be getting a Letter of Intent to present to the Board in April 2024. Dustin will need the Board to make a decision about whether to invest in the SWMO Project or not. Davis noted the investment would be approximately \$29,000/year commitment.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Mr. Moore held discussion of the following items:

- **January Permit Report.** Moore presented the January Permit report.
- **Nuisance Ordinance Review.** Moore presented the existing nuisance ordinance as well as the proposed repealed ordinance. Moore noted that the new ordinance is a combination of municipal codes from surrounding cities. The idea was to be able to give the ordinance more teeth for nuisances that are a continuing problem. Moore proposed adding more sections and enumerations that are specific to issues that are nuisances. Also, added the Notice Required for conviction. The property owner or person maintaining nuisance will be required to remedy nuisance after 10 days and upon inspection or if nuisance remains, the City may issue a citation which shall be prosecuted per Section 100.220. Section 100.220 is the penalty for violation of regulations which is punishable by a \$500.00 maximum fine and up to ninety (90) days in the County Jail. Moore reported he is working on this with our City Attorney, Toni Hendricks; and they intend to have a final Ordinance to present at the next board meeting for approval or denial. Moore reported there would be a numeration change to the weeds and tall grass section; and re-numbering of the section due to the addition of sections being added to this chapter of the code book.
- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore reported there was no Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held in February 2024 for lack of agenda items. Moore reported there have been two Public Hearing Notices published (1. Special Use Permit set for March 5, 2024 - Newspaper and property owners within 185 feet have been sent notifications) (2. Conditional Use Permit set for March 5, 2024 - Permit has been filed for



Group Residential Use in the B-2 District - Newspaper and property owners within 185 feet have been notified). The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on March 5, 2024.

### **Resolution**

**Bill No. 2024-01 re:** First and second reading of a Resolution of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri awarding a bid, for fuel for City-Owned vehicle purchases by the City, to Warsaw Oil Company Inc and Wilmoth Enterprises Inc upon the terms and conditions included in the bid packet and successful bid.

First Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Gramm

Second Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Gramm

Bill No. 2024-01 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the mayor for signature, thus becoming Resolution Number R2024-01.

**Bill No. 2024-02 re:** First and second reading of a Resolution of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri awarding a bid, for fuel for City-Owned Transit vehicle purchases by the City, to Warsaw Oil Company Inc and Wilmoth Enterprises Inc upon the terms and conditions included in the bid packet and successful bid.

First Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Gramm

Second Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Gramm

Bill No. 2024-02 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the mayor for signature, thus becoming Resolution Number R2024-02.

### **Old Business**

None

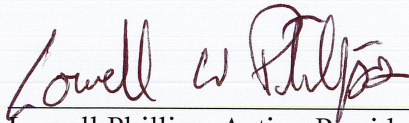


**New Business**

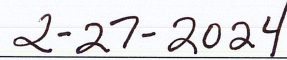
None

**Adjournment**

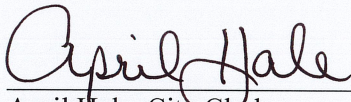
Mayor Haymes announced there was no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



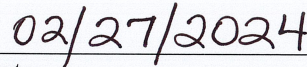
Lowell Phillips, Acting President



Date



April Hale, City Clerk



Date

