

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, October 10, 2016.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman David Wilkins, Chairperson at 7:00 p.m.

Present also were Aldermen Landon Magley, Don Rodgers, Andrea Vollrath, Dick Ward, Jim Lee and Mayor, Tim Grenke. Absent – None. Also attending were City Administrator, Matt Harline, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Cemetery Sexton Phyllis Brown, John Bliven Hubbell Power Systems, Boone Hospital Center staff Kelli Cash, Kendra Conkright M.D., Tamisha Dameron, Patty Harris and James Smith of the Fireside Guard.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS.

John Bliven of Hubbell Power Systems briefly thanked the Fire Department and Police Department for their quick and professional response to a small fire in a dust collector unit on the afternoon October 4th at their East Street Building (on Howard Burton Drive). Bliven thanked the Hubbell employees, the volunteer fire fighters and police officers that responded. Chief Dudgeon thanked Mr. Bliven.

PRESENTATION TO KENDRA J. CONKRIGHT, M.D.

Bliven noted that the city was losing a great doctor in Dr. Kendra Conkright. Mayor Grenke read and presented a plaque and thanked Dr. Conkright for her service to the Centralia community. John Bliven also commented that Dr. Conkright had served as the physician for many people that worked at Hubbell, that she was a strong advocate for her patients and that she would be greatly missed. The Committee thanked Dr. Conkright and she noted her appreciation.

A. Police Department

1. *Activity Report:* Wilkins asked if there were any questions or comments on the Activity Report. Grenke asked about the fire at Hubbell and Chief Rusch noted that the cause was welding sparks. Rodgers asked if the equipment was destroyed and Chief Rusch replied that the filter was burned but the rest of the unit that held it would be fine. Chief Rusch added that the fire was about 4:00 p.m.

2. *Other:* Chief Dudgeon reported about an outstanding arrest in the park. Phyllis Brown commented how impressive an arrest she witnessed at McDonald's restaurant. Chief Dudgeon commented on that arrest as well.

B. Fire Department.

1. *Activity Report:* Wilkins asked if there were any questions or comments on the Activity Report. Grenke asked about the training that they held. Chief Rusch said that the training on mass casualties went fine. Chiefs Dudgeon and Rusch noted that there was an active shooter training coming up on October 24th. In answer to a question from Wilkins Chief Rusch stated that they would be doing a training on a burning car this Saturday in front of the Fire Station.

2. *Other* – Harline asked if both Chiefs had the information they needed from the Chamber about the BBQ festival. Both chiefs replied that they anticipated no problems, but they had not had a detailed discussion.

C. Emergency Management.

July 7 Storm Report Harline noted the sheet that he had handed out before the meeting showing over \$98,000 worth of billed services from other cities, contractors and vendors. Harline noted that the internal overtime and other costs had not been calculated. Harline noted that the City of Columbia had not sent a bill. Harline asked the Committee if they would like to sign a card of thanks for the various cities and they indicated they would.

E. Protective Inspection.

Carports- Harline reported that he had seen a portable carport on Adams and a request to install one on Sunset, but we had not previously treated these as structures. Harline asked if the Committee would like more information from other cities. Wilkins replied that he would. Rodgers asked about the type of carport he was talking about and Harline described them. Harline noted that in the two cases he was referring to they wanted them in the front yard. Harline noted that it wasn't defined well in our ordinance.

Wilkins asked about the progress on Whitman. Harline reported that the letter was started but not sent. Magley asked about progress on the building owned by Clifford De La Rosa and Harline reported that he needed to follow up on that. Harline noted that he had four structures in progress in the dangerous building enforcement. Magley asked about declaring a house near the Catholic multipurpose building as dangerous due to the hole in the roof. Harline replied that he had not considered it dangerous to this point, but Magley pressed the point and Harline said he would send a letter.

V. GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE.

A. Economic Development.

None. Grenke noted that there was a meeting of the Economic Development subcommittee of the Comprehensive Plan process tomorrow (Tuesday, October 11). Harline noted that Bernie Andrews of REDI would be at the meeting.

B. Park Board

Wilkins noted that there was an agenda and meeting notes in the packet from the Park Board. Grenke noted that the light on the flag was still out.

C. Cemetery Report.

Change order for tree cutting in the Cemetery: Sexton Brown reported that the contractor was willing to give us \$400 for the wood from the walnut trees provided there was no hollowing of it. Brown noted that there was one tree with a bee's nest and a hornet's nest removed. Brown added that one tree that had been slated for trimming would need to come down and the cost would be an additional \$560. Brown added that she had solicited the opinion of Jim Lee and both Lee and the contractor noted hollowing and decay in the main branches of this tree and that removing it was the best course of action. Brown noted that there had been some damage to monuments discovered due to the July 7th storm. Grenke asked if that was covered by insurance and Brown said that she would check on it. Harline asked for a motion to approve the modest change order of a net \$560 for removal of the tree and a possible gain of \$400 for the sale of walnut wood. **Grenke made a motion to approve the change order for a net \$160. The motion was seconded by Vollrath and approved by unanimous voice vote.**

D. Tree Board.

No report.

E. Library Board

Wilkins noted the information in the packet and the agenda for the next meeting. Grenke noted that the Library Board would meet later in the week on Thursday, October 13.

F. Finance

Financial statements for September 2016 were in the agenda packet. Harline said that there had been a drop in the cash balance in the General Fund to a level below what had been seen in several years. Harline noted that this was a cash balance and there would be additional money coming in for reimbursement from MODOT on the sidewalk grant, there would be property tax funds and there would be two additional transfer payments from the utility funds. However there will be a one-time adjustment to the negative to account for a negative balance in an internal service account for personnel costs like vacation and sick leave balances that would then be closed out. Harline said that there may be some need to address cost limitation activities in the next couple of months. Harline said that he neglected to include the costs for the sidewalk project. Harline said that revenues were not as strong and expenses were a little ahead and that has added to the problem. Harline noted that it was hard to make up ground in the General Fund so it would take some time.

G. Bills over \$1,250

Wilkins noted that this was on page 68 of the packet. Grenke asked about the renewal for mowing in the cemetery. Brown said that there was one more year on the contract.

H. Other General Government.

1. *Accepting best bid for phone system:* Harline said that he had had conversations with Lieutenant Bias and after two years of talking about this and he thought we had a good option, especially since we had originally seen process in the \$16,000 range. Harline referred the Committee to the draft RFP in the packet. Grenke asked if the contract would be in the next meeting packet. Harline said it would, but he would like a motion to proceed tonight. Wilkins asked about looking into a new phone service provider and Harline said he would. Chief Dudgeon noted that the cable TV bill would be ended. **Vollrath made a motion to accept the proposal from CenturyLink to install a new digital analog phone system for \$7,445.25. The motion was seconded by Ward and approved by unanimous voice vote.**

2. *Request for Proposals for Health Insurance:* Wilkins noted that a draft RFP was included in the packet. Harline explained that an employee health insurance proposal process committee met earlier in the day and had met on a prior date to give input to this RFP. The committee wanted to provide options to employees like an HAS (Health Savings Account) in the proposal. Harline said he would like to proceed barring objection from the Committee he would send out the RFP the next day. Harline expected several responses, at least three.

3. *Comprehensive Plan Update:* Harline said that he was impressed by the level of participation, the enthusiasm and the talent shared by the citizens working on the plan. Harline said a memo would be going out soon.

4. *Legal Services:* Draft contract for Temporary Legal Services - Harline noted that the draft contract for legal services was included in the packet and if the Committee had any comments or questions prior to the meeting next week to please contact him.

RFP/Job Posting for City Attorney – Harline said that our current City Code made the assumption that the City Attorney was a hired employee and that special legal help could be contracted for by ordinance. Harline said that he wanted to work with our temporary City Attorney to address the issue and we would send out a combined job opening or Request for Proposals for the permanent City Attorney. Harline would expect that we would appoint a committee to review job applicants and firms that made proposals for contract work.

VII. OTHER.

Harline reported that the next meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission would be October 27th because he had received two requests for Conditional Use Permits and they would be on the agenda. Harline reported that the first was for a monument sign in front of Chance Elementary School. Harline said the other was from Mobile Utility Network for a communications tower that would go in front of Martinsburg Bank. Harline replied to a question from Lee that they were no longer pursuing the taller tower over by Prenger's. In response to a question from Lee he said that it would be 69 feet high he believed. In response to a question from Magley he said it was for a cell tower that they were calling it a utility pole. Grenke asked if Martinsburg Bank would gain anything from this tower and Harline said that they would not. Several other questions followed. Harline said that he would discuss this with our attorney to find out about options to address the issue.

VIII. CLOSED MEETING

Vollrath made a motion to go into closed session as provided for under Section 610.021(3) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body. The motion was seconded by Ward. Voting Aye: Magley, Rodgers, Vollrath, Grenke, Wilkins, Ward and Lee. Voting Nay: None.

No vote was taken in closed session.

Grenke made a motion to return to open closed session. The motion was seconded by Vollrath. Voting Aye: Magley, Rodgers, Vollrath, Grenke, Wilkins, Ward and Lee. Voting Nay: None.

IX. AS MAY RISE.

Grenke said that he had heard complaints from the residents in Creston Court on Columbia about the noise of the trash collectors much earlier than 5:00 a.m. Harline said that he would address that. Grenke noted that he had written a response to a letter from Jay O'Bannon concerning the City's participation in purchasing power from the Clean Line wind project and felt he addressed those concerns as best he could.

IX. ADJOURN.

Vollrath made a motion to adjourn the Committee meeting. Grenke seconded the motion which was then approved by unanimous voice vote at 8:37 p.m.