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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE  
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 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, Steve Fairchild, and Logan Phillips. 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. Absent Sherie Thrasher and Sue Lee.

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. The following changes were requested:

- Chief of Police Dave Hubert  
Add: Personnel
- Mayor Jason Haymes  
Add: Committee Report

Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to approve the agenda with the aforementioned 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, September 26, 2023, to the Board for approval. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2023, seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips. The following vote was recorded:

AYES: Beckley, Gramm, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Fairchild, Logan Phillips,  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Thrasher, Lee

Motion passed.

## **Citizen Participation**

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

Cheryl Wilson spoke on behalf of several that were in attendance about cat rescue, Wilson stated that they have trapped several feral cats and had spayed and neutered several of the feral cats in Mount Vernon. She wanted to remind the council that several years ago previous Mayor Dave Eden and the council had passed a resolution that allowed them to feed and trap feral cats.

## **Ordinance**

**Bill No. 2023-16 re:** First and second reading on an Ordinance authorizing The City of Mount Vernon to enter into an agreement with Dan Cline Transport, Inc., Authorizing a 20-foot Temporary Construction Easement and a 10-foot Sanitary Sewer Easement, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Thrasher, and Lee

Second Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Thrasher, and Lee

Bill No. 2023-16 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 14.355.

## **Department Reports**

### **City Administrator**

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax/Use Tax.** Kelley reported the sales tax for September is \$193,657.53 that is up \$22,714.42 from the previous year, and year to date sales tax is ahead \$62,197.63 from 2022. Use tax for September is \$27,561.14 that is up \$14,626.94 from 2022, and year to date use tax is ahead \$64,556.39 from 2022. Park tax for September is \$48,244.16 that is up \$6,134.80 from 2022, and year to date Park tax was up \$200,748.25 from 2022.
- **Spirit of 76 Park: Field Expansion:** Kelley stated that the city has received pay Request #1 from Branco Enterprises, Inc on the Spirit of 76 Park Expansion Project. Kelley requested authorization for the City Administrator to sign the Branco Enterprises, Inc pay request #1 in the amount \$164,217.00 for work o the Spirit of 76 park.

Alderman Steve Fairchild made motion to approve city administrator to sign pay request #1 from Branco Enterprises, Inc. Seconded by Alderman Lowell Phillips. Motion approved.

- **Spirit of 76 Park: Soil Testing:** Kelley stated that the contractor has brought it to our attention that additional testing is required for the project and our contract documents required the City to “engage a qualified independent geotechnical engineer” to preform field quality control and testing during construction. Olsson Professional Service contract offered this as an additional service. The cost for this service is \$11,570.00. Discussion was held.

Alderman Craig Nelson moved to approve city administrator to sign contract amendment #2 with Olsson Professional Service in the amount of \$11,570.00 for soil testing and inspections seconded by Alderman Logan Phillips.

AYES: Beckley, Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Logan Phillips

NOES: Gramm, Fairchild

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Thrasher, and Lee

Motion Passed

- **City Hall.** Kelley stated Connelly Heating and Air was contacted to inspect the AC unit after it had tripped the circuit breaker. After inspection, it was found the compressor was the problem and a high current draw had tripped the circuit breaker. Connelly Heat and Air is reviewing the warranty information a preparing a work order for the unit.
- **Utility Billing.** Kelley stated a utility customer had contacted the city about an increasing charge on the account. After reviewing the account staff found the issue to be in the account setup portion of the billing software. The account has been corrected and in a 32-month period, based on the current average usage, the customer has overpaid \$34,320.90. (For privacy reasons the utility customer name and account information has been left out of this report. RSMo610.021(25);) Kelley stated that the staff is doing an audit to determine if other customers with demand are being calculated correctly.  
Alderman Logan Phillips moved to refund customer \$34,320.90 and to write a check to customer seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion approved.
- **Public Works.** Kelley stated that a Public Notice for the sale of the House and removal at 520 N. Spring Park Boulevard has been advertised. A notice was published on October 4, 2023, in the Lawrence County Paper and will be published October 11, 2023, edition. Bid information is available through the Public Works Office.
- **Southwest Missouri Public Energy Pool.** Kelley stated that SWMPEP will meet in Monett, on October 12, 2023, at 10 AM. The committee will be discussing the following items: SWMPEP contract change to add a by-laws document, Renewable Power Purchase Agreement template for future development and extension of the SWMPEP Power Purchase Agreement with Liberty Utilities for 20 MWs in 2025.

### 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, to the Board for approval. Discussion was held. Alderman Steve Fairchild moved to approve the bills over \$5,000.00 for October, seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion passed.

### **Public Works Report**

Mr. Davis held discussion on the following items:

- Parks Maintenance Shop Update – Davis stated that on September 12, 2023, he presented 3 bids on a 40 X 60 maintenance shop on the following.
  - C & C \$58,500
  - Robb's \$48,162.45
  - Amazing Oklahoma \$ 64,201

C & C was awarded the contract, but C & C has withdrawn his bid.

Davis stated that he called Rob Portable to see if they would still honor their prior bid and they said they would.

Alderman Logan Phillips made a motion to approve Rob Portable for \$48,162.45, pending receiving the city required documents seconded by Alderman Steve Fairchild. Motion approved.

Alderman Fairchild asked Davis why we would order one transformer and not have a backup, Alderman Fairchild said he would like to see some in reserve. Davis said they were trying to come up with inventory.

### **Code Enforcement**

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Planning & Zoning.** Moore stated that the following was happening in the city.
  - Planning & Zoning meet on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Moore stated that he presented the site plan for the park maintenance building and the motion was passed by the Planning & Zoning Commission.
  - Mountain top homes will have groundbreaking ceremonies on October 23, 2023, at 1:00 PM. everybody is invited.

### **Police**

Police Chief Dave Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Statistics for September 2023.** Hubert presented the statistics for September 2023 to the Board for review and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Turkey for Ticket.** Walmart would like to give out turkey's instead of tickets. Hubert stated that instead of giving someone a ticket they will give them a voucher for a turkey given by Mount Vernon Walmart, this will take place from November 1<sup>st</sup> thru Thanksgiving.

Alderman Steve Fairchild made a motion to approve handing out vouchers for turkeys instead of a ticket from November 1<sup>st</sup> thru Thanksgiving seconded by Alderman Scott Beckley. Motion approved.

- **Personnel.** Hubert requested to take Dawlton Pittman from probationary status to full-time status. Discussion was held. Alderman Lowell Phillips moved to take Dawlton Pittman from probationary officer to full-time officer, seconded by Scott Beckley. Motion passed.
- **Apple Butter Makin Days.** Is this weekend.
- **911 Center is opened.** Hubert stated that if you get a chance go out and tour the new 911 center that is top notch.
- **Patrol Cars.** No update and when we will receive them.

**Old Business**

None

**Committee Report**

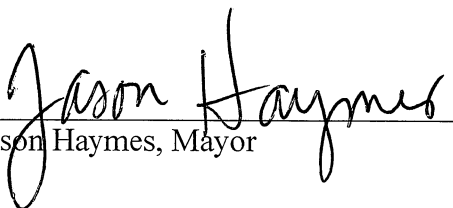
The minutes of the Special Committee Report that was held on October 5, 2023, were presented, accepted and filed.

**New Business**

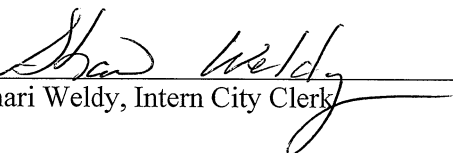
None

**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

10/24/23  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shari Weldy, Intern City Clerk

10/24/23  
Date

## Special Committee Report

10/5/23

Special Committee for the purpose of prioritizing activity for the new maintenance facility.

Meeting called to order by Lowell Phillips at 9:10 am at City Hall.

Members present: Lowell Phillips, Shari Weldy, Dustin Davis, Bailey McCann, Joe Kelly, Jason Haymes (arrived at 9:35), Roger Owens, Chad Neely, Greg Periman, Michael McCollough and Dallas Gramm

The Agenda was presented; *motion by Bailey McCann to approve the agenda; second by Dustin Davis, motion passed.*

*The committee recommends looking into options for renting the billboard by general consent.*

Discussion was held concerning the site plan, a stormwater pollution prevention plan and the DNR Land Disturbance Permit.

*Recommendation to research the possibility of completing the DNR permit in house by general consent.*

Some discussion was held of the building location and roads for access and delivery.

*The main entrance location was established as entering from Progress Street and agreed to by general consent.*

Some discussion was held concerning the location of the main building and secondary storage areas. *No action taken.*

Some discussion was held concerning the location of the dog pound. Suggestion, move to the current public works building or the electric building. *No action taken.*

Some discussion was held concerning a fence on the property lines.

Some discussion was held concerning clearing brush on the west property line. *No action taken.*

*The following were established as priorities for the upcoming months by general consent:*

- *Sewer completed this year*
- *Tear down and remove the chicken/hog house.*
- *Get bids for the fence and gates (to be completed next year). Main gate to be automatic sensor controlled with keypad access.*
- *Site Prep and Building Plans formalized. (DNR Permit researched)*

The date for the next meeting was set for 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 2, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned by Lowell Phillips.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Haymes, Special Committee Secretary.