

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, January 13, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Simmons, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Lieutenant Robert Bias and his wife, Patt Olsen, Laurel Auck, and Angie Taylor.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee members agreed to change the agenda and recognized Olsen, Auck, and Taylor from the Centralia Library District. They presented a district resolution and other papers necessary to request the Board of Aldermen authorize a ballot issue for the April election date. The Aldermen would need to pass an ordinance at its next Board meeting to submit the issue to the County Clerk. The ballot question would ask for public approval of an additional twenty-five cents to the existing thirty cent property tax levy for purposes of library operations. Committee members agreed to the proposal and directed that staff to prepare the needed ordinance documents.

The Library representatives left and James Smith of the Fireside Guard arrived.

Comments from Citizens

No comments.

City Prosecutor

No report. There will be no Municipal Court in December.

Police Department

Police Lieutenant Bias presented a Police Department activity report for December. Committee members noted that the incidence of theft seemed to have risen. Bias agreed, but thought the rate of increase was small. He said that a summary report for the entire 2013 year would be available in the next few weeks.

Fire Department

In the absence of Fire Chief Rusch, Behrns started to present a report of December activities of the Fire Department. Committee members had no questions. Rusch then arrived. Behrns mentioned that he has received an alternate proposal for supplying fireworks for the July 4th display, and he wants Rusch to help judge if it is comparable to the last display purchased from J & R. He will discuss this before the end of the week.

Emergency Management

Behrns had nothing to report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns said there had been no building permit applications for a month.

Behrns displayed a set of the new 2012 editions of the International building codes and the 2011 National Electric Code. These are closed to being adopted by the City of Columbia. Boone County expects to adopt them in late spring or early summer. Boone County will probably not include some sections relating to more stringent energy efficiency and safety measures. These would add thousands of dollars to the cost of a new house. Behrns is studying the Boone County versions and will make recommendations later. To adopt the codes under state law, we will have to have multiple copies for public inspection and advertise the change for three months.

Economic Development

CREDI did not meet in December, so there is no report. Ginny Zoellers will have a Chamber of Commerce report at the regular Board meeting.

Behrns said that at the last REDI meeting, the members had been asked to join Boone County in support of the Missouri Certified Work Ready Community Program. This program is already in place. It provides a mechanism to show that potential employees have attained skill levels sufficient to perform different jobs. This aids businesses in worker recruitment and helps workers recognize what employers will be expecting. Behrns suggested informal use by the City in initial screening and indicators of earnestness. Committee said that Behrns could tell the program of Centralia's support.

Park Department

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

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No formal report.

Tree Board

No report. Mayor Grenke said that the Board had submitted an application for renewed recognitions as a Tree City USA. He expects Centralia to obtain that designation, as we have for more than two decades.

Library Board

Minutes and agenda for the Library Board were included in the agenda packet.

Finance

Financial statements for December were in the agenda packet. Committee had no questions.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Bormann asked if the payment to Canon Construction for work on Switzler Street was a final check. Behrns said “no”. The City is holding a small amount for the final grading and seeding when weather turns. Also, the contractor and engineer have different numbers for the quantities of concrete used in drives and side approaches. They are waiting for snow melt to allow second measurements to be made. The amount retained is less than 5%.

Other

Behrns said that he had used the new health insurance rates and the December operating statements to prepare a first draft of the General Fund budget. He reported that there would not be sufficient funds to pay for a replacement front-end loader in the next fiscal year. There should be enough money to finance small pay increases, a detachable snow plow blade for the loader, \$50,000 in stormsewer improvement, and two used replacement patrol cars for the police. Behrns still needs amounts for

requests by various economic development agencies and for the Civil War reenactment, but he is close to a balanced budget.

As May Arise

Mayor Grenke told committee members about a new on-line purchasing program being sponsored by the Municipal League. Behrns will study the program and compare it to the State purchasing program and prices the City is getting through the Boone County Purchasing Cooperative.

Closed Session

Simmons then moved that the Committee elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of the City of Centralia or its representatives for negotiation with an employee group, as provided for under Section 610.021 (9) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Grenke seconded the motion. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

The Committee then met in closed session to discuss proposals from the employee union. No votes were taken until Simmons moved to return to open session. Bormann seconded the motion. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Return to Regular Session

Simmons moved that the Committee adjourn. Bormann seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. The Committee then adjourned at about 8:04 p.m.