

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, September 9, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Magley, Bormann, Angell, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, John M. Baine, and James Smith. Mayor Grenke participated by telephone, but did not cast any votes.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

No comments.

Economic Development

No formal report. Committee noted that Barry Stevens has resigned as CREDI President. An election for a new president will be held later this month.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for the August 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 agenda packet.

Finance

Financial statements for August were in the agenda packet. Behrns said there was nothing new to highlight.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. They had no immediate questions.

Other

Behrns reminded the Committee of Williams-Keepers' proposal to perform the City audit for the next three years, at the same fee schedule used for the last three years. Committee members agreed that this represented a good deal. They directed Behrns to prepare an ordinance for next Board meeting to allow the City to accept the proposal.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

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

Dudgeon and Behrns told the Committee that Huber Associates had conducted a recent audit of the Centralia use of the Enterpol software. This is specialized software used to create reports and manage records pertaining to activities of the Police Department. Huber has determined that Centralia's part time officers and dispatchers should each be counted as a user in fee calculations. The City had been counting the number of full time equivalent employees. The result will be an extra charge of \$2,641 for past years and an increase of \$1,040 in the charge going forward. The City is not aware of any good alternatives for the Huber software.

The City budget more than \$6,100 to renew the maintenance agreement on the Police Department's logger of radio and phone traffic. Dudgeon reported that Lieutenant Bias had conducted search and located a logger which would cost \$5,558 for a replacement and only \$400.00 per year for a maintenance agreement. Dudgeon told Angell that the present vender had not been asked to provide a revised quotation. The new equipment is cheaper because it is cloud-based, and the on-site hardware is smaller and less complex. Bias checked several municipal references and received only good remarks. Behrns will prepare an ordinance for the next Board meeting to contract with Versadial for the new system.

Dudgeon introduced John Baine of Automated Traffic Enforcement Solutions. Baine had requested an opportunity to tell the aldermen about his company's equipment and service. The firm provides equipment to identify speeders and issue notices of violation to the owner of the offending vehicle. The firm could also provide vehicle, radar, and reimbursement for a police officer to maintain speed control in a specific area. Barnes said that his firm would operate without direct cost to the City. "Fines" paid by offenders would be collected by his firm. They would keep 40% and send 60% to the City. Under recent changes to Missouri Statutes, there are limits to the amount of revenue a City can collect, relative to total General Fund revenues. Behrns said that Centralia does not rely on court revenues. Only about 1-2% of all General Fund proceeds are from court fines of any sort. Baine passed out sample ordinances which he said would need to be adopted by the Board of Aldermen. They make the charge issued by the firm's equipment to be violations of the public's safety, not moving traffic violations. There would be no points applied against anyone's drivers license. Baines suggested that his equipment would be most effective around school zones. The equipment can be adjusted to give drivers a speed buffer of whatever increment the Board would direct. The equipment could also be only set to monitor speeds during set hours. Mayor Grenke asked how often the radar is checked for proper calibration. Baines said the radar self diagnosed at the start and end of each "shift". ATEs would want the equipment to be used at least thirty hours per week. The equipment is used by at least seven municipalities in the St. Louis area and one Kansas City suburb. It is also in place in other states. The firm does have competitors with similar products. Baine told Committee that the City had the ability to void tickets issued in error. Ticket information is wirelessly transferred immediately to the "cloud". The equipment is powered by large batteries that have to be changed out every two weeks or so. Radar zones can be moved at the City's request. Committee was told that one municipality in Tennessee had dropped the service for "political reasons". Chief Dudgeon did not immediately have a recommendation of a site where there was a special need for speed control. Committee discussed the matter briefly. They were not inclined to make a quick decision.

Dudgeon briefly mentioned that the School District was examining a new pattern for school buses and student drop-offs at the Middle School. If implemented, it would take traffic off Jefferson Street and route it to Rodemyre and through the south parking area.

Dudgeon asked the Committee to consider a promotion of Corporal Joe Bellamy to sergeant. After some discussion, Committee direct Behrns to prepare a possible ordinance to implement the promotion and resulting pay raise. Behrns will also calculate the fiscal impact of this action and email it to the Mayor and aldermen.

Dudgeon said that he had identified a candidate to become a part time patrol officer. The department has an open part time slot since the departure of Michael Slavings. Mayor Grenke said he will review the applicant and make an appointment recommendation in writing, since he will be at the Missouri Municipal League Conference next Monday.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of August activities of the Fire Department.

Rusch said that he is still concerned about the transmission on Fire Truck #1102 ('86 Ford). He is sending it to Meyers to be checked. He will report back to the aldermen with an estimate if repairs are required.

Emergency Management

EM Director Scott Olsen visited Centralia two weeks ago and described how the county-wide Emergency Response Plan will be updated and what future training efforts may be scheduled. Now that EM falls under Boone County, there will be readjustments. The City will be contacted about how the Centralia dispatch will be integrated in the 911 system. Behrns is updating a contact list of Centralia officials and employees and the list of emergency shelters.

Protective Inspection

Behrns said he had issued a demolition permit for the dangerous structure at 535 S. Allen St. A contractor has already been hired.

As May Arise

Behrns noted that he has provided LaCrosse Lumber with an instrument to dedicate a new utility easement. An ordinance will be on the next Board agenda to vacate a part of the older easement which bisects that property.

Behrns said that the Centralia Special Road District had asked if they could negotiate purchase of the older City backhoe when the new equipment is received in November. Some aldermen seemed agreeable, citing the City's cooperative arrangements with the District and the fact that Centralians pay a large portion of the District's property tax. Other aldermen wanted the City to maximize the revenue from resale of the surplus equipment and asked that we still plan on putting the equipment up for wide-spread competitive bidding or auction. No decision was reached and the topic will be discussed further in the coming months.

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