

## **Minutes of the meeting of the General Government and Public Safety Committee of Monday, October 13, 2014.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Ward, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee; also attending were Matt Harline, Raven Harline, Gabe Martinez, Fire Chief Rusch, Police Chief Dudgeon and James Smith of the Centralia Fireside Guard.

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

None.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### City Prosecutor

No report. Grenke noted that Ms. Wilson will only be coming to meetings once every two to three months.

#### Police Department

Wilkins asked for comments and questions about the Activity Report and there were none. Wilkins noted that there had been a lot of animal control calls; 104. Were they all cats? Chief Dudgeon couldn't say but doubted it. Wilkins asked about BBQ contest. Chief Dudgeon said it went well and thanked the Street Department for their assistance.

#### Fire Department

Activity Report – The activity report was presented and there were no comments on it.

Other – Harline asked if the Fire Department had used their new extrication tool and Chief Rusch replied that they were looking for a junk car to try it on.

#### Emergency Management

Nothing to report.

#### Protective Inspection

Harline reported 23 applications so far for single family building permits this year.

Mayor Grenke asked if there was a report on the Black Hog. Chief Dudgeon reported that their State Liquor license expired in June of 2013. The operation had been closed down recently. Late last week the City received a statement from the State of no tax due on the sales tax. Chief Dudgeon reported that he sent a message to Liquor Control that the City would not object to a 90-day City liquor license, which would allow them to apply for a State Liquor Permit. They would be required to produce an inventory of liquor produced from a legitimate alcohol vendor, remain current on all fees and taxes, and that they violate no laws or ordinances in that 90 days before a full year permit would be issued. They still have to satisfy the State to get a license. That doesn't address any pending charges. Today is a state holiday so there has been no reply, of course. The State won't approve a license without City approval so the City has what we need, the decision is now up to the State.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE**

### Economic Development

Gabe Martinez, President of the CREDI Board reported that they were working on the January Fundraiser and beyond that he has nothing additional to report.

REDI Membership – Our annual membership is due and it is \$1,000. Is there any objection to renewing? Harline stated that he felt that the strong Columbia bias is still there, but Bernie Andrews did contact Harline recently on a potential new industry prospect, and we sent in some information noting our interest. Grenke stated that we have been REDI members since he can remember and Grenke thinks it is a worthwhile investment

REDI Director – Harline reported that down to two candidates and he had been able to meet them at their interview. The Board had indicated a preference and an announcement may be coming soon.

### Park Board

Heather attended their most recent full meeting. The minutes are in the packet. The Board agreed to donate a free season swimming pass for the survey drawing. Harline reported that he attended their September 28<sup>th</sup> planning meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> and they had a lot of wants and some needs. He said that was what you would hope from a group that wanted to provide new and better equipment in our park system.

### Cemetery Report

No report.

### Tree Board Report

No Report

### Library Board

The Chairman noted that the minutes and agenda for the next meeting were in the packet.

### September Financial Statements

Harline noted that we were at 52% of the budgeted amount for sales tax which is good news. Overall we are doing well but not extraordinarily well.

### Bills over \$1,250

The Committee reviewed the bills without comment.

### Other General Government

Survey results - So far we have 75 surveys turned in, which is a pretty low response rate, but bills aren't due for two more days. Generally people are happy with City services, but there a couple areas where so far we are scoring low. I will share much more details once the survey is closed October 29th.

Alderman Wilkins stated he never pays his bill physically. It is removed directly from his account so he doesn't always read the newsletter at the same time.

### OTHER

Chief Dudgeon reported that, over the weekend, the main dispatch phone quit. Dudgeon believed the phone

system in the police department came with the building. Dudgeon said we have always looked at the system as one (City Hall and other operations). Dudgeon said that's just too big. Harline said it is not acceptable to have the phone fail, but he had worked with the phone system in Fulton and the real cost is in the server, and having two would be very costly. There was a brief discussion about the value of going to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system and it was agreed that would be looked into.

#### AS MAY ARISE

Jim Lee stated that Phyllis Brown informed him that Janie Enlow passed away. He added that Ms. Enlow was instrumental in getting the Recreation Center built and had long been important to the Parks Department. The visitation will be at Fenton Funeral Home at 1:00 pm with a service to follow. He asked that the ladies in the office be allowed to be able to attend. Harline replied that they may have to take turns but that should not be a problem.

Mayor Grenke announced that on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a Retirement Party for Bill Miller who was City Treasurer for 43 years. It will be from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the Centralia Community Room in City Hall.

James Smith from the Fireside Guard asked if the breakdown for the donation of the money for the Battlefield Reenactment has been reported yet. Harline said the original \$20,000 was not used, it was more like half that. Lee said it was \$8,000. Smith asked if there was a detailed breakdown of how it was spent. Lee said it would be coming soon.

#### ADJOURN

Vollrath made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Magley which was approved by unanimous voice vote at 7:35pm.

G:\Meetings\FY2014-15\BoA Mtg 10-20-2014\MIN - GG&PSC -10132014.doc