



Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, December 10, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, and Aldermen Magley, Angell, Sanders, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Sergeant Bias, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Don Bagley, Art Dollens, Henry Washington, Don Rodgers, Barry Stephens, Lorry Myers, Jim Blankenship, Jeff Grimes, Darryl Spauldin, and James Smith. Police Chief Dudgeon arrived about half way through the meeting.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

Don Bagley renewed his suggestion that the City adopt a Property Maintenance Code. He said it is working well in Kirksville. The standard code is compatible with the rest of the International Building Code set. It could be adopted in an abridge version if aldermen thought some sections were unnecessary. He said that inspection could be done by the City's fire inspector to maintain local sensibilities. Bagley noted that such a code might have given the City a clearer and quicker path in dealing with situations such as the Narraganset Building. Behrns said he would get a copy for any alderman who wanted to examine it.

Art Dollens mentioned that he had presented a letter last week at the City front office. Since it was addressed to the School Board and did not ask for any City action, the City staff had not "signed for it". Behrns had suggested that Dollens come to that night's committee meeting and read it into the record. He, instead, put it as an advertisement in the newspaper. This day, he faxed a second letter to the City. Behrns had made copies for the Committee members. Mr. Dollens said that he believe the Police Department had been taking sides between Dollens and the School Board. He implied that this made the City potentially liable for illegal acts of school officials. Dollens, Bias, and Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the roll of the Board of Aldermen in directing or restraining Police in the performance of their duties. Dollens did thank the aldermen for the fact that the City is now videoing Board and committee meetings. He said he wished the School Board would do the same. Dollens said he would soon come to City Hall to research the budget and expenditures of the Police Department. Behrns said that such information is already available in the City website. Dollens said he preferred to see the actual records.

Henry Washington spoke to the Committee about a complaint he had brought forward concerning "hate crimes" perpetrated against his son at the high school. He said he would soon be back to request a report on progress of the investigation. [After the meeting, Behrns learned that the incidents had occurred more than five years ago.]

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Bias presented the report of November activities and calls for the Police Department. The Committee had no questions.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of November activities of the Fire Department. Rusch said that only a few work items remain for repairs and improvements on the main fire station.



Emergency Management

Behrns noted that the Zim Schwartze had taken a position as director of Springfield's 911 Center. This means the City should now appoint another person to be the City's Emergency Management Director, as required by State law. Behrns recommended that the Mayor consider appointing Scott Olsen, who is already the EM Director for Boone County. Mayor Grenke can take that action at the regular Board meeting.

Protective Inspection

The agenda packet had included a letter from Jackie Hoskins offering suggestions about the demolition incentive program. The Committee discussed the program and decided not to increase the tentative budget allocation of \$7,500 (repeating the last two years). This equates to five demolitions of dangerous or potentially dangerous houses. They were open to the idea of targeting some of the contracts for sites where an owner was removing a house and replacing it with a new structure within a short period of time. They delayed a final determination of what the balance should be between replacement houses and old houses which had been designated as "dangerous structures".

The hearing concerning the Narraganset Building was held as scheduled. The Mayor will be making a finding soon.

Behrns had a meeting with Newton Davis, Jr. Concerning the dangerous structure notice on his business building at Allen Street and Railroad. He is weighing repair options against sale of the building. Behrns will be talking to Davis again soon.

As requested, Behrns presented a list of expenses for the demolition of the building at 105 N. Allen. Total cash cost was \$62,833 to date. Behrns amended the page title from the version in the first committee agenda packet to specifically show that the total is only for actual cash costs. The City has spent more than \$4,000 in employee salaries and equipment for in-kind work on the project. Some additional expense for masonry work and sealing paint remains.

Economic Development

CREDI Board members were present and presented a letter asking for City financial support of their organization. They are trying to find a regular contact location and staffing to meet goals for business attraction and support. They envision a contract for services, paralleling that for the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber contract has been in place for more than twenty years and is rather broad. It will be coming up for renewal this spring and requires that the Chamber show they have raised matching funds. CREDI has finally been able to secure the help of a college intern for the spring semester for two specific projects. Behrns said that this will make it easy to identify a set of contract deliverables. Simmons asked for a similar report of work accomplished under the Chamber Contract and to see an audit report of Chamber accounts. Stevens suggested a contract amount of \$10,000. Behrns will include in the next draft of the General Fund budget. Committee members and CREDI members engaged in further discussion about CREDI's role and how to CREDI, Chamber, and City activities can move forward without overlapping. Grimes related how he has been a liaison on the "Purchase with a Purpose" and other projects. Sanders said that someone needed to put forth more effort in seeking grants for building renovation and business support. Behrns responded with a somewhat sober analysis of the limited availability of grant for such purposes. More often assistance is in the form of loans. Stevens said that they extend their efforts to the Centralia trade area, including Hallsville and Sturgeon.



Behrns noted that the absence of Ginny Zoellers from the last Board meeting had occurred because of his agenda lapse. Zoellers should be at the next Board meeting.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for their November meetings were in the Committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No 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 November were in the agenda packet. Behrns had nothing unusual to highlight.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Behrns explained the large rebate to Cargill had occurred because of a bad formula used in calculating their sewer bill. This is a unique situation and the billing software has been fixed. Behrns gave details on several equipment repair bills. Dudgeon said that his police cars were getting older, but the repair costs listed were spread over several vehicles.

Other

Behrns said that there will be a standard ordinance on the next Board agenda necessary to set the April Election for municipal officers.

Behrns gave a short overview of early projections of the General Fund Budget. Revenues for the present year should exceed the budget targets, but Behrns is not expecting economic growth for 2013.

Bias and Dudgeon explained their suggestion to buy a used lower-mileage, four-wheel drive SUV or pickup from the Highway Patrol. This would be principally used by the Code Enforcement Officer. Her present vehicle would be assigned to Bias (who spends less time on the road). Whichever of the oldest Crown Victoria's is in the worst condition would be sold off. The cost should be around \$18,000 and results in no increase in the total number of police vehicles. It also gives the PD access to two vehicles more suitable for driving on snow and ice. The fund reserve will be increased by the CPI multiplier, about 2%. A three-year renewal of the Police recording equipment maintenance contract will be needed at about \$6,000. The Street Department will replace one pickup truck toward the end of 2013 or beginning of 2014. A tentative \$22,000 is used as a placeholder for lining of the stormsewer running on the Hubbell parking lot west of Jefferson Street. That is only a fraction of the work and the amount can be adjusted if revenues grow or snow removal expenses are low this winter.

Closed Session

Simmons then moved that the Committee elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be preparation, including any discussions or

work product, on behalf of the City of Centralia or its representatives for negotiation with an employee group, as provided for under Section 610.021 (9) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Sanders seconded the motion. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

The Committee then met in closed session to discuss proposals from the employee union. No votes were taken until Simmons moved to return to open session. Wilkins seconded the motion. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

Simmons moved that the Committee adjourn. Bormann seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. The Committee then adjourned at about 10:10 p.m.