

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, April 8, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:20 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, and Aldermen Magley, Simmons, Bormann, Angell, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Barry Stevens, Don Bobbitt, and James Smith.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Dudgeon presented a report of March activities and calls to the Police Department. Committee members had no questions.

Dudgeon said that he had located a 2009 F-250 4-wheel drive pickup with a shell and light bar which is available from the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It has less than \$65,000 and was not used for emergency situations. The purchase price was \$18,050.00. Dudgeon noted that the new budget has allowed \$18,000.00 for such a purchase. Simmons moved that the City purchase the pickup as described. Wilkins seconded the motion. Simmons, Bormann, Angell, Wilkins and Lee voted in favor of the motion. Magley voted against the motion. It was declared passed.

Dudgeon reported that the pickup truck which was confiscated by the police in a drug bust was found west of Sturgeon–burned and totally destroyed. Police are investigating and have suspects in mind. Behrns told Smith that there would be no insurance claim for the vehicle since it was acquired without cost and only insured for liability coverage. At the request of Behrns, Bormann moved to write off the vehicle as a capital asset. Magley seconded the motion and all members voted in favor of the motion.

Chief Dudgeon noted that his department will be acknowledging National Dispatchers Week next week.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of March activities of the Fire Department. Rusch said it was a “typical” month.

Emergency Management

There will be an LEPC meeting next week.

Protective Inspection

Four demolition incentive contracts have been executed and a fifth is in process. Together they will exhaust the funds available in the budget year which just started.

The City has received a check from an insurance company to cover the demolition obligations for the house on South Allen which was recently destroyed by a fire. After an appropriate period, Behrns will issue a Dangerous Structure Notice. If the remains are not demolished and removed, the City can use the insurance funds to accomplish the work. If the site is cleaned up by the owner, the money will be released to him.

Magley inquired about the status of the Maranatha Baptist Church. Behrns said it was in the hands of the City Attorney. Mayor Grenke told Behrns to request a report from Attorney Beck at next week's meeting.

Economic Development

Barry Stevens presented a report on CREDI Activities. Referring to his written report, he noted that CREDI had some success with the recent Job Fair and Business Expo. There were thirty-plus job seekers and more jobs available this year. Mini-seminars were also held for exhibitors.

CREDI's intern has prepared the draft of a marketing letter, intended for a Colorado business who might be enticed to relocate to Missouri.

They are working with the Chamber of Commerce on an "event" to promote "Purchase with a Purpose".

CREDI members have scheduled regular meeting with REDI in Columbia and also a special meeting to discuss use of Chance anchors with a Columbia solar panel project.

Stevens thanked the Aldermen for approving a service contract with CREDI.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for a meeting March was in the Committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No report.

Tree Board

Mayor Grenke noted that Centralia had again received a Tree City USA recognition for 2012. This award comes as the result of a Tree Board application. Last week, Tree Board members participated in an Arbor Day event with the school children.

Library Board

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

Finance

Financial statements for March were in the agenda packet. Behrns said that they represented the full activity of fiscal year 2012-13, subject to any audit adjustments.

Bills over \$1,250

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

As May Arise

Magley said that a citizen on West Singleton Street had asked for the City to put up a "Children Playing" sign in that area. Behrns said that this was usually ineffective, but he will look at the situation.

Mayor Grenke has talked to the Police Chief about increased police presence and speed enforcement as a better deterrent.

Mayor Grenke has received an email from a resident who would like the Board to again consider allowing "urban chickens". He will forward the email to all Board members, if any one desired to readdress the subject.

Chief Dudgeon mentioned the upcoming Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Saturday. He also reported that the high school will have its prom in town at the Recreation Center this year on April 27th. Mayor Grenke reminded the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet on Thursday night. City officials will be receiving two major awards.

Simmons thanked the staff for helping to publicize the Community Garden, this year at the Lutheran Church. The project is even able to furnish free seeds, thanking to a donation.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:03 p.m.