



## **Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, October 8, 2012.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Simmons, Angell, and Magley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Lieutenant Bob Bias, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Donna Stephens, Phyllis Brown, Arthur Dollens, Charles Stidham, Steve Oberman, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grenke recognized Steve Oberman and thanked him for his community service and effects as an advocate for the disabled. Grenke then read a Mayor Proclamation, drawing attention to National Epilepsy Awareness Month. Oberman in turn thanked the City, the Mayor, and former alderman Paul Million for their efforts to remove barriers and making life easier for its handicapped residents; and he cited many examples.

### Comments from Citizens

None

### Arthur Dollens

Arthur Dollens, a resident from 230 S. Rollins, had requested to be on this agenda, with time to present a statement. Dollens said he wanted to caution the City about entangling itself in activities of the Centralia School District, which he seemed to view as engaging in illegal actions. He mentioned an email from a school administrator about discipline measures, but no one present was aware of the email. He talked about the use of School Resource Officers and Police at the various schools and appeared to prefer the former, because students had the right to legal council and silence when dealing with regular police officers. He questioned the Police Departments budget and spending practices, he questioned grants going directly to the school system and one that was indirectly beneficial to the schools. He said that assistance by the City and by support groups, such as the Friends of the Park, made "soft money" available for school activities in a way that could be "siphoned off" by the School's administration in a manner that was perhaps corrupt. He recited a fragmented history of local "padded" youth football programs which he had created or supported, and which he said the school system had let lapse. He complained about the school's dismissal of his son from the football team. He warned that the City might be participating somehow in school practices which might open it to legal consequences. City staff members spoke to refute some of his accusations. At the end of his statement, he placed his son's football helmet on the dias and asked that it be returned to the school.

### City Prosecutor

No report.

### Police Department

Bias presented the report of September activities and calls for the Police Department. He said that two separate complaints had come from the arrest for sale of synthetic marijuana. He noted that incidents had risen by about 9% (more than 300 reports) from the same time in 2011. Angell suggested that the activity log include year-to-date and year-over-year totals, so that aldermen could analyze the Police Department's work load. Bias said he will try to add those statistics to the next report.



### Fire Department

Rusch presented a report of September activities of the Fire Department. Firefighters will soon be making educational visits to the local schools. They will also participate in an exercise around a mock emergency at the anhydrous ammonia tank farm west of the City. A familiarization walk-through of the MFA facilities in town is also forthcoming.

### Emergency Management

No report beyond the exercise mentioned by the Fire Chief.

### Protective Inspection

Behrns said that the City had not issued any substantial building permits in September, but he still expected several new housing starts before winter weather.

Corrective measures had been taken on the brick store front at Double D Seeds. However, work had halted on the house demolition on S. Columbia Street; and Behrns had sent a new Dangerous Structure Notice. A similar notice is prepared and will be sent to Clifford de la Rosa as soon as Behrns can take date-stamped photographs.

Behrns said he had talked with Mike Kinkead concerning the deteriorating storage building that is on the old Home Oil property. Kinkead is consulting with an engineer about whether to repair or take down the structure. A decision will be made before the end of the year.

### Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers may be attending the regular Board meeting. An agenda for the Chamber's next meeting will be provided, but the meeting will occur on Tuesday after the Board meeting.

Work on the barbeque event is progressing well.

Mayor Grenke reminded aldermen of the kickoff event for the "Purchase with a Purpose" program on November 1.

Behrns said there may be an amended EEZ abatement ordinance and one authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding on EEZ efforts by the City, Boone County, and the Zone on operating procedures. These will be on the regular Board agenda if the City and County Attorneys can prepare final language.

### Park Department

The Park Board will meeting next week, and minutes from the September meeting were in the Committee agenda packet.

Simmons mentioned, and aldermen discussed, emails from the ADA advocacy group concerning payment for a power assisted front door. This topic is expected to be on the Park Board agenda. Behrns noted that the Board of Aldermen has no control over most Park Board expenditures.

### Cemetery Advisory Committee

No written report.

### Tree Board



No report.

#### Library Board

No formal report was made, but minutes and an agenda for the next meeting were presented in the Committee packet.

#### Finance

Financial statements for September were in the agenda packet. Behrns said there were no surprises and revenue collections appear to be running at or above targets.

#### Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Members had no direct questions, although Behrns was asked by Magley to get him more detail about outstanding and total costs for renting a skid loader for the Miles Street Ditch project.

#### Other

Wilkins showed the other committee members the result of using a video camera with higher resolution. It should allow viewers to discern which official is talking. Wilkins said he would attempt to post the video of this meeting to YouTube. If the results are acceptable, staff will put together a plan for implementing tapping on a regular basis.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:10 p.m.