



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, FEBRUARY 27, 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 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Acting President Lowell Phillips with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Dallas Gramm, 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 David Hubert, City Attorney Toni Hendricks, Treasurer Shari Weldy, and City Clerk April Hale. Absent: Mayor Jason Haymes and Alderman Craig Nelson.

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

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Acting President Lowell Phillips presented the agenda to the Board for approval. Two changes were proposed: add one more invoice over \$5,000 under Treasurer and electrical department materials needed under public works. Alderman Scott Beckley moved to approve the agenda with mentioned changes, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

### **Presentation of Minutes**

Acting President Lowell Phillips presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, to the Board for approval. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2024, Board of Aldermen meeting, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Alderman Dallas Gramm abstained. Motion passed.

### **Citizen Participation**

Acting President Lowell Phillips announced this portion of the meeting was set aside to receive input from those in attendance.

### **Department Reports**

#### **City Administrator**

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax is \$192,561.20 that is up \$16,439.33 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$16,438.33 from 2023. Use tax is \$39,314.55 that is up \$13,200.46 from 2023, and year to date use tax is ahead \$13,200.46 from 2023. Park tax is \$49,376.71 that is up \$5,516.21 from 2023, and year to date Park tax is up \$5,516.21 from 2023.
- **City Administration: City Clerk.** Kelley reported the City Clerk has completed the required three (3) month probationary period, and it is recommended the city clerk be moved to full-time employment status. Alderman Steve Fairchild made motion to



authorize the City Clerk, April Hale, be moved from probationary status to full-time status, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.

- **City Administration: Building/Code Enforcement.** Kelley reported the City's Building and Code Enforcement officer, Terry Moore, after 5-plus years of service, has announced he will be retiring at the end of June 2024. Alderman Logan Phillips made motion to authorize the beginning of the search to fill the position of Building and Code Enforcement officer, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.
- **Chamber Banquet.** Kelley reported the Mt. Vernon Area Chamber of Commerce annual membership banquet will be held on March 2, 2024, at the Southern Charm Estate (11189 State Hwy K, Mt Vernon). The event will start at 6:00 p.m.
- **Municipal Code Amendments.** Kelley reported that two Bills would be read one time later in the meeting for municipal code amendments that are needed as follows:
  - Bill No. 2024-03: The Supreme Court of Missouri issued a mandate on June 17, 2021, that, as of July 1, 2021, the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund (SRF) surcharge of \$3.00 will not be assessed on new dispositions.
  - Bill No. 2024-04: With the establishment of the Mt Vernon Fire Protection District in 2018, the appointment of a Fire Chief, by the Mayor with approval of the Board of Aldermen, is not necessary.

### **Treasurer**

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented 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 February & March to the Board for approval, adding one additional invoice from CW Pump and Controls LLC for \$6,371.40.

Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 for February & March with the addition of one additional invoice from CW Pump and Controls LLC for \$6,371.40, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

### **Public Works Report**

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- **Wastewater Equipment Repair.** Davis reported in November 2023 the East clarifier became unbalanced due to wear and tear damage on the main drive bearings. The following were solicited for repairs: Hillhouse Services – Unable to bid, CW Pumps – No bid, Veolia - \$156,371.26. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve Veolia to repair the East clarifier for \$156,371.26, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.
- **Electric Department Contract Labor.** Davis asked for approval to have BBC Electric extend the three phase line from East St to the concession stand in the park expansion for \$44,520.00. BBC will include all labor, equipment, 11 poles set to depth, 4 sets of anchors, 6500' of #4 ACSR wire pulled in sagged, clipped and dead



ended in a reasonable amount of time weather permitting. For the underground portion BBC will be installing the conduit, pulling the wire, terminating cables, and install risers at dead end pole. Mt Vernon Electric will open the ditch, backfill, and provide underground materials. Alderwoman Sue Lee made a motion to approve having BBC Electric extend the three phase line from East St to the concession stand for the park expansion for \$44,520.00, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. Motion passed.

Davis asked for approval to purchase electrical materials including load break elbows, contacts, termination kits, cable in duct, and underground wire for a total of \$40,917.50. Half of the electrical materials will be used in the Park Expansion project and the other half will be used for the Health Department project. Alderman Scott Beckley made a motion to approve the purchase of electrical materials totaling \$40,917.50, seconded by Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.

- **Parks Department Contract Labor.** Davis asked for approval to have Westport Pools do the Spring opening and winterizing of the pool for \$7,280.00 for the 2024 season. Alderman Logan Phillips made motion to approve to have Westport Pools do the spring opening and winterization of the pool for \$7,280.00 for the 2024 season, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.

Davis asked for approval to purchase three new Cub Cadet Mowers and two pruning saws through S&H Farm Supply in the amount of \$33,391.74. Alderman Logan Phillips made motion to approve the purchase of three new Cub Cadet Mowes and two pruning saws through S&H Farm Supply in the amount of \$33,391.74, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.

Davis asked for approval to advertise for two seasonal parks positions. Alderwoman Sue Lee made motion to approve to advertise for two seasonal parks positions, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

### **Code Enforcement Report**

Mr. Moore held discussion of the following items:

- **Code Enforcement Report.** Moore reported the Mountaintop homes are starting to progress with the project on South McCanse. The office building has footings, slab on grade, framing completed, and roof almost complete. Building 1 has footings complete, slab on grade completed, and started framing exterior walls on first floor. Building 2 has probably about 50% of the footings poured. The utility contractor is working on underground piping for drainage, sewer, and domestic water & fire lines. Health Department has started the project on 1549 Missouri Drive. The General Contractor is Branco Construction. Grading work for the building is completed and they are starting footing work. Clark Mental Health Care 1001 E Daniel Drive has started the construction of the New Health Care facility. R E Smith is the General Contractor. We have 7 new houses under construction. Four in phase two of the new subdivision off Hayward Dr and Landrum; and one in phase one. Two houses are being built off Kori Court North of the High School.



Special Use permit public hearing, for barb wire fence, March 5, 2024 at City Hall at 5:00 p.m. as well as a Conditional Use permit public hearing on the same day and time, for group residential in B-2 District at City Hall.

### **Police**

Chief David Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistics for January 2024.** Hubert reported statistics for January 2024 and provided January 2023 for comparison.
- **Police Cars.** Alderman Lowell Phillips asked for an update on the new cars. Hubert reported that the three new police cars are currently being outfitted.
- **Med Calls.** Alderman Steve Fairchild wanted to show appreciation to the police department for responding to Med calls since the last meeting.

### **Resolution**

**Bill No. 2024-03 re:** One reading of an ordinance amending the Mount Vernon Municipal Code at Section 125.320 to reflect the current court costs by removing the assessment at paragraph (13) to the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund.

Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Nelson

Bill No. 2024-03 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the acting president for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 14.360.

**Bill No. 2024-04 re:** One reading of an ordinance amending the Mount Vernon Municipal Code at Section 115.020 by deleting "fire chief" to reflect that the mayor of the City of Mount Vernon does not appoint the fire chief.

Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Nelson

Bill No. 2024-04 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the acting president for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 1.313.

**Bill No. 2024-05 re:** First and seconding reading of an ordinance repealing nuisance sections and replacing said sections with enumerated nuisances, authorizing prosecution and abatement by the City at the violator's cost.

First Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Nelson



Second Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Nelson

Bill No. 2024-05 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the acting president for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 2.209.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

Acting President Lowell Phillips announced there was no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jason Haymes  
Jason Haymes, Mayor

3/12/24  
Date

April Hale  
April Hale, City Clerk

3/12/2024  
Date

