

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, August 14, 2017.

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

I. ATTENDANCE.

Present were Mayor Tim Grenke, Aldermen Donald Rodgers, Landon Magley, Jim Lee, Dick Ward & David Wilkins. Also attending were City Administrator Matt Harline, Intern to the City Administrator Sam Bezjak, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, James Smith with the Fireside Guard. Police officers attending were Tim Kribbs, Nat Stoebe, Roberto Mendez, Brian Dulany, Clint Baer, Bradley Harris and David Davenport.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III.COMMENTS FROM CITZENS. Chief Dudgeon stated he reserved his right for comments from citizens until later.

IV. PRESENTATION BYSAM BEZJAK ON PRELMINARY SALARY STUDY RESULTS

Sam elaborated on his results from comparable cities participating in the salary study. Cities that participated of comparable size were Hallsville, Tipton, Bowling Green, Ashland, Cassville, Platte City, Fenton, Camdenton, Sullivan, Higginsville and California. After Bezjak's presentation, Harline commented that there was further work to be done and would have a final at a later date. Harline stated that City of Centralia may need improvement in salaries for competing with neighboring communities, but did not feel that we were out of line in comparison of similar towns of our size. Harline will continue to review the results as he wanted to speak with employees within the Union and MPUA as received only two responses pertaining to the Electric Department. Bezjak clarified that only two responded that were within an hour's drive. Aldermen Wilkins asked if the Electric Department was an area where improvement was needed. Harline stated he felt the greatest pull was in that department and felt more data was needed for the Electric Department, but that he was going to review all. Aldermen Rodgers commented on the good data provided.

Mayor ask Bezjak how he had felt about his internship here in Centralia and Bezjak expressed that he had felt that he had gained a better grasp of City Government from this internship. He felt that he had learned a better grasp of practical applications studied in class during his time here. The Mayor then ask him if this was an avenue he thought that he would continue to pursue due to his internship and he stated that he definitely was going to continue along that path. The Mayor then commended Bezjak on a good job done while working for the City.

V. PUBLIC SAFETY.

B. Police Department

1. *Activity Report:* Wilkins asked if there were any questions or comments on the Activity Report. There were none.

2. Proposed K-9 unit for Centralia

Officer Brian Dulany handed out to the council a copy of the Centralia Police Department Proposed K-9 Program. Officer Dulany expanded on each of the 5 Chapters within the program explaining each in detail. Officer Dulany commented that this program would cost the City of Centralia \$0 dollars. Dulany stated that the Centralia Police Department was very aware that we are within the middle of the budget year and this amount was not considered in previous year's

budget. The department began speaking with Centralia citizens and to-date had pledges in amount of \$12,500.00 toward the proposed total cost of \$15,511.00 for the K-9 Program. Dulany also stated that he felt that it was within the realm of possibility to obtain the balance within a short period of time, which would mean no cash outlay of money for the City of Centralia.

Officer Dulany spoke of this K-9 being a dual purpose dog as it would help in drug detection as well as tracking missing persons. The projected future cost of the K-9 unit is estimated at \$1,870/per year for Training/National Assoc of Police Working Dogs/Missouri Police Canine Assoc/Maintenance and care (home care).

At the end of his presentation Officer Dulany asked the Council to pass a Resolution of Support for the K-9 Program.

Aldermen Rodgers voiced a concern of what would happen if down the road a couple of years something were to happen to the K-9. Aldermen Rodgers asked if there was insurance concerning this possibility. Officer Dulany thought that there could be insurance taken out for replacement of the K-9 as it would be considered property but that was something that would need to be checked into.

Aldermen Wilkins asked about the purchase of a car in the initial proposal. Officer Dulany stated that the City of Columbia will sell to the City of Centralia, a 2011 Crown Vic that is totally equipped for K-9 use (no additional cost for K-9 necessities) for fair market value of the car proposed at \$3500. They are also proposing the selling of the Vehicle #828 Blue Crown Vic, for a net profit to the city.

Aldermen Lee asked of the breeds of these K-9 dogs. Office Dulany stated that the kennel that the handler works with used German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois.

Aldermen Rodgers asked of feasibility of purchasing used dog, as Officer Dulany spoke of one having been available earlier in his presentation. Office Dulany stated that it is a very rare occurrence. Life span of K-9 dogs is from 6-10 years. The K-9 would live with Officer Dulany but be the property of City of Centralia. Officer Dulany would be sole trainer and would be required to be at all calls when needed.

Mayor Grenke questioned as to the possibility of other agencies use of the K-9 unit. Officer Dulany elaborated, but basically that decision would be at the discretion of the Police Department and extenuating circumstances.

Aldermen Wilkins questioned the extent of the veterinary services to be donated by local veterinarian. Officer Dulany stated that local veterinary has agreed to donate their services, but if medication is needed that would be at the cost of the City.

Officer Dulany listed some of Centralia companies and individuals from which they have received pledges for the K-9 Program.

Aldermen Rodgers spoke of the increase in crime rates in past and projected future crime rate increase upon which Officer Dulany elaborated concerns and anticipated crime growth due to proximity of the City of Columbia as crime moves out of Columbia area to surrounding communities such as Centralia.

In closing Officer Dulany asked the City Council to pass a resolution of Support for the K-9

Program.

Chief Dudgeon said he needed a resolution. Harline stated that we could not do a resolution tonight. Chief Dudgeon interrupted Harline with a comment “don’t ever tell me what I can and cannot do”. Harline then continued that the Board of Aldermen was not able to pass a resolution. Chief Dudgeon then approached Harline and stated that he was not asking for a resolution tonight “I am asking for a vote or resolution in support of the dog to have drawn up and all read it merrily come Monday night”.

Mayor Grenke then questioned Chief Dudgeon as to what he wanted was a resolution prepared for next Monday night’s meeting after which Chief Dudgeon answered in the affirmative.

Aldermen Wilkins then called for a motion for said resolution. Aldermen Magley so moved and was seconded by Aldermen Rodgers. Wilkins stated motion was made and seconded. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. Motion carried.

Chief Dudgeon thanked the Council and then Dudgeon and officers left the meeting.

3. Other

Fire Chief Denny Rusch was called out so by-passed the Fire Department’s report until later in meeting.

B. Fire Department.

1. *Activity Report:* Wilkins asked if there were any questions or comments on the Activity Report. Mayor Grenke asked how the Helicopter training went and Chief Rusch commented that went well.

2. *Fire station shed/addition*

Harline stated that plans have been drawn up for an addition to the fire station shed and is ready for the Fire Marshall to review. Harline stated that Hardin Engineering was used for this project. Harline stated that the Fire Department ISO is coming up for review and they are anticipating some updates needing to be made on one of the trucks which was anticipated.

Fire Department has received their pagers and they are working well.

Chief Rusch said they are attempting to work on storage room at the fire station but everyone is busy now.

3. *Other*

C. Emergency Management.

1. *November Conference in Emmitsburg, MD* Harline stated that we have received notification that the City is eligible for attending (all expenses paid, airfare and lodging, only cost would be meals to Emergency Defense Incident Coordination for 3 days in Emmitsburg, MD on November 15-17th. Harline stated that he had already applied to save a slot for the City. Harline and Mayor Grenke expounded on the meeting and the benefits of the meeting. Harline stated he just wanted to make all aware of this unique opportunity that Centralia was asked to participate in this meeting.

D. Protective Inspection.

1. *Residential building update* Harline stated there have been 28 Building Permit Applications so far this year. Harline stated that this is ahead of last year. Harline discussed the public hearing to pass the property tax.

Mayor Grenke proposed the possibility of Centralia citizens write their legislator's and ask that they re-evaluate the boundary rules of 1965. Harline stated that this is an uphill battle. Mayor stated that there is no chance of improvement if nothing is done, but contacting legislators, lobbying & visiting legislators was one step in the uphill climb.

Bezjak did a house count and there are 28 houses for sale in Centralia at this time. Harline elaborated on the low stock of houses for sale in Centralia and that Columbia is also seeing this. Aldermen Magley spoke of the high cost of building permits and changes in Boone County building code making building in Columbia quite expensive.

Harline told of plans for the Sept 11th meeting was to have David Forward from Boone County Resource Management come and speak with the council about the changes in the Columbia Building Code. There were some questions from Aldermen Rodgers with Aldermen Magley adding his take on these changes and how it is affecting contractors in Boone County.

VI. GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE.

A. Economic Development.

Harline stated that the Main Street project by the Chamber is moving forward and he has been working with Ginny Zoellers on the project. James Smith asked if dates for the Bar-B-Q Cook-Off have been set. Harline stated that it was to be October 13-14.

1. *Chamber of Commerce* The minutes were reviewed.

2. *CDBG Update – Randolph Road/Show-Me Shortline* Harline spoke of the CDGB Randolph Road and Show Me Shortline project was confident for good chance of approval. Harline elaborated on a meeting with interested parties today. Chris Finck anxious to get moving forward with project. There was a discussion of Randolph Road and truck traffic emphasizing the need to widen that road. Harline also discussed future development along that road with questions and concerns for cost of development from Aldermen Magley.

3. *Moberly Area Economic Development*

Harline said he is continuing to talk with officials involved with this program and they are still interested in working with Centralia.

B. Park Board

Harline spoke of getting 911 addresses for parks for emergency responders, etc. Harline said the project is almost done.

C. Cemetery Advisory Committee. None

D. Tree Board. None

E. Library Board

Wilkins noted the information in the packet.)

F. July 2017 Financial Statements

Harline spoke of his concern of the overtime expenditures for the Police Department. Aldermen questioned as to where the overtime was coming from. Aldermen Magley asked for report for the overtime and what for in this budgeted year. Aldermen Rodgers questioned if anything abnormal that might be causing the increase overtime.

Harline stated the sales tax is slightly up from last year.

G. Bills over \$1,250

No Comments

H. Other General Government.

1. Boone Hospital Letter

Harline & Mayor Grenke made comments on the letter they received from Boone Hospital and their possible changes in operations by possible partnering with University Hospital.

2. Closing part of Allen Street for the Shop Hop from 4-9 p.m. on September 20, 2017 (motion)

Harline stated that this is done every year. Aldermen Wilkins asked for a motion Mayor Grenke so moved and was seconded by Aldermen Lee. Aldermen Wilkins asked for a vote. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. Motion carries.

VII. OTHER.

A. Accepting best bid for wire – Electric

Aldermen Wilkins spoke of the two bids received for Wire for the Electric Department.

Harline ask for a motion to accept the bid from Anixter in the amount of \$ 4,175.00.

Aldermen Ward so moved and was seconded by Aldermen Lee. Aldermen Wilkins asked for a vote. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Harline stated that they have received a bid for the budgeted Water Department truck that was budgeted at \$35,000.00 by going through Forrest Chevrolet we could recognize a substantial saving with a cost of \$26,000. Harline to have information available at next meeting.

B. Leadership/conflict resolution training

Harline spoke of the possible advantage of leadership training going forward as new employees are hired within the City. There was some discussion among the Aldermen & Mayor on this matter. Aldermen Wilkins commented that he was not opposed to training. Aldermen Magley stated that it seemed awful expensive to him. Aldermen Wilkins would like more information.

VIII. AS MAY RISE.

Mayor Grenke still looking for persons interested on serving on The Library Board, Tree Board & EZZ Board.

Harline stated that Show Me Shortline would be making application for their \$1,000,000 addition to the EZZ Board to receive 70% tax abatement on their new addition. Harline said this was one of the reasons the EEZ Board was established, and Harline continued with further information on this project. Harline also spoke asking Hubbell to submit an amendment to their current plan. The current plan was based on the total census of the operation in town. That census has gone down in the last five years but the call center which the original plan was based, is up so making the amendment would be to their advantage.

Mayor Grenke asked for update on demolition of projects in town. Grenke also received a complaint of the vehicles and debris at the old location of Keith Keller's repair shop. Harline stated that Keith Keller was sent a letter from Code Enforcement Officer today due to illegal vehicles on property of abandoned business.

Harline stated that he had received a letter from Clifford DeLaRosa today stating that he is gutting the building and will apply for Demolition Permit when that is completed. Harline stated that that is not acceptable and next step is for Harline and Mayor Grenke to schedule a hearing with DeLaRosa. Harline stated that DeLaRosa is moving forward as he is no longer living there. The Mayor asked if utilities were still on there. Harline stated that he had asked to have water shut off

but is a bit of a chore due to the 4" fire suppression line so not easily turned off.

Aldermen Magley asked what it takes to get the poles removed from where the underground electric lines have been put in over 8 months ago. Harline state that we were moving forward with that and told Aldermen Magley that they could pull the poles and leave wires on the ground and Harline thought that work was progressing and companies are working with our crews in that area and agrees that this needs to be done. Magley responded with "pull the poles".

Sam Bezjak has been working on paperwork to recreate The Maranatha Missionary Baptist Church as a corporation so that property can be sold.

Harline stated that the demolition of the house on Railroad Street (at Collier) has slowed and he needs to send out a letter to them as it is dangerous in the present condition.

Mayor Grenke also mentioned the abandoned church on Railroad St. Harline stated that they had tried contacting owners but to no avail as yet. Mayor stated that is it deteriorating.

IX. ADJOURN.

Dick Ward made a motion to adjourn the Committee meeting and Mayor Grenke seconded the motion which was then approved by unanimous voice vote at 8:31 p.m.