



Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, February 13, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at 7:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Wilkins, Angell, Simmons, Orsini, and Sanders. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Adam Stites, Landon Magley, Marjorie Motley, James Smith and several Boy Scouts and leaders.

Comments from Citizens

Motley present information about the operations of the Centralia Historical Museum. She noted that, although the museum had limited hours, they encouraged people to phone and arrange for special visits. The museum staff also can prepare tours and meals for organizational visits. In particular, Motley wanted to tell City Officials about the designation of the Woods Building as a Boone County historical site. The building has been around with few changes since 1894. It is now owned by Roscoe Kinkead and occupied by In Full Bloom. The upper floors have many artifacts and records from earlier tenants. An official ceremony for the designation will be held at 2 p.m. on May 6. The Centralia Historic Society is seeking long-time residents who might be able to identify some of the people who are pictured in early photographs connected to the building.

Police Department

Dudgeon presented the report of Police Department activities in January.

Dudgeon spoke concerning a letter from Evelyn Robertson, which Behrns had included in the agenda packet.

The letter was a follow-up about Robertson's interest in cleaning up cigarette butts and similar litter. Specifically, she wanted to have the south entrance to the City Hall Community Room declared as a no-smoking zone. Smokers would have to smoke outside of the north door. This would lessen litter on the most traveled sidewalk and serve to protect the patrol car which is often parked in this location. The Committee asked Behrns to procure an appropriate container for the cigarette butts and to amend the standard contract for rental of the Community Room.

Fire Department

Rusch presented a report of Fire Department activities in January.

Rusch spoke of the used fire truck which will be purchased by his department. He does not expect delivery before May, but is very satisfied with the quality of the truck the department will get. It is low-mileage and will be recertified by the vender. Presently, it is in use by a department in Delaware. Rusch expects to receive an allowance of \$2,100 for use of the City's 1970 pumper as a trade-in.

Rusch displayed and passed around the new thermal imaging camera. It is cheaper and much lighter and more compact than the department's old camera.

Emergency Management

There was no formal report. Behrns noted that the City's Tier II report for stored hazardous materials has been submitted to the State, the LEPC, and the Centralia Fire Department. The only entry is for the chlorine stored at the water treatment plant.

City Prosecutor

No report.



Protective Inspection

No report. Sanders spoke of his concern about the scales in the roadway of N. Hickman Street.

Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers was ill and unable to present a report on recent Chamber of Commerce and economic development activities. She will, instead, attend the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, February 21.

Mayor Grenke said that CREDI is proceeding with another Job Fair on April 14, to be held in the Intermediate School.

Park Department

The Park Board will meeting next week, but minutes from several recent meetings was in the committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

Minutes from a recent committee meeting were in the packet. The vender presently mowing the cemetery has requested an increased payment that was large enough that the committee recommended rebidding the service. Bids will be opened on February 23.

Tree Board

There was 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 January were made available. Behrns had no new concerns or analysis to mention. The Committee had no questions.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Committee members had no immediate questions. Chief Dudgeon mentioned that the City should receive 50% reimbursement for the three protective vests invoiced this month.

Budget Discussions

Behrns presented a new draft of the General Fund Budget. He noted that revenues for next year would be increased modestly for next year. This year's revenues beat budget projections because some income was deferred from the previous year (for instance, the property taxes from Ameren Missouri). FEMA reimbursement for last February's snow storm had been unexpected. The Safe Routes to School grant has not been closed out yet, so final payments will likely be delayed until the new fiscal year. Operating expenses for the present year were below budgeted targets. This will result in a carryover unencumbered balance to start the new budget year. The new budget is up over 2011-12, but only modestly because of a low inflation rate. New capital or special purchases include: \$3,500 for updating the City Code (since adoption of the new set of Building Codes will change many pages); \$49,715 for the portion of the fire truck not covered by the deposit and the balance in the Fire Capital Outlay Fund; money for the last of the brick work and sealing on 105 N. Allen; replacement of another heater in the City Street Barn; the second phase of work on the Miles Street ditch; and a repeat of the subsidies to demolish dilapidated houses. The draft budget shows purchase of a replacement dump truck taking place in the current fiscal year. However delivery will take place after



April 1 and Behrns will likely move the payment amount to the new budget. Budget authority will exist for either case.

Behrns said that most of the Special Revenue funds are set by their respective Boards or are for revenue pass-through. However, Behrns is anticipating one discretionary purchase in the Cemetery Fund, with the contracting of survey work to set out the grave arrangement for the Northeast Section of the City Cemetery. In 2013 or 2014, the Cemetery fund may have to be subsidized from the General or Electric Funds unless interest rates rise and the Perpetual Care Fund produces more revenue.

Other General Government

Behrns had no news on the potential annexation of property owned by Mr. Leader.

Behrns formally reported that staff has completed the annual review of financial records and procedures and finds no need for any changes to the "Red Flag Rule" concerning security of customer's information. He recommended that the present resolution be retained as it is currently written.

Other

To balance agenda loads, Behrns recommended that in February the City pass an ordinance to accept an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the employee union, reflecting the pay increases and adjustments to the coverage of employee health insurance. Drafts of the Memorandum and ordinance were in the amended committee packet. There will be another ordinance presented in March to adjust the rates of salaried personnel and to incorporate one promotion and perhaps several merit increases.

As May Arise

Next weeks Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, since Monday is the observance of Presidents Day.

The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion on nuisance controls and code enforcement against dilapidated buildings and dangerous structures. Sanders and Orsini wanted more aggressive enforcement. Behrns cited reasons why several particular buildings have been hard to clean up. The committee did not set any particular direction for staff, but Behrns said he would devote more attention to the matter.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:20 p.m.