

## **Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, June 10, 2013.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Magley, Simmons, Bormann, Angell, and Lee. Mayor Grenke participated by telephone, but cast no votes. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Barry Stevens, Don Bobbitt, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Rusch, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Comments from Citizens

None.

### City Prosecutor

No report.

### Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of May activities of the Fire Department. Responding to a question, he said the vehicle fire was that of the sanitation trucks at the City Shop.

### Police Department

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

Dudgeon requested higher dog impoundment fees. Presently, the City charges \$10 for a stray animal and an additional \$10 per day for boarding animals at the pound. This does not cover City expenses, particularly if the animals are unclaimed. Animals must now show proof of vaccination before they can be taken to the Humane Society. Dudgeon suggested that higher charges would be a deterrent to citizen complacency. Behrns will consult with the City Attorney and report (probably with a draft ordinance) at the next Committee meeting.

Magley requested that feral cats be a topic for the next Public Safety Committee agenda.

### Emergency Management

No report.

### Protective Inspection

Clifford de la Rosa told Behrns he will be able attend the Public Works and Public Safety Committee meeting on July 1 to report on his work on the Narraganset Building.

Demolition finished for several "dangerous structures". The permits for Ottmo, Yager, and Kempker have been finalized. Yager will also be dismantling the rear garage as soon as she can empty it out. The old Meador house on Pool is down, but some debris still needs to be removed. A building permit for a new house on that site has been issued and three or four more will follow over the coming year. Removal of the Donaldson/Crump house on N. Allen is still in progress. A demolition permit for the fire-damaged Calhoun house in the 700 block of S. Allen has been issued.

Of greatest significance is a remodeling permit for Russ Greene to rebuild store front at 106 W. Railroad Street. Green intends to install upstairs apartments and open the first floor for retail space.

Behrns should soon receive a Final Plat submittal for Phase 3 of Southwest County Estates. This will be comprised of fourteen lots on Kelli Court.

#### Economic Development

Barry Stevens presented a report on CREDI Activities. He highlighted the Live Centralia Tours and appointment of two additional members of the Purchase with Purpose steering group. He updated progress on the welding class project between the Centralia School District and Hubbell/Chance. The Sunday afternoon Dinner Train to the Anchor Festival was a partial success. The trip only had 51 riders, but it served as a good test, showing that the bus connection and drop-off location worked. This venue should become better with a longer lead for advertizing. Mayor Grenke and Lorry Myers were on the buses and welcomed the visitors. CREDI is still updating its web page. They have a new summer intern.

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

#### Park Department

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

#### Cemetery Advisory Committee

Phyllis Brown submitted a report in the agenda packet concerning donations collected on Memorial Day. Receipts were up from last year, though not near collections of ten years or ago or so. Brown has implemented the new interment and grave space charges.

#### 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 May were in the agenda packet. With the June sales taxes received, the City is right on target for that revenue category. Behrns said that everything else was running as expected.

#### Bills over \$1,250

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

#### Other

Behrns explained protested taxes and a law suit from CenturyTel to recover a portion of gross receipts taxes. This is similar to other past telecom suits, which were won by a group of cities. Centralia is being represented by the previous

attorneys and also by the MML through a MOPERM attorney. The dispute is for only a portion of internet service. No great amount is at stake (about \$630 per month), but an unfavorable outcome might cause other companies to reopen the old disputes.

#### As May Arise

Behrns acknowledged the volunteer work of James Hollis, who repair and refinished the small desk at the front entrance to the City offices. The desk holds materials concerning the Avenue of Flags and had been in bad shape.

Behrns explained a request by County Commissioner Thompson for help at the Union Church Cemetery (at intersection of Jay Jay and Union Church Road). There is no regular mowing and several volunteer trees have grown up tangled in the grave spaces. The site is somewhat less than an acre in size. Staff had asked the Boy Scouts if they were interested, but they said that they were not allowed to use power equipment like lawn mowers and chain saws. This is not a City obligation. Perhaps volunteers would come forward if the problem is mentioned in the paper.

Behrns has received a letter from our employee union agreeing to the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding, if amended to be renamed and updating language clarifying the timing of dues checkoff, health insurance contributions maintained for another year, and City agreement to perform a pay survey before November 1. Behrns will make the changes and present the Agreement with an authorizing ordinance on the next Board agenda.

Simmons congratulated Bormann on being elected as secretary of the Mid-mo Regional MML group.

Lee asked staff to look into Hoffman's concerns about residents spraying grass clippings into street. The grass can accumulate and block stormsewer inlets. Behrns will research which parts of the nuisance regulations might be applicable.

The backup trash truck has not yet repaired. The shop is still waiting for wiring harnesses.

The other truck was to be picked up, but had a large volume of oily water in the hopper. Phil Hoffman separated out the oil in drums for disposal with Safety Clean. The salvage company can try again to take it away. Behrns noted he had received a citizen complaint that the City was violating its own junk car ordinance. He acknowledged their concern, but there was not much we could do on our own.

Behrns said there will be a need for ad hoc committees to help assess proposals for the sale of 105 N. Allen (an ad will be in the Wednesday issue of the Fireside Guard), and to select an architect for work on City Hall, gazebo, and entrance ramp at the Police Station. Mayor Grenke can make those appointments at the regular Board meeting.

The Committee then adjourned at about 7:58 p.m.