

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of September 12, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Orsini at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Orsini, Simmons, Wilkins, and Sanders. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department

Chief Rusch presented a report of Fire Department activities in August. He made particular note of the high number of EMS calls, perhaps resulting from the extremely hot weather for the first of the month.

Rusch said that the Department and the City Administrator are preparing a second try at obtaining an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a new, replacement fire truck. The odds are high because the application deadline was extended to allow inclusion of areas hit by hurricane Iris.

Alderman Angell arrived, as well as Darryl Spauldin.

Rusch said that the Department has received the new ventilation fan for use at fire scenes. He mentioned that he will need help from the Electric Department to added wiring at the main Fire Station. He is working on running power supplies to several pieces of equipment to keep batteries and apparatus continually charged.

Emergency Management

There was no formal report.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Dudgeon presented the report of Police Department activities in August. He was asked about the high number of animal calls. He agreed the number was up and that it puts an extra burden on his department for upkeep of the pound and transporting animals to the Humane Society. Few animals are claimed by their owners. The Code Enforcement Officer does sometimes find new homes for some of them. Dudgeon explained to Sanders how some lessor offenses sometimes are classified as sex crimes by the reporting system.

Behrns has prepared the ordinance for deleting one of the areas where on-street parking time is limited to 30 minutes. The half block on the north side Singleton Street next to the old mini-bank, will be dropped, since this in no longer used for banking. The ordinance will be on the next Board agenda.

Protective Inspection

Behrns said he had talked to Mrs. Newton Davis, Jr., owner with her husband of the building at the southwest corner of Allen and Railroad Streets. Davis promised to start repair of the brick work on the front of the building, but Behrns has not observed any differences. Although this does not yet qualify as a dangerous structure, Behrns is closely monitoring the wall; it needs some sort of reinforcement to protect the front from further separating and falling on the sidewalk.



The small water tower has been removed from the roof of the Kitchen Seeds building on Hickman Street. Workmen have been doing repair work on the interior. Mr. Kitchen promised Behrns to provide a list of what work will be planned for this fall and winter, but it has not yet been received. Kitchen does say that he wants to retain the scales that are in the Hickman Street right-of-way.

A contractor has pickup the demolition permit for removing the Hombs' rental house at the corner of Lakeview and Central Streets. Behrns was contacted by the former tenants and has supplied copies of the dangerous structure declaration for their lawyer.

Committee discussed the condition of the Narragansett Building. Spauldin defended Clifford de la Rosa's slow progress, noting the large size of the building and de la Rosa's limited financial resources. Spauldin promised that a revised work schedule is being written and will be delivered next month. The owner has been forced to deal with safety issues first.

Orsini asked about the progress of demolition at the old Redwood Motel. Behrns and others said they thought that Don Rodgers was through with demolition. The remainder of the old building is being remodeled into storage for the rental business.

Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers was not present, but had submitted a written report on recent Chamber of Commerce and economic development activities.

Behrns is continuing work on obtaining an Enhanced Enterprise Zone designation for most of Centralia and several parcels in the surrounding county. After talking to Presiding Commissioner Robb, he believes that the list of acceptable industry types will be as inclusive as possible. The City may be amenable to some industries that are not appropriate for Columbia. There will soon be a need for an ordinance authorizing an application, and the Mayor will have to get together with the County to select seven members for an oversight board. It is not recommended that the Board be elected officials of the City, County, or other local taxing districts.

Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The next meeting of the Board will be on September 20.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

There was no prepared report.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

No formal report was made, but minutes and a future agenda were presented in the Committee packet.

Finance

Financial statements for August were delayed to make several corrections. They will be emailed to the Board as soon as the corrections are posted.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Committee members had no immediate questions.



Other General Government

Behrns presented draft language for an Ordinance setting forth a procedure for dealing with persons disrupting public meetings and making disruption a municipal offense. Committee discussed this for several minutes. Behrns said that the proposal came about because of conduct at a recent meeting and an article in a police chief's newsletter. Chief Dudgeon had given staff an ordinance used by Kirksville, which had been rewritten by our City Attorney. The ordinance would be useful in protecting officers and the City from lawsuits if a disrupting person had to be removed or arrested. The full ordinance will be on the next Board agenda.

Behrns reminded committee members of other Board agenda items. There will be an ordinance to revise the boundaries of the aldermanic wards to better balance the populations in each according to the 2010 census data. There will also be an ordinance to rezone the lot on Bruton Street next to the COLT Railroad. The Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending that the parcel (which was formerly the site of a house destroyed by fire) be changed from one-family dwelling district to multi-family dwelling designation. Public Hearings for both of these ordinances have been advertized for early in the meeting. The ordinance to preserve the 5% rate for gross receipts taxes on PSC-regulated utilities also needs to be passed before the end of the month.

As May Arise

The Women's Network has been given permission to close Allen Street from Singleton to Railroad for an event on September 22 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Behrns had distributed copies of a letter from Art Dollens to the new Principal of the Chance Elementary School. Dollens apparently wants the City on notice that he believes that underground gasoline tanks had formerly been on the school site and had not been removed properly. The City is advised because the Street crew had moved playground equipment from the school to Bicentennial Park. Dollens thinks the equipment may be spreading contamination. Although he believes that there is no contamination, Behrns said that samples were taken from where poles were removed and have been preserved in police evidence bags.

Behrns has been told by representatives of Allstate Consultants that the Safe Routes to School sidewalk grant has not been closed out by MoDOT. The Mid-Missouri Advocacy Coalition protested the inspections done by MoDOT, and their complaint needs to be resolved before the project is ended. There seem to be opposing interpretations of the ADA regulations. Also there may be spots where there are small variations between the design and actual construction. Grade tolerances are very small on this project. Further meetings will be necessary to determine what is right and what (if anything might need to be changed). Behrns will have the MMAC complaint sent to the Board as a pdf email.

The water crew has not been able to close off flow at the intersection of Singleton and Rollins. This is required before a new tee and valve assembly can be installed. Behrns recommended that an additional insert valve be placed on the old 4" main, which is no longer serving any customers, but is attached to the active mains. The cost will be another \$4,040. Aldermen agreed with the need and did not protest the extra work.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:00 p.m.