

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, November 13, 2017.

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

- I. ATTENDANCE – Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Donald Rodgers, James Lee, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, City Administrator Matt Harline, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch & James Smith from the Centralia Fireside Guard.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -
- III. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS – No citizens present for comments.
Aldermen Landon Magley arrived at 7:03 pm
- IV. PUBLIC SAFETY -

A. Police Department

Aldermen Wilkins read e-mail from Christina Palmer of the Children’s Division Services of Boone County. The e-mail was expressing the exemplary services provided by Officers Kribbs, Stobe, Mendez & Davenport during a recent protective custody case.

Dear Chief Dudgeon,

I want to thank you and your officers for doing an amazing job on this protective custody case your team assisted me with today. Kribbs, Stobe, Mendez, and Davenport were very helpful, patient, and professional throughout the entire case. You and your officers go above and beyond to do an exceptional job. Everyone at your department has always been kind and reasonable to everyone I’ve seen them encounter. This makes a substantial difference in the outcome of the contacts they make with people. I regularly work with people in your community who praise your officers, despite having been arrested by them multiple times. Your officers have never made me feel rushed or like it was an inconvenience to go out on a case. They do not intimidate the families I work with, which leads to good disclosure. They go out of their way to work together to make cases run smoothly and quickly. I have worked two protective custody cases in your jurisdiction in the last two months, and both times there were children we needed to go pick up at multiple locations. Both times, multiple officers assisted which made things much better for the children and for me. I cannot thank you enough for the hard work, dedication, and positive attitude your team has shown every time I have encountered them.

All of you have every reason to be proud of the work that you do. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina Palmer
Children’s Division
Children’s Service Worker II
Boone County, MO

1. Activity Report – No Comments
2. Other -

Aldermen Wilkins commended the Chief Dudgeon for a successful drug bust this past weekend within 750 feet of Chance Elementary School.

Chief Dudgeon then reported on a leak in the faucet in the squad room that needed to be fixed.

Chief Dudgeon also stated that he had heard the Joe Bellamy could possibly be back

in the country within two weeks but not released from Military duty until January or February.

Harline commented on the e-mail read earlier as to what an important part the Social Services Agency and the Police Department working together does that many people are unaware of and how important a part that is.

B. Fire Department -

1. Activity Report –Comments on Heritage Hall callouts.
2. Other – Denny Rusch stated that the Fire Department is Status Quo running all the time.
Halloween was a success. The Fire Department is contemplating changing hours of Halloween next year to when town square has their Halloween treats.

C. Emergency Management -

D.

Mayor Grenke was to be in Edmonson Virginia for training but the training was cancelled due to the necessity of FEMA workers needing to be at actual Natural Disaster sights. The training session is to be rescheduled for a later date.

E. Protective Inspection -

1. Update on dangerous buildings and demolition
 - a. Whisler property – 204 E. Railroad – Transcribed meeting with Marjorie Whisler October 24th concerning her partially demolished house on Railroad street. Mayor declared a dangerous structure and needed to be demolished with no other recourse. Ms. Whisler was given and signed waiver that she was not going to pursue any appeal or further legal action. Harline stated that today the city had begun the cleanup of that property. With the demolition of the house it leaves a perfectly good garage on the property. There is only electricity hooked up at this building at this time and we understand that someone is living in that garage without water service. As this is not a house no one should be living at this property.

Harline also address the issue of 3 other residential structures in the City limits that are living without water service. One there is no longer anyone living there. Another there is question of heirs of property and the other the home owner has no resources with which to fix the leak on the property. Harline is working with new legal team and social services on these matters.

- b. De La Rosa building – 110 E. Railroad –
There was an inspection of the property and Harline had received the engineers report on Friday reporting many problems and Harline along with the city legal counsel are working on making recommendations but had no further report at this time. Harline stated that the city was willing to work with property owner but will not wait forever and the deadline is getting closer and closer.
 - c. Demolition the past two years – Harline stated have 4 new SFD applications for this year. Harline is also requesting that the council consider increasing the 2018 budget for demolition reimbursement to \$8000. Harline elaborated on this request.
 - d. Aldermen Lee asks as to when the Demolition incentive was paid out. Harline responded with city requirements before payment is made.

- e. Harline also requested the council's consideration of a \$100 sewer tap deposit that would be refunded to the customer after sewer has been capped and approved by our water department which he feels would give some incentive to the person requesting the demolition assistance to get work done in a timely fashion.
- 2. Building Codes – Harline discussed the Temporary Carports issues and how to best deal with the matter. Many of the older subdivisions in town have no covenants providing for this purpose and many carports has been put up and do not meet city code. Harline elaborated with examples of such issues. Harline proposing to make some suggestions for the council to take into consideration.

Mayor Grenke summarized letter from Congresswomen Hartzler talking of provided training for first responders etc. in retrospect of recent mass shootings. Chief Dudgeon stated that he too had received this letter.

V. GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

- A. Economic Development – November 14th agenda in packet.
- B. Park Board – Agenda & Meeting minutes in packet. Harline stated that is the consideration of constructing a pier at the pond.
- C. Cemetery Report
- D. Issuing A new RFP for mowing in the Cemetery - Harline received letter today for current lawn care company stating that they do not wish to exercise their two year option to extend their contract. Harline is to draft recommendations letter to cemetery board to have bids go out in late December early January with the February General Government meeting proposing a contract to bid of their choice.
- E. Tree Board Report - None
- F. Library Board – Harline spoke on the Library and Park department working together to put an accessible playground and additional parking for the library in the vacant lot next to the library. Harline spoke of the cities alley way and how to best handle that issue.
- G. Aldermen Lee asked what constituted an accessible playground? Harline replied as to specifics and use for all disabilities not just wheelchair, but hearing and visual disabilities as well.
- H. October 2017 Financial Statements – Harline stated good month for Sales Tax. Currently not at our about same as last year. At present pace should exceed last year.
- I. Bills over \$1,250 = **\$293,720.06** - No comments
- J. Other General Government
 - 1. Selecting best Health Insurance Proposal – Harline discussed cost of present insurance and the substantial increase if we were to stay with same plan for next year. Harline is in hopes of having options for employee insurance for the December meeting for startup date January 1.
 - 2. Use Tax Ballot Issue in April – Harline stated Boone County, City of Columbia, Ashland and City of Hartsburg all had use tax issue on ballot an all lost. Harline stated City of Centralia is looking at putting it on ballot in April. Aldermen Hudson spoke of low voter turnout, Aldermen Hudson also stated that we needed to promote the benefits of this use tax to our community. Chief Dudgeon commented that it was not so much what the tax does, but that it was another tax and the people voted against it.
 - 3. Harline spoke of the budget retreat at 1:00 pm on December 2 at City Hall.

- VI. OTHER – Chief Dudgeon inquired to the health of current City Treasurer Kathy Colvin and Harline stated that he is awaiting a letter from Kathy stating her intentions of resigning as City Treasurer.

- VII. AS MAY ARISE – Mayor spoke of the success of the Veterans Day Avenue of Flags 5 k run.
- VIII. ADJOURN – Motion to Adjourned per Aldermen Magley and Seconded by Mayor Grenke. Aldermen Jim Lee was only opposing vote to adjourning the meeting. Meeting was adjourned 7:47 p.m.