

## **Minutes of the meeting of the General Government and Public Safety Committee of the City of Centralia of Monday, January 12, 2015.**

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 City Administrator Matt Harline, Gabe Martinez, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, City Attorney Merritt Beck, Mike Perry of General Code, James Bonneville of MuniCode Corporation and James Smith of the Centralia Fireside Guard.

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

None.

### **PRESENTATION BY MIKE PERRY (GENERAL CODE/SULLIVAN)**

Harline introduced Mr. Perry who then gave a brief history of Sullivan Publications which was purchased by General Code. Perry explained that the product Sullivan developed could not keep up with the most recent updates of Windows. Perry mentioned that his company has always been in Missouri and it includes an annual update of changes to state law that affects municipal government. Perry then gave a lengthy demonstration of the ECode360 product that is available to post the Centralia City Code online and the training opportunities on his product. Perry explained the various levels of participation available to the City and the various features available.

James Bonneville of MuniCode Corporation introduced himself and stated that he was in attendance and ready to answer questions about his company's product.

Wilkins said that he did not see the advantage of posting all city documents, but he did like the code search function. The Committee thanked both gentlemen and they left. In the discussion that followed the Council indicated that they preferred to stay with General Code.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### City Prosecutor

No report.

#### Police Department

##### *Activity Report*

The report was reviewed by the Committee. Wilkins noted a drop in overall calls in the month of December from 2013 to 2014. Grenke mentioned that last Friday was Law Enforcement Recognition Day.

##### *Other*

Chief Dudgeon reported that he was going to honor former Police Sergeant Raymond Cooper's grave. Dudgeon reported that it has been five years since he passed away. Grenke asked about his mother and how she was doing.

#### Fire Department

##### *Annual and monthly Activity Reports*

Wilkins asked for questions or comments. Harline noted the vast majority of the calls last year were medical.

### **Emergency Management**

Harline reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was meeting again tomorrow (Tuesday, January 13).

### **Protective Inspection**

Harline announced that for 2014 we had 28 applications for new single-family dwelling building permits which is more than any year since at least 2010. There were 21 last year. There were 45 houses available for sale on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, a slight increase from the previous two months.

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE**

#### **Economic Development**

Gabe Martinez reported that there was a brief meeting in December. Martinez noted that the CREDI Board is excited about the upcoming fundraiser on Saturday, January 17, 2015.

#### **Park Board**

Wilkins noted that there is agenda and minutes from the December 16 meeting in the packet.

#### **Cemetery Report**

Wilkins noted that there are minutes in the packet. Harline noted that the Cemetery Board recommended bidding out the mowing of the cemetery and expect Parks and Recreation will be interested. Harline stated that he has spoken since then with Erle Bennett and Mr. Bennett is not convinced that the Parks staff would be the best solution, but he is willing to draft and submit a bid, but it will reflect the full costs.

#### **Tree Board Report**

Grenke did sign the application to continue the status of Centralia for the 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City.

#### **Library Board**

Wilkins noted that the agenda for tomorrow's meeting (Tuesday, January 13) is in the packet.

#### **December 2014 Financial Statements & Bills over \$1,250**

Grenke asked if sales tax and other revenues still looked good and Harline replied that they were still above last year and slightly ahead of budget. Grenke asked about the tuition reimbursement for Officer Alyson Brooks. Harline and Dudgeon explained that this was according to City policy. Harline and Dudgeon noted that she was taking classes toward a degree in Psychology that is directly related to her police work.

#### **Other General Government**

##### ***Updating the Code Online***

No additional discussion.

##### ***General Fund Capital Wish List***

Harline noted that a spreadsheet of potential budget items were included in the packet. At this point there are not enough funds to cover all the highest wishes. Harline stated that we are about \$107,000 short, however as the final estimates of expenditures from the current year come in and depending on how we budget things like the phone system, additional items may become affordable. There are funds for one additional police car with a trade in of one.

##### ***Internet and Phone Service Update***

Harline reported that City Hall and the Police Department switched over to Charter for phone and Internet at City Hall. There was a brief interruption of phone service and a couple glitches but no problems since then that I am aware of. Wilkins stated that he understood that the brief interruption was anticipated and Harline stated that Wilkins understood correctly.

## **OTHER**

### *Further Preliminary Budget Discussions*

Harline said that he had pretty much covered it.

### *Safe Routes to Schools grant.*

Grenke reported that the City has received official word from MODOT that we will receive full funding for the sidewalks in front of Centralia High School. Our match will be less than \$32,000 over two years.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Vollrath made a motion that was seconded by Magley that the Committee go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be for hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, as provided for under Section 610.021 (3) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

Voting Yes: Grenke, Magley, Ward, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee. Voting No: None.

The Committee then met in closed session to Harline's six-month review. In closed session the Committee voted to grant Harline's request for one additional week of vacation and give him a salary increase to \$72,500 per year (3.6%). Voting Yes: Grenke, Magley, Ward, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee. Voting No: None.

### *Return to Open Session*

Wilkins asked for a motion to return to open session which Vollrath made and Magley seconded. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **AS MAY ARISE**

Magley asked about the De La Rosa property and if it was time to check into its condition is. Grenke reported that there are some CDBG monies available for demolition that might be available for that and other properties. Harline replied that he intended to review the status of improvements to this building and the Stowers building and possibly others.

## **ADJOURN**

Magley made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ward and approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.