

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, December 14, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, David Wilkins at 7:01 p.m. Present Mayor Tim Grenke, Aldermen Landon Magley, Dick Ward, Jim Lee and Don Bormann. Also attending were City Administrator Matt Harline, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Lisa Rusch, Jessica Orsini and James Smith of the Fireside Guard.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens – None.

Police Department

Wilkins asked if there were any questions and there were none. Grenke asked about the “Weapons carry and conceal” item on the Activity Report. Chief Dudgeon replied that an individual with a concealed weapon had been dealt with and the information forwarded back to Audrain County from where he came.

Chief Dudgeon noted that the new requirements for POST certification kicks in on January 1, 2017. Chief Dudgeon said that he felt that 24 hours of training per officer per year not a big deal because we do a lot of our training online and the additional amount will not cost that much more money. Bormann asked if the certification had to be done by January 1, 2017. Chief Dudgeon explained that was the beginning of the period of time for the training to be done and went to explain how he is able to track the training and required testing in the on-line system.

Grenke and Wilkins asked about the new car and Chief Dudgeon said it was working well and only operated on four cylinders in town which increased fuel efficiency. Chief Dudgeon noted that it was still under warranty. Grenke asked if they could take a look at it after the meeting and Chief Dudgeon said he would have an officer bring it around at the end of the meeting.

Fire Department

Wilkins asked if there were any questions or comments on the Activity Report. Grenke asked if there was an update on the fire truck. Harline stated that Jeff McReynolds, the salesperson, had asked about two weeks prior and Banner was still waiting on the chassis from Ford. Harline said that McReynolds felt the extended cab might have added to the time but that it would take 90 days from delivery of the chassis. Chief Rusch said that they were preparing for all the Christmas activities and that they were going to have a retirement event for a firefighter that had served for 37 years.

Emergency Management – None.

Protective Inspection

Harline reported that he had counted 40 houses for sale in Centralia. Harline stated that they had received 21 permit applications for single family dwellings which was down from 28 the year before but as high as 2013. Harline added that Centralia had averaged 21 new houses per year since 2010.

Economic Development

CREDI Wilkins noted that there were no minutes from the last meeting were in the packet. Grenke noted that he had attended and they spent time talking about the event on January 23rd. Wilkins

asked if the City was still planning to buy a table and Harline stated that they were and the City would cover the cost for Alderman but spouses would have to pay their share of the table.

Feasibility Study Update Harline stated that Growth Services Group was finishing up their surveys and he would check to see when they would be available to make a presentation. Harline added that enough information has been gathered that GSG is. Harline said in answer to a question from Wilkins that the City has not offered and does not expect to offer any incentives except the EEZ property tax abatement that would be available to any qualifying business if they made application and were approved.

Park Department

Pool refinancing update Harline reported that Westport Pools was making progress on the renovations to the pool. Harline said that the zero-level entry ramps was set to be poured this week and Terracon would be doing special safety inspections on the project to keep the project on schedule. Harline explained that part of the renovations included a spray-ground/splash pad that would be fenced to allow access by the public after the pool has closed for the season.

Cemetery Advisory Committee - No report.

Tree Board - No report.

Library Board

Wilkins noted that there was an agenda and minutes in the packet. Grenke noted that two members had resigned and Becky Wilson the Executive Director has taken a job in Jefferson City Grenke is seeking new appointees. Grenke added that the Library Board would be moving their meetings to the second Tuesday of the month. Smith asked which were resigned and Harline noted that Joyce Burns and Crystal Bridgeman had indicated that they might be stepping down. Smith said that he thought that Ms. Bridgeman merely wanted to step down from being Treasurer. Grenke said that he and Harline would look into it and try to have an appointee at the Board meeting.

Finance

Financial statements for November 2015 were in the agenda packet. Harline said that he didn't have much to add to what he said at the work session on Saturday. Harline said revenues were tracking pretty much on the expected lines.

Bills over \$1,250

Wilkins noted that the Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. Grenke asked if he understood correctly that we would need to approve the police car at the full Board Meeting next Monday. Harline answered in the affirmative.

Other General Government

Social Media Archiving Harline said that he was looking for the Committee to approve using the service of Smarsh at \$10/month per account to archive our Facebook account. Wilkins asked if we had a Twitter account yet. Harline said we did not. Wilkins said that this is an issue for the Technology Committee to look at as would a new phone system and other issues. Harline said that he would have it on the agenda for next Monday (full Board meeting).

Review of Policy #4- Improvement and Maintenance of Streets Harline explained several examples of where a developer has built or discussed building a house on a platted street where no actual street exists (east end of Southland Street, Campbell Street, Ivy Street, Stone and Brick intersection).

Harline noted that the policy said that the City acknowledged responsibility for building the street, but that the City did not promise doing so soon and cooperation by property owners would increase the chance of the project moving forward. Bormann asked if there was a chance that we could sunset that provision. Harline said that could be an option but we would have to give a reasonable amount of time, like five years to provide a fair chance to build. Lee asked how many other such streets might be out there like this. Bormann said that we are only obligated to put in a rock street since that was the standard of street prior to the time the policy was adopted. Harline said that he thinks that Southland may have been rock before the City and property owners on the street worked together to upgrade to asphalt. Harline said if he would bring back an ordinance to sunset the City's promise to build streets on platted streets.

Bormann and Magley discussed whether the City should be building any rock streets since that was below the current standard. Bormann said that we shouldn't allow a lot split in a case like this. Bormann stated that the City should require a minor subdivision plat since there was no street.

Grant search software Harline reported that he would bring an agreement with EfficientGov to purchase GrantFinder. In response to a question from Wilkins, Harline said that it was a little less expensive and allowed for three "seats" versus two and appeared easier to use. Grenke noted that we got a special deal with eCivis for being one of the first to use the software. Harline said there was a deeper discount for a third year but he preferred to make sure we used it. In answer to a question from Bormann Harline said that they had never found a grant via eCivis. Bormann said he would be more supportive if he was convinced that we would use it. Grenke noted that this software solution offered the user examples of successful grants to us to use as help.

As May Arise

Grenke noted that he and Alderman Magley and Chief Dudgeon had attended a very nice ceremony honoring those that had saved a little girl's life at the Chester Boren Middle School.

Magley asked about the status of the survey. Harline replied that the City had received about 180 surveys on paper and about a dozen on line. Harline stated he planned to have results ready by next Monday's meeting.

Harline said he is not 100% sold on the software but he is waiting on a recommendation from CREDI after their next meeting. In response to a question from Magley, Harline said that he probably would.

Hiring new employees above minimum pay scale: Harline noted that the Water Department had an opening, and two current employees that were within five years of retirement. Harline said that he was informing the Committee that he might want to hire someone with certifications at a higher rate than the bottom Step. Wilkins, Bormann and Grenke all expressed approval of the concept, if there was documented experience of certifications.

USPS mailbox policy: Harline explained that the USPS wanted to increase efficiency by encouraging or requiring the use of central box units (also known as CBUs). Harline added that they did not want to deliver in new cul-de-sacs. Harline said that he had a productive discussion with Angela Broyles in the St. Louis office. Harline noted that this was the established national policy and was not in the city's control or even the local Postmaster's.

Other

2015 Citizen Survey Results: Harline said that the preliminary report was in the packet but he pretty much covered it at the work session on Saturday.

Harline added that we plan to switch to Employee Screening Services for our drug testing.

Grenke announced times for upcoming events.

Wilikns asked to get a new receiver for the wireless mike that is narrowband FCC compliant.

Magley made a motion to adjourn the Committee meeting. Grenke seconded the motion which was then approved by unanimous voice vote. The Committee then adjourned at 8:10 p.m.