

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, February 10, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:08 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Simons, Bormann, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Don Rodgers, Gabe Martinez, Brenda Moss, and James Smith.

Comments from Citizens

No comments.

Economic Development

Rodgers made a presentation on CREDI activities and submitted a proposed renewal of CREDI's contract for economic development services. Last year's contract had been for \$10,000, but CREDI has now completed start-up efforts, and is requesting just \$6,000. CREDI is working on several fund-raising ideas to supplement the proceeds of the contract.

Rodgers spoke about CREDI's "near miss" on securing an industrial prospect. He described it as a learning experience, one which will help them to be better prepared for the next time.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for past meetings were in the Committee agenda packet.

Committee noted the resignation of Park Director Tad Dunn. Behrns said Dunn was taking a new job, but would help with budgeting and hiring summer help before he leaves. The Park Board is already working on recruiting a replacement.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No formal report.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

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

City officials have receive invitations to attend the presentation of the new children's center at the Library. This renovation was made possible through a gift of a local resident. The event will be on February 23 at 3 p.m.

Finance

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

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250; there were no questions.

Other

Behrns reported that this is a year when we are required to request new proposals for banking services and select an official depository. Submittals are due at the end of the month. Only the three banks with locations inside the City are eligible to bid. Heather will present the results to the Board in March. Behrns anticipates

that the Board will address several ordinance to implement contracts. These will be presented after the election and swearing in of the new aldermen.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a Police Department activity report for January.

Dudgeon said that his department had recently experienced problems with its server computer. Alderman Wilkins had repaired it, but recommended replacement within the next year. He also recommended purchase of a slightly used server from a vender's lease program. Behrns said this was not in his current draft budget, so he will add \$5,000 for the replacement and make extra cuts to balance the General Fund. He noted that the front office server was ten years old and is also scheduled to be replaced, (the cost being spread through funds through the cashing and collecting distribution.

City Clerk Lockett still intends to send out answers to Wilkins' questions about the CUSI proposal of the new software module on utility account access and credit card payment as soon as the information is available.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch, presented a report of January department activities. He said the new fireman is working out well. The department still has several slots open. The frequency of medical calls is up (and probably weather-related.)

Behrns and Rusch are working with the Boone County Fire Protection District to smooth operations. New extra capacity at Joint Dispatch would allow the use of one frequency for fire calls to both City firefighters and members at Station 10. This could allow all firefighters to hear all radio traffic as firefighters report and respond. For some calls, this would reduce the number of responders and hopefully save a few dollars. (There is a large overlap between the Centralia department and County firefighters situated at Station 10 Police would still be called out through the City dispatch center. Dispatcher Moss asked about alarm calls for Hubbell/Chance and others. Behrns said that this is a wrinkle to be worked out, not an obstacle.

Emergency Management

Behrns had nothing to report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns said there had been two building permits issued for new houses in January.

Boone County is now advertising public hearings for adoption of the new editions of building codes. Behrns hasn't not yet done so, because he has not received a copy of the Fire Code volume.

As May Arise

Behrns reported that negotiations with the employee union are essentially finished. The union has accepted the City's counter proposal. Staff and the union representatives are mutually working on the exact contract language implement the points that have been agreed to. Behrns will present the new version of the contract for adoption in March, after the next budget is adopted.

Behrns reviewed the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. His draft is still in slight deficit and he needs to identify changes totaling about \$25,000. He expects that actual operations in the first half of February will eliminate the gap. The draft presently includes raises pursuant to the union proposal, allowance for two part-time street workers for three months in the summer. The police payroll figures recognize the actual trend of patrol hours by allowing for 7.25 full-time equivalent officers, instead of 6.75 (plus the Police Chief). There is a carryover of funds to replace a street department pickup, and new funds to pay for replacement of two patrol cars with used low-mileage autos from the Highway Patrol, Allowance is made for service contracts with Friends of the Centralia Battlefield and CREDI--tentatively at the requested amounts. The Fire Department should be able to replace some air packs and tanks and a used extrication tool. A replacement asphalt tamper, \$50,000 for stormsewer projects, and funding for five demolition incentive projects are included in the draft. Behrns hopes to have a detailed, complete draft printed by the first of March.

Eleven applications have been received for the City Administrator's position. With three more weeks before the soft deadline, Behrns still believes that number will increase to twenty-five or thirty. The City has the option to extend its ICMA ad if it wants.

Behrns presented bids for replacing the street department pickup (purchased in 2000). Committee discussion focused on whether the pickup should be bought from a local vender or from an out-of-town vender for a lower price. Purchasing in town would cost more in this instance. Magley and Simmons indicated that some constituents had asked them to always take the low bid. Behrns will have staff ask about the cash value of an extra service offer on the local bid and prepare hand-out for the regular board packet.

Committee adjourned about 7:50 p.m.