

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2017
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, August 14, 2017 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Riley, Chism, Wade, Young, Cravens and White.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.
2. Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Council Meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the minutes were accepted.

3. Visitors:

Robert Fitzgerald appeared before the Council to voice a complaint about the condition of the ditch that runs from Hwy 61 east to Kingshighway, adjacent to Blades Drive. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the weeds as well as trash that was being thrown into the ditch were clogging it up, therefore increasing the possibility of flash flooding in the area when there were heavy rains. The Mayor stated that he would speak to Chuck Palmer, Street Superintendent about having a team leader assigned to check that the mowing crews were addressing these issues and to keep track of the responsible employee for this ditch as well as others in town.

Ms. Frieda Polk appeared before the Council to ask for their assistance in eliminating the noise and nuisance violations in her neighborhood. Ms. Polk stated that she had moved to her neighborhood about a year ago and found it very nice and quiet. However, new people had moved into the area across the street from her house about 2 months ago and it had been a constant problem ever since. She said that crowds of adults were gathering outside there, drinking, playing loud music and gambling in the street. Most mornings she said that she had to pick up beer cans and trash out of her yard from their previous night's activities. She has a young teenage daughter that she is afraid to let take their dog out at night in her own yard. Atty. Bock asked for the location of her home and then stated that he had been on the levee in that area a couple of times and had seen a crowd congregating there. Mayor Bodi asked Chief Higgerson for his opinion. Chief Higgerson stated that he intended to talk to Ms. Polk immediately after the meeting to get the details so that the police department could take

action on the matter. Ms. Polk stated that she had gone out to the Public Safety Building to speak to Chief Higgerson, but he was not in that day. Mayor Bodi thanked Ms. Polk for coming to the meeting and assured her that the City would take action on this matter.

4. Bill 17-1276 establishing the City Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 was presented. The Mayor read the title of the bill twice aloud. A roll call vote was then taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. White – yes. Ordinance 1276 was adopted.
5. Resolution awarding a bid to Osco Tank & Truck for the conversion of a tanker truck to a functional fire truck in the amount of \$97,707.50 was listed next on the agenda. Mayor Bodi asked that the council table this to a further date. The Council agreed.
6. Resolution to sign a renewal contract with the New Madrid County Collector to continue to collect Real Estate and Personal Property taxes for the City of New Madrid was presented. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved with the Mayor signing the renewal contract.
7. Resolution to donate the American LaFrance Fire Truck to the Kewanee Fire Department was presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Young seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.
8. Resolution to award the bid to purchase five (5) Catch Basins for \$11,550.00 for the St. Lawrence Storm Water Improvement Project was presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.
9. Mayoral Appointment: The Riverwalk Gallery Board presented Brittney Hutcheson for the Mayor’s consideration as a new board member. The Mayor concurred and presented this appointment to the Council. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the appointment and Ald. Young seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and Ms. Hutcheson was seated.

City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill informed the Council that the AMI project is progressing very well. As of this date, 1200 new meters had been installed. There are approximately 100 meters that will require assistance from City staff for a variety of reasons. The week of August 21st will consist of training for city staff on the new meters. The installation staff are very cordial and quick, with the residents affected very little, if at all, during the switch out, with a 10 second or less down time at each home. Ald. Wade asked if anyone had declined the new meters. The Mayor said that they did not have that option if they wanted to continue to have power. Ald. Young asked if there would be any issues with the 3 phase meters. Adm. McGill stated that Incode and Honeywell are working on it.

He said that the Water Plant was going well and is ahead of schedule.

Ald. Wade asked if the city was pursuing any grants for 2018 projects. Adm. McGill said that he planned to do so.

He then mentioned that the SubStation, AMI Project and Water Plant should all be completed by the end of this year, with the 6 projects planned for next year amounting to about 2 million dollars and that he hoped to begin the budget process soon. Mayor Bodi stated that it was time to ask the supervisors to submit their list of needs for equipment/supplies as soon as possible.

Adm. McGill said that he intends to have the budget process completed as early as possible. He is currently working on a 1 year, 5 year and 10 year budget plan that would incorporate both short term and long term goals.

He informed the Council that the City staff are working on the old police department and Chamber office to convert to the Mayor's Office with a much needed conference area and room for the Municipal Court Clerk. This move is dictated by a law issued by the Missouri Supreme Court requiring the separation of duties of the clerk for the Court and for the Police Department. Atty. Bock concurred and stated that the Court is currently auditing municipalities to make sure the Municipal Courts are in compliance. In addition, the Municipalities must make community service in lieu of fines available as well.

Ald. Cravens asked about the progress on the new antenna. Adm. McGill said that the Moswin State Director was working on it now.

Adm. McGill then spoke about the changes at dispatch, notifying that Chief Higgerson has assumed the supervision of the 911 staff and everything has gone very smooth with this transition. A new larger console has been purchased for the dispatch by the County which has required some renovation of the dispatch area at the Public Safety Center.

Ald. Riley mentioned that the City needed to inspect the underground waterline at the Northeast side of the Football Field as it is leaking water.

There being no further business, Ald. Chism made a motion to adjourn. Ald. White seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the meeting adjourned.