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MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 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, March 12, 2024, 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, Steve Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Joe Kelley, Code Enforcement Terry Moore, Chief of Police David Hubert, Treasurer Shari Weldy, and City Clerk April Hale. Absent: Public Works Director Dustin Davis and City Attorney Toni Hendricks.

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 two new headings under City Administrator, IT/Computer Infrastructure & Area Road Work. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve the agenda with the mentioned changes, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, to the Board for approval. Alderman Steve Fairchild wanted Terry Moore mentioned by name under the City Administrator's minutes and Mayor Haymes requested the name removed from the notes under Electric Dept Contract Labor. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024, Board of Aldermen meeting with both mentioned changes, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.

Citizen Participation

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

- Brittnei Bates thanked the City for their participation at the Chamber Banquet, mentioning the Banquet brought in approximately \$8,400.
- Brittnei Bates invited anyone interested to attend the next meeting of the Coalition of Charities in May. The Coalition meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Church of Christ fellowship hall in Mount Vernon, MO, mentioning the April meeting is cancelled.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax is \$169,058.04 that is up \$10,385.15 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$26,824.48 from 2023. Use tax is

\$22,224.75 that is down (-\$39,845.68) from 2023, and year to date use tax is down (-\$26,645.22) from 2023. Park tax is \$42,517.16 that is up \$2,477.57 from 2023, and year to date Park tax is up \$7,993.78 from 2023.

- **Emergency Aid Agreement.** Kelley reported the Missouri Veterans Commission/Missouri Veterans Home- Mt. Vernon, has asked the City if they would consider an agreement establishing a temporary evacuation location at The MARC. This would be a one (1) year agreement with a provision to renew for up to four (4) years. City records indicate we had a renewal agreement in place from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. If the Council agrees to enter into an Emergency Aid Agreement with the Missouri Veterans Commission, the agreement will be reviewed by the City's legal counsel and brought back to Council for formal approval at the next meeting. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the City Administrator to establish an agreement with the Missouri Veterans Commission/Missouri Veterans Home – Mt. Vernon for The MARC to be a temporary evacuation location if needed, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips.
- **IT/Computer Infrastructure.** City Hall and the Police Department have been experiencing issues with the phone system. The inbound portion of the calls have been intermittent and sometimes almost impossible to hear. Over the last several months, staff have been working with our IT Company and the phone provider to locate the problem, and currently the issue is not resolved. We are working with our IT company to test a new VoIP phone for better data transfer.
The 2024 budget contains \$30,000 in funding to replace the current sever at City Hall. However, with the current phone issue, I would recommend using this funding once a solution is found. The current server will continue to be monitored and will be scheduled for replacement in the future.
Many of our computer infrastructure components are nearing their “end of use” point. This includes the servers, server components, and workstation pc units. Several departmental pc units were replaced out of necessity. For example, the administrative office had a non-recoverable hard drive failure, the Public Works office was experiencing start-up problems, and the connection port on the unit in finance failed. The Police Department has also experienced problems with workstation pcs and has budgeted for replacements in 2024.
- **Area Road Work.** MoDOT's 2024 Construction Guide has the following projects listed, these projects are located outside the City limits, but will impact travel into town. Estimated construction time is 120 days:
 - Route 39: Replace Bridge over Truitt Creek north of Mt. Vernon
 - Route 39: Bridge over Honey Creek South of Mt. Vernon
- **Swimming Pool.** Alderman Craig Nelson mentioned he had been approached by a few people asking about the Pool. He stressed to start preparations so that we are not running behind schedule. Kelley agreed.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented February & March 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.
Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 for February & March, seconded by Alderwoman Sue Lee. Motion passed.
- **City Administrator to sign Reimbursement 24 – 76 Park.** Weldy requested approval for the City Administrator to sign Reimbursement 24 to Branco for the Park Expansion in the amount of \$318,472.30. Alderman Logan Phillips moved to approve City Administrator to sign Reimbursement to Branco for the Park Expansion in the amount of \$318,472.30, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.
- **Bad Debt Letters.** Weldy reported she has mailed bad debt letters in the amount of \$11,920.93
- **Budget Amendments 2023.** Weldy requested approval to make the necessary budget amendments for 2023 in line with the final audit adjustments needed. Alderwoman Sue Lee moved to approve the Treasurer to make the necessary budget amendments for 2023 in line with the final audit adjustments needed, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley.

Public Works Report

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Golf Course: Seasonal Personnel.** Kelley asked for approval to bring seasonal employees, Jessie Burton, John Freitag, and Michael Faucett, back for the 2024 season pending their drug tests. Alderwoman Sue Lee made a motion to approve bringing back seasonal employees, Jessie Burton, John Freitag, and Michael Faucett, for the 2024 season pending their drug tests, seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion passed.

Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Moore held discussion of the following items:

- **February Permit Report.** Moore presented the February Permit report.
- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore reported the Planning & Zoning Committee met last Tuesday for two public hearings. There is now a 14-day protest period. Next Board meeting he will present two Ordinances for permits.

Police

Chief David Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistics for February 2024.** Hubert presented the statistics for February 2024 and provided February 2023 for comparison.
- **New Police Officer.** Hubert introduced the newest police officer, Jonathan “Nick” Steinmetz. Hubert stated Nick is a hero, he has served our country, is a purple heart recipient, and now he is serving our community.

Closed Session

Mayor Haymes moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:29 p.m. pursuant to Section 610.021 (3) Personnel & (1) Legal Actions, RSMo. Motion to adjourn to closed session made by

Aldерwoman Sherie Thrasher, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. 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 to adjourn to closed session passed.

City Attorney Toni Hendricks joined closed session via speaker phone at 7:34 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Aldерwoman Sue Lee moved to take Chief Hubert's recommendation to dismiss police officer, Drew Miller before the end of his probation period, seconded by Alderman Dallas Gramm. Unanimous roll call vote (Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Lee). Motion passed.

Discussion was held.

Unanimous roll call vote to adjourn the closed meeting at 8:06 pm. (Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Logan Phillips, Lee).

City Attorney Toni Hendricks ended her speaker phone connection.

Reconvene from Closed Session

Meeting reconvened at 8:08 p.m. Mayor Haymes determined all Aldermen, who were present for closed session adjournment, had returned to the meeting.

Old Business

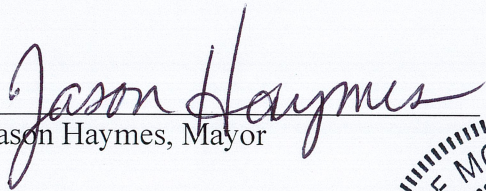
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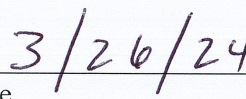
New Business

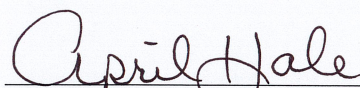
Alderman Logan Phillips moved to start accepting applications for pool management, lifeguards, and park program workers for the 2024 season, seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion passed.

Adjournment

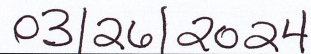
Mayor Haymes announced there was no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.


Jason Haymes, Mayor


Date


April Hale, City Clerk




Date