

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, February 11, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grenke at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, and Aldermen Magley, Sanders, Simmons, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Lorry Myers, Barry Stevens, James Lee, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments.

City Prosecutor

No report. Mayor Grenke said that April Wilson is now representing several other cities and will have to schedule a report at a time when they are not having council meetings.

Police Department

Dudgeon presented a report of January and 2012 activities and calls to the Police Department. He told Simmons that some reports from the previous year were included for comparison.

Committee members made note of a letter from Jason Shackelford requesting that the posted speed limit on Highway 22 be lower on the east side of the City. In this instance, speed limits are controlled by the Department of Transportation. The City can enforce limits by ordinances; however, the State actually posts the limits based on traffic studies. Staff will make contact to see if there results for recent studies that could support the change. Behrns said that the CREDI intern was researching traffic counts and could ask for the additional information.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of January activities of the Fire Department. Rusch said that Jerry Jenkins, a battalion chief from Columbia, had volunteered to instruct a free training class on the evening of the 21st for the entire Centralia Fire Department and some members of other departments, who were unable to attend the annual Fire School at MU. Rusch is grateful.

One of the older fire trucks has a leaking pump and will need some repairs.

Rusch said that a reserve police officer may be applying to also be a member of the Fire Department. Chief Dudgeon thought that would be a good idea.

Emergency Management

No report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns reported one building permit was issued for a new duplex on Remington Drive. Substantial demolition of Linda Yager's house on South Allen Street has not yet started. Mostly, work to date has been the removal of some internal walls, windows, and so forth. Behrns said he had not yet talked to Clifford de la Rosa about work on the Narraganset Building. Mayor Grenke suggested that he could join Behrns in a visit on Monday.

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Economic Development

Behrns noted that he is closing in on a final proposed budget, which should contain the full request from CREDI for assistance. If no difficulties arise, the Board can approve the budget and then a first contract with CREDI and renewal of a contract with the Chamber of Commerce can be approved on the same evening.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for their January meeting were in the Committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No report.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

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

Finance

Financial statements for January were in the agenda packet. They contained no new remarkable items and they have been incorporated into the draft budgets for several funds, to be discussed later in this meeting.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. There were no questions at this time

Other

Simmons asked about progress on the contract for a School Resource Officer. Mayor Grenke said he had attended a School Board meeting earlier in the evening. The School Board voted to approve the contract as presented last week, with small corrections by the City Attorney and added language on how training expenses can be invoiced. An ordinance will be presented at the regular Board meeting for City approval for the contract to start March 1.

No date has been set yet for starting work on the GIS project.

Budget Considerations

Behrns review updated summaries of the budgets for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Electric Fund, and Sanitation Fund. The numbers for the current year have been updated. Few changes were made in the list of capital and one-time items. The water fund does contain a new listing for a replacement trailer to haul pipe. The present trailer is not safe for highway speeds. The item for the SRO is reduced per the draft contract with the School District. If there are no further changes, the final budget book will contain a full activity for the SRO program and a revenue line for school reimbursement (rather than the net cost shown in the present summary). Behrns is waiting for February property tax proceeds before he will lock down the General Fund budget; and he will be using last year's number for the Business Surcharge, since that revenue comes in after the budget is adopted.

A budget document should be prepared and printed before the first committee meeting in March.

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As May Arise

Behrns said that Presiding County Commissioner Dan Atwill will attend the regular Board meeting to make a presentation on the proposed sales tax for 911 and emergency management services.

Atwill has also requested that Behrns participate in a committee for support of the tax issue. Mayor Grenke and the Aldermen said that they had no problem with Behrns doing this. If any apparent conflicts arise, Behrns would stop his participation. [After the meeting, Mayor Grenke confirmed this with Aldermen Wilkins and Sanders, who are absent because of illness]

The Committee then adjourned at about 7:50 p.m.

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