

## **Minutes of the meeting of the General Government and Public Safety Committee of Monday, August 11, 2014,**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Bormann, and Lee; also attending were Matt Harline, Gabe Martinez, CPD Officers Stone and Hicks, Fire Chief Rusch, Carol Sharp, Bev Moffat and James Smith. Police Chief Dudgeon arrived at 7:10.

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

Carol Sharp, 915 Mystic Drive, addressed the Committee about the problems feral cats that are causing problems on her property. She has lived on Mystic Drive for 16 months and had stray cats in yard defecating and using her newly planted seedling trees as scratching posts. Ms. Sharp explained that her dog is restrained by an invisible fence and electric collar and the cats have learned how close they can come; this upsets her dog. She explained that City staff has trapped three or four cats. Some have had notched ears which she has been told are part of a colony of feral cats in the area. Ms. Sharp reported that she has witnessed a woman who feeds the cats yell, "Feed!", and the cats come to a lot just south of Tidball. She has counted eight different cats together. She reported that she is going to have to spend money to try and repair the lost bark on her trees. She said she has to clean cat feces out her garden and yard. She reported her vet is concerned about her dog eating the cat feces. She stressed that she doesn't hate cats, she just doesn't want them in her yard. Ms. Sharp said it is an everyday, every night problem. She said you could visit at 6:00 a.m. or 9:30 p.m. and see the cats; they are very regular. Ms. Sharp handed the Committee a written statement.

She asked the Committee to enforce the ordinances on the books including euthanasia or using darts.

Wilkins commented that this is the first time the Committee has been told that there is property damage. Ms. Sharp said she would like something done immediately. Lee suggested that the "owner" choose which four pets she could keep.

Mayor Grenke asked if the notched ear cats are spayed or neutered. Ms. Sharp said she did not know but that is what she understands. Bormann stated that the idea was that by spaying and neutering feral cats and releasing them it could maintain a manageable population.

Wilkins asked Police Chief Dudgeon if we had the type of dart gun to aid in the capture of the cats. Chief Dudgeon replied that he believed we did have the dart gun but that it has not been used recently. He said he would be do what the law allowed him to do to capture the cats. Ms. Sharp added that the law does allow for euthanasia.

Wilkins said that the first step was to capture the cats then we would consider the second step. He asked if that sounded reasonable. Ms. Sharp replied that she was very tired of this.

Lee asked to see if we could get some cooperation from the lady that was feeding the cats. We could ask her to only feed her cats in her yard. Magley asked if the City needed to put a stop to the feeding. Ms. Sharp said that we just need to put a stop to the cats.

Harline stated that the City would have to have a reason to go on to the property where the cats were being fed. There was discussion about if it was City or private property and it was agreed the cats were being fed on private property.

#### IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

##### A. City Prosecutor:

Mayor Grenke stated that April Wilson is going to try and make it to the September meeting of the Board of Alderman.

##### B. Police Department

Wilkins noted that the Committee had an Activity Report. Chief Dudgeon noted there had been some overtime and use of part-time officers due to officers being off for military service or other reasons. Chief Dudgeon thanked David Wilkins for assistance with installing the new server and the Electric Department for installing new ballasts in the lights.

##### A. Fire Department

Chief Rusch reported that the new extrication tool would be in the City's hands soon. Harline noted that the department had trained with the Moberly hospital helicopter rescue squad. Chief Rusch replied that due to the heavy use of the Staff for Life helicopter out of Columbia that we would likely be served by Moberly and so the City Volunteer Firefighters trained with them to learn their protocol. Rusch also noted that they would need to be ordering Santa suits soon.

##### D. Emergency Management

Harline reported that he had been added to the committee that is charged with re-writing the Boone County Emergency Plan. The committee will work with the RPC and the Boone County staff.

##### E. Protective Inspection

Harline reported that we continue to get building permit applications at a good pace including three commercial applications recently for two churches and Albert's Shoe Repair.

#### V. GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

##### A. Economic Development

Gabe Martinez reported that he and Harline participated in a webinar on the eCivis grant search software. Martinez reported he hopes that will help us find some useful grants. He also reported that CREDI had begun their "Live Centralia" tours with the new teachers. He thanked Forrest Chevrolet for loaning the nice vehicles for the Live Centralia tours. These tours are designed to show people should move to and live in Centralia.

##### B. Park Board

Minutes from the last meeting were in the last discussed briefly

##### C. Cemetery Report

Harline reported that we are continuing to work with Midland GIS to get precise locations of each existing grave. We have an issue with one section in the older part of the cemetery. Harline also noted that this is the third year on the contract with Hardesty for mowing the cemetery so the Committee might keep it in the back of their mind to renew or extend that contract this winter.

##### D. Tree Board Report

Lee reported that there was no meeting.

##### F. Library Board

Wilkins noted that the agenda for the upcoming meeting was in the packet.

G. July Financial Statements

Harline reported that sales tax revenue has been up, although the most recent report down slightly. Bormann noted that the mild summer would keep electric revenues down. Harline noted that property tax might be looking up for December slightly due to new building. Bormann asked if that was going to be adopted at the Board of Alderman meeting next week. Harline said it was.

H. Bills over \$1,250

Harline reviewed the bills. Harline noted that bill from the audit and noted that we may be able to save some time (and possibly money) on the audit by doing some renumbering of the budget.

I. Other General Government

VI. OTHER

VII. AS MAY ARISE

Mayor Grenke noted that September 14 – 17 is the Missouri Municipal League. He asked if anyone was planning to attend. Other than himself and Harline no one was planning to attend so no motion to move the September Board of Alderman meeting was made.

VIII. ADJOURN

**Motion was made to adjourn by Bormann, seconded by Grenke and approved by voice vote.**