

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, June 9, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Magley, Vollrath, Lee, Ward, and Bormann. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Lorry Myers, Emily Curtis, Don Bobbitt, and James Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

Bobbitt congratulated Ward and Vollrath for being elected and willing to serve the community.

Economic Development

Myers made a report on CREDI activities. The group has elected new officers, including Gabe Martinez as President. The CREDI Board wants to re-energize several programs, such the tours for new school and Hubbell employees—encouraging prospects to move to Centralia, rather than Columbia or elsewhere. They want to step up marketing and promotion efforts for the City and local businesses. Myers displayed an issue of “Elan”, a magazine produced locally by Curtis and printed at Richman Graphics.

Myers publicly thanked outgoing director Don Rodgers for his multiple terms in office. She acknowledged the City’s support and Wilkins’ participation on the board.

Bormann said that a preliminary analysis showed Anchor Festival attendance to be down slightly, but revenues were probably the second best ever. The pleasant weather helped. One of the bands was very well received, but has gained national recognition and priced themselves out of the market for any future return.

Park Department

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

Cemetery Advisory Committee

A written report from Phyllis Brown showed Memorial Day donations to be about the same as last year. Raising and lowering the Avenue of Flags was well supported by local volunteers.

Tree Board

No written report.

Library Board

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

Finance

Financial statements for May were in the agenda packet. Behrns said he had reviewed the operating statement this afternoon and found two items that were mis-posted. Corrected versions will be in the packet for the regular Board meeting. Committee members had no questions.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Wilkins noted that later additions will include the charge for the new police file server.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a Police Department activity report for May.

Dudgeon reported that the subscription to Leads on Line would expire in about a month. He said that the Police Department had found this information resource very useful and would like to renew it. Wilkins moved that the subscription to Leads on Line be renewed for one year for a cost of \$1,488. Bormann seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Dudgeon noted many citizen comments, including one from Harold Gooding, about the quality of the police presence at the Anchor Festival.

Bormann said that visitors with pets were a growing problem at Anchor Festival. There were too many dogs. Even when they are on leashes, they can leave messes, and can look intimidating. They could quickly turn violent if someone in the crowd stepped on them. Bormann also thought that more exotic animals also detracted from the family atmosphere. One man brought both a snake and a lizard. After discussion, Committee asked that City Attorney Beck research how other communities had found legal ways to control pets in inappropriate situations. A prospective ordinance should, of course, allow for service animals for disabled persons, and should apply to similar events, such as the fall BBQ contest. Rusch said that some contestants bring their pets to the BBQ event. Crafting an ordinance that allows for consistent enforcement will be difficult.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch, presented a report of May department activities.

Emergency Management

Behrns had nothing to report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns reported that he has now issued 17 housing unit permits for the year. Two dilapidated houses had been demolished in the last two weeks. Work on a third awaits certification that the gas is disconnected.

The required notice period will end this week and ordinance to adopt the 2012 set of International Building Codes and 2011 National Electric Code will be up for public hearing and adoption at the regular Board meeting.

Wilkins said he had been able to arrange a future meeting with Clifford de la Rosa concerning progress of work in the Narraganset Building.

Other

Behrns reported that bids should be opened on Thursday for masonry work on City Hall. He expects to have an ordinance to be on the regular Board agenda to authorize a contract with the low bidder. Simon Associates had delayed the roof repair bids in an attempt to stir up more contractor interest.

Ward and Vollrath will tour City facilities next week.

As May Arise

Mayor Grenke should have several appointments to make at the regular Board meeting.

Aldermen asked Behrns to look into the lack of mowing in the rear yard of 130 S. Denton and at 700 W. Bruton.

Committee adjourned about 7:32 p.m.