

City of New Madrid  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 10, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bodi called the meeting to order. Ald. Keene, Ald. Chism, and Ald. Young, Ald. Cravens and Ald. White were present. Ald. Keene lead us in prayer. Ald. Riley was not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The minutes from March 12th, 2021 meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to accept the minutes and Ald. Cravens seconded. A vote was taken and all, including Mayor Bodi, voted "yes". The minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Visitors:**

We had one visitor, Mr. Mark Baker. His topic was trash alongside US Hwy 61. Mr. Baker suggested asking the trash company to put a net or something over the top of the trash truck to keep trash from blowing out because he's seen that happen. The Dollar General is the biggest problem. Their trash blows, plus people that shop there throw stuff out, clean out their cars, bags, etc. blow all along 61 causing litter and it isn't good for the farmland along the highway. Litterbugs are also a problem and putting signage up will hopefully cut down on this problem.

**For council approval:**

The variance committee met before the council meeting regarding 2 variance requests. The variance for Hayden Dawson that we had previously tabled to see about the transformer. Per Mayor Bodi, that transformer was going to have to be replaced anyway and the on that is there can be used elsewhere so the City won't be out anything. The variance committee voted and passed the variance.

The second variance was for Joey Causey to put in a RV park out by the interstate. The variance committee voted and passed the variance.

Ald. Chism made a motion to accept the variance, Ald. Young seconded and the variance requests were approved by the council.

**Resolutions:**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a change order for the 2021 tree trimming project in the amount of \$4,000 to Southern Tree Care of Caruthersville, MO for tree trimming.

Ald. White made a motion to accept the change order and Ald. Chism seconded his motion.

A vote was taken, all voted “yes” and the change order was approved.

**Ordinances:**

Bill No. 21-1318 Federal transit grant (this is done yearly)

Ald. Chism made a motion to approve, Ald. Keene seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted “yes” and the ordinance was passed.

Bill No. 21-1319 Potential conflicts of interest and substantial interest for certain officials (this is done every 2 years)

Ald. Chism made a motion to approve, Ald. Young seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted “yes” and the ordinance was passed.

**Discussion:** Ald. White addressed the cat problem in town, stated he has had several phone calls regarding this. TNR (trap & release) program was suggested. Code enforcement officer, Dana Perry stated he doesn't have the time to trap and take cats daily to the vet to get them fixed then bring back and release. He also stated there is no real solution to the problem, not enough time, not enough money. Chief Higgerson stated that it all has to do with how much money you want to spend.

**City Administrator's Report:**

Street projects have started. There have been a few issues but nothing major. The annual audit also started today and everything is going good so far.

The Police Department has 2 vehicles that are at the end of their life. Chief Higgerson suggested donating one with bars to the Juvenile Office for security. Mayor Bodi stated he would like the other for an office vehicle.

Ald. White made a motion to go into closed session, relative to (B.) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration there for (RSMo 610.021.2)

Ald. Chism seconded his motion. A vote was taken and all voted "yes".

Ald. White made a motion to go back into open session, Ald. Keene seconded. A vote was taken and all voted "yes". Open session was resumed.

There being nothing further, Ald. White made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Chism seconded. A vote was taken, all voted "yes". The meeting adjourned.