

## **Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, September, 2015.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, David Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present also were Aldermen Landon Magley, Dick Ward, Don Bormann, Jim Lee and Mayor Grenke. Also attending were City Administrator Matt Harline, Police Chief, Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Park Director, Erle Bennett, Mike Kinkead, Heather Russell, Lauren Donaldson, Darren Dubes, Rusty Rice, George Moffett, Bruce Donaldson Sue Donaldson, Yvonne Dudgeon and James Smith of the Fireside Guard.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Those present recited the pledge.

Harline asked if the item VI. H. 1. Could be moved up to follow the presentation of the good citizen award. Wilkins asked if there were any objections and seeing none made the adjustment to the agenda.

### Comments from Citizens.

None.

### Presentation of Good Citizens Award

Mayor Grenke announced that Chief Dudgeon had an award to present in honor of a notable act of citizenship. Chief Dudgeon explained how Ms. Donaldson found a wallet while working at McDonalds and gave it to her boss Mr. Dubes, so that he could return it to the owner. Chief Dudgeon that this was a notable act in this day and age, especially considering neither Donaldson nor Dubes were aware that there was almost \$500 in cash in the wallet. Chief Dudgeon introduced several of the visitors and some spoke. Mr. Rice stated that he owns nine restaurants and he is proud to be here and humbled by the character of these employees. Mr. Moffett stated that he was also very proud of his employees. Chief Dudgeon and Mayor Grenke presented the award to Lauren Donaldson and then to Darren Dubes for their honesty and integrity in turning a lost wallet with a substantial amount of cash. Mayor Grenke said that it was phenomenal behavior in this day and age.

### Other General Government

*Social Media Policy* Harline noted that a draft policy has been included in the packet. Harline added that City Clerk, Heather Russell had been advocating in favor of a use of social media for some time. Harline said that social media would give the City the chance to get information out more quickly and directly than the printed or online Fireside Guard. Harline introduced City Clerk Heather Russell who explained that the policy was pretty much self-explanatory and she was here mainly to answer questions. Grenke supported the idea of the City developing a social media presence. Russell explained that the policy adoption was necessary before launching a social media platform for guidance about what was appropriate and inappropriate behavior on behalf of the city employees. Russell noted that she would have access, the police dispatch would have access for emergency situations and Harline noted that he would have access as a backup to Ms. Russell. Wilkins said that it was important to limit who could speak officially for the City. Russell reported that 55% of people use social media daily and over 70% weekly. Wilkins said this would be especially important in communicating with younger people. Russell explained that all of this would direct people back to information on our website. Wilkins noted that the policy would reduce ambiguity about what was allowed. Russell noted that Twitter was another possibility and that the Chamber and Parks were already using social media. Wilkins asked for the staff to proceed with a policy.

## Police Department

*Activity Report:* Wilkins asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report and there were none.

*Closing of Allen Street for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Shop Hop:* Harline/Chief Dudgeon noted that the Women's Network had submitted a formal request and either the Board or the Police Chief and Mayor could approve the request to close a street. Harline that this is no big deal, he just wanted to follow Policy Resolution R-91-5 that established Policy #13. Harline said it would have to be the Mayor and Chief because the event would be over before the full Board met. Grenke said he thinks it's a good thing keeping the shops open a little later.

*Sale of police car update* Harline reported that the former police car 821 was currently advertised for sale on GovDeals and a notice is scheduled to appear in the Fireside Guard directing people there on Wednesday. Harline noted that the bid was currently at \$2,050, which is well over the last bid, but, still below the \$2,500 reserve. Harline asked if the Chief and Committee would consider dropping the reserve, since we already have a bid for over \$2,000. Chief Dudgeon said that he felt that \$2,000 was too cheap. Chief Dudgeon replied in response to a question from Grenke that the car is simply sitting there. Harline asked if the Committee was flexible on that price. Lee and Wilkins said that we could make a choice at that time if we were ready to accept a lower bid.

*Other:* Chief Dudgeon noted that there was an item in the \$1,250 for the purchase of ballistic vests but half would be paid back by a grant that the City had received.

## Fire Department

*Activity Report:* Wilkins asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report and there were none.

*Mini-pumper fire apparatus proposals:* Harline stated that he had met with a representative of US Bank today and he thinks, with the Mayor having signed in 22 places on the lease-purchase agreement, everything is in order to complete the paperwork for the purchase of the "mini-pumper" fire truck. Harline added that it had been a little more complicated than he thought and the people at US Bank and Banner Fire Equipment had offered great cooperation. Harline said that he is confident

*Other* Chief Rusch reported that Banner brought in their diagnostic equipment in to test the pumps for the first time in several years. Rusch added that one truck can't draft water from a pond but can spray it. Chief Rusch reported that the SCBA equipment purchase from March is almost done after some complications and having to get some equipment from the City of Columbia. Harline said that we would get everything we need and almost everything we wanted all at the price originally quoted and we would get our money back on the rest. Chief Rusch said this will give us 22 full sets with a backup bottle for each set. Rusch added that the 1986 model truck is having some break issues but they were working on the repair in house.

## Emergency Management

Harline noted that the draft resolution to adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been sent to us by the Mid-MO Regional Planning Commission and an ordinance will be prepared to adopt it.

## Protective Inspection

*Dangerous Building Report:* Harline reported on his meeting with the Mayor, Jim Lee, Don Rodgers, Mr. De La Rosa and himself. Harline said that his recommended approach to the next step was included in the draft letter. Harline said that unless there was objections he planned to proceed with requiring Mr. De Le Rosa to submit a new form to effectively reopen his building permit and proceed under the 1996 BOCA code that had been adopted by the City in 1999. Harline explained

that although the original court case that began back in 2003 had noted that the Centralia City Code did not set an expiration on building permits, the BOCA code in place at the time did, and so that would be enforced in the future. Harline stated that if he fails to keep making progress and continues to have inspections every six months, then the City can inspect to see if it can be declared a dangerous building.

*Residential structures without water service:* Harline said that there were two properties with no water service and no bill and a couple of others that had been shut off but may still have people living there and one that had a bill but no use for several months. Harline said the he wished to proceed with a social service approach to see if we could help, and if not investigate for health code violations. Magley asked if they were paying for trash service and Harline replied that he would investigate. Bormann asked if they might be using sewer without using water.

### Economic Development

*CREDI* Wilkins noted the minutes in the packet and asked for questions and comments. There were none.

*Feasibility Study.* Harline explained that the process began when a hotel chain approached the City about building a hotel in Centralia and he said that he would require a feasibility study. Harline noted that America's Best Value Inn had said a feasibility study would be a good idea too. Harline stated both the CREDI and Chamber of Commerce Boards of Directors had approved funding for the project and he would like to issue an RFP to conduct a feasibility study for a hotel or motel in the city limits of Centralia. Harline said that if the Committee approved up to \$5,000 then the City could afford up to \$11,500. **Grenke made a motion to direct the staff to prepare an RFP for a feasibility study, but not to exceed \$5,000 to determine if Centralia could support a hotel or motel. Lee seconded the motion.** Harline said that the idea would be to get the study at the lowest and best price. Ward said he thought we were supposed to be paying a third. Harline replied that it would be a third up to \$9,000 but he didn't want to lose the opportunity. Bormann noted that CREDI and the Chamber could agree to increase their amount. **Wilkins called the question and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

*Grant locator services:* Harline said he would come back with a more detailed report later.

*Other:* Wilkins noted that there was a Chamber report in the packet with financials from July. Grenke apologized for missing the Grand Opening of Grinders, but his family really enjoyed the food.

### Park Board

*Refinancing RFP update* Mike Kinkead reported that Westport Pool gave a more detailed proposal and used a local contractor for construction approve and that is why they recommended Westport Pools to do the renovation of the pool. Harline said that a contract would be ready for the full Board meeting on Monday if the Committee approved of Westport Pools. **Bormann made a motion to draft an ordinance to approve a design-build contract with Westport Pools, Inc. Magley seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

### Cemetery Report

Harline reported that the Cemetery Board met this evening about a couple issues and a report would follow

### Tree Board

No report.

### Library Board

Wilkins noted that an agenda for the next meeting and minutes from the last meeting were in the packet. No comments or questions.

### Finance

Financial statements for August 2015 were in the agenda packet. Harline replied to the question from Wilkins that the City was doing well on sales tax and the property tax numbers from County Clerk we or adding additional assessed value and utilities were okay.

### Bills over \$1,250

Wilkins noted that Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 on page 87 of the packet totaling \$510,812.32. Grenke noted that the overlay bill from Christensen was a large part of that amount.

### Other

*Selecting firm for underground conduit installation project.* Harline stated that we changed our strategy for the bids on the boring project making the second bore at each location optional and we received three bids instead of inly one. Harline reported that Lil Rock Electric, Inc. out of Mascoutah, Illinois was the least expensive for one bore at \$94,116. Harline reported that with expenses for engineering and advertising we had already spent about \$45,000 toward that line item, plus we still have to pay for the flagmen. Wilkins noted that the Lil Rock was cheaper at 30 days than Sellenriek at 120 days. Harline said that the reason could be that Lil Rock is just hungrier for work right now. Harline said that Sellenreik was the least expensive for two bores at \$165,000. Harline recommended Lil Rock and one bore. Magley asked if we could charge penalties if they don't meet the 30 day limit. Bormann said that we could only if it was in the bid packet. Harline said that he would investigate that. Grenke asked about the locations and Harline demonstrated on the wall map in the Board Room where the bores would go approximately. Harline stated that both Lil Rock and Sellenriek had good references. In answer to a question from Ward, Harline and Grenke stated that the railroad insisted on flagmen. Harline reminded the Committee that the cost of the flagmen was one reason that the bid from Sellenriek (the only bidder in the previous offer) was so high. **Bormann made a motion for staff to develop a contract and ordinance to approve such contract and bring it back for approval at the meeting the following Monday. Grenke seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

### As May Arise

Harline asked if anyone was interested in going on the trip to see the Prairie State power plant and mine in southern Illinois on September. Grenke said that he wanted to go.

Chief Dudgeon noted that the Kiwanis golf tournament was coming up on Saturday, September 26.

Mayor Grenke read a request from the MML for assistance from the member cities to assist with the cost for hosting a reception at the National League of Cities in Nashville, TN in November this year.

**Grenke moved that the Committee adjourn. Ward seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.** The Committee adjourned at 8:05 p.m.