



Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, May 13, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, and Aldermen Magley, Simmons, Bormann, Angell, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Lieutenant Robert Bias, Barry Stevens, Phyllis Brown, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Economic Development

Barry Stevens presented a report on CREDI Activities. He highlighted the imminent contract between the School District and Hubbell/Chance to conduct welding classes. He described CREDI's involvement in trying to win a role for Hubbell/Chance to supply anchors for the solar collector panels being installed by the City of Columbia. They emphasized that more than 100 of Hubbell's employees reside in Columbia. CREDI and the Chamber of Commerce have been working on a visit by the COLT dinner train on Sunday afternoon during Anchor Festival. Provided that issues of liability insurance can be worked out, the train could deliver up to 200 visitors to a drop-off at the west end of Sims Street. Mayor Grenke said that volunteers will be needed as greeters for the train.

Stevens said that Boone County National Bank has volunteered office space for CREDI's use.

Park Department

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

Cemetery Advisory Committee

Minutes of the recent Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting were in the agenda packet.

The Advisory Committee is recommending an increase of burial fees. These are in line with what the current vendor is getting from other cemeteries. Implementing this would require modification of the contract and a change in sections of City Code.

Their second recommendation is to increase fees for sale of lots in the newest (NE) section of the City Cemetery, when complete. About 50 lots remain elsewhere, so it is likely that we will need to open that last section by the end of then year. Surveying and setting pins for the section is almost finished.

Aldermen discussed the likely budget deficits in future years. Only \$25 from the sale of each space is going to the Perpetual Care Fund. During the current year the Cemetery should (barely) break even, due to low interest rates for investments. Committee members were in agreement with increase rates to limit deficits, although Behrns cautioned them that the low volume of burials and grave space sales would not add significantly to available revenues. Rates for these fees were last raised in 2003 and 2008. After extended discussion, members agreed that grave spaces should be sold for \$300 each, with the amount passing to the Perpetual Care Fund remaining at \$25. They also favored raising internment fees to the levels requested by Whalen, the present vendor. They ultimately thought that the City should also add an additional markup of \$50.00 for each internment. Ordinations will be



prepared for the next Board meeting to increase both fees and also authorize a new contract with Whalen.

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 April were in the agenda packet. Behrns explained that on the sheet reporting interest earnings the \$200,000 shown for Cemetery investments was only a part of the Perpetual Care Fund balance. The full balance is about \$390,000 (which still does not yield much interest on a .6% rate.)

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. The bill from Crown Power was questioned. Behrns did not have immediate knowledge of the expense details and will make a report at the regular Board meeting.

City Prosecutor

No report. Prosecutor Wilson will be giving a training session for the Police Department in the near future. She intends to stay over and talk with the Board that evening at a committee or regular Board meeting. Behrns will add her to the agenda whenever can be scheduled.

Police Department

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

Behrns reported a citizen request to add crosswalks on the north and east sides of the intersection of Jefferson and Switzler. Behrns said the east crosswalk across Switzler was not an issue. The north crosswalk would be less effective across Jefferson if there was no stop sign. Behrns asked the aldermen and Police Department to observe the matter and it will be set for discussion after the Switzler Street improvements are completed.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch was absent, but Behrns presented a report of April activities of the Fire Department.

Emergency Management

No report.

Protective Inspection

No new housing permits were issue in the past month, but several are expected soon. Hubbell's contractor is now working on the \$2.3 million renovation permit for the Engineering Building. Demolition of the old Dairy Queen is almost complete, as is one of the subsidized house demolitions. Mrs. Yager's on Allen should be coming down before the end of the week and two others should be



demolished in the next month. The house on S. Allen damaged by fire will be demolished as soon as Ameren certifies that the gas service is disconnected. A completion date for the old house at the end of Central Street is not yet signed.

Behrns told Magley that he has not conversed with Clifford de la Rosa about progress on the Narraganset Building. Simmons asked Behrns to work with the Chamber of Commerce to be sure that no vehicles from the car show are parked near that hazard.

Notice for properties with high grass and weeds will be mailed on Wednesday. A second round will also go out before Anchor Festival. City appearance will depend on there being extended breaks in the rainy weather.

Magley asked that the City again put up "no parking" signs in the alleys behind Dr. Bradley's office.

Other

Behrns reminded aldermen that they should notify City Clerk Lockett if they were going to attend the meeting of the Central Division of the Missouri Municipal League next Wednesday in Marshall..

Behrns reported that Public Works intended to apply a dust control chemical to S. Columbia when the dry season came. The City has a request to also apply dust control to the unpaved portion of Ivy Street. Behrns noted that there is less traffic on Ivy and the average speed is less. He does not know if the expense is justified, and he asked that aldermen observe the area when the rains end and give him their opinion before we order the vender to redo Columbia.

As May Arise

Behrns reported that our insurance carrier has directed the city to take the older trash truck to Commercial Truck Body and Paint in Columbia. It will return to service as soon as possible, once repairs are complete. [Subsequent to the meeting, Behrns confirmed that there is no deductible on this aspect of the vehicle insurance coverage.] He does not yet know how much MOPERM will offer for the newer truck.

Several aldermen have received emails and phone calls from residents suggesting that the City not bid out trash collection. The residents cited a need for local control and the value of past service from employees on the trash truck. Behrns has not yet located a copy of the bid documents from the time the City did bid out service.

Magley asked about use of the most recent pickup truck acquired by the Police Department. Citizens had reported to him that it was being used for routine patrol. Lieutenant Bias was no longer present, so the question will be repeated at the regular Board meeting.

Mayor Grenke noted that the City will fly it's flag at half-staff on Wednesday in recognitions of fallen law enforcement officers.

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