

City of New Madrid
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday April 8, 2024

6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The April 8th, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of New Madrid was called to order at 6:00pm with Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Chism presiding. Alderman Keene, Alderman White, Alderman Cravens, Alderman McSpadden and Alderman Riley were present. Mayor Lyons was absent.

Also in attendance was City Administrator, Aaron Griffin, City Clerk, Paige Keene, and City Attorney Chance Hunter.

Admin Keene led us in prayer.

A. Approval of minutes

The minutes from March 26th, 2023, regular meeting was presented.

MOTION: Alderman White made a motion and Alderman McSpadden seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

B. Certify Municipal Election April 2, 2024

MOTION: Alderman Keene made a motion and Alderman Cravens seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

C. Adjourn

Alderman Keene made a motion to adjourn, and Alderman White seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

Admin Griffin thanked Jimmy McSpadden for his time on the council and he was presented with a gift certificate.

Oath of office- The oath of office was given by City Clerk Paige Keene to the newly appointed officials

Nick White – Mayor

Ryan Riley – Alderman Ward III

Derek Lawfield – Alderman Ward II

Tommy Chism – Alderman Ward I

CALL TO ORDER

The April 8th, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of New Madrid was called to order at 6:05 pm with Mayor Nick White presiding. Alderman Keene, Alderman Riley, Alderman Cravens, Alderman Lawfield and Alderman Chism were present with one seat empty in ward II.

Also in attendance was City Administrator, Aaron Griffin, City Clerk, Paige Keene, and City Attorney Chance Hunter.

Admin Keene led us in prayer.

A. Appointment of new Alderman Ward II

Mayor White would like to appoint Jimmy Henderson Sr. as Alderman Ward II

Motion: Alderman Chism made a motion and Alderman Cravens seconded. All Aldermen present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

Oath of Office was given by City clerk Paige Keene to the newly appointed Alderman of Ward II Jimmy Henderson and he took his seat on the council.

B. Old Business

none

C. New Business

Noise Ordinance- Admin Griffin presented the board with a sample noise ordinance that could be customized to what would best fit our town. Chief Higgerson was brought up to share his opinion on the ordinance and he felt it could be enforced much easier than our current ordinance. All officers have tape on them to measure the distance from the noise in the case of a loud vehicle. It was also brought up that the council should consider putting a part in the ordinance about exhaust. Council agreed to go forward with the ordinance to control vehicle noise.

D. Resolutions(s)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO BEN AND AMBER EAKENS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$159,000.

Harvey Graham was brought forward and discussed the houses from a realtor perspective. He stated 2 years ago when the housing project was started, he was selling houses before they were built. Interest is now up to 7-7.5% making it harder to sell. The council discussed that selling two meant they were likely to become rent houses which was not their original intent. They discussed their opinions in great length. It was decided to sell these 2 per the contract and drop the price on the remaining houses to \$80,000 in attempt to sell faster.

Motion: Alderman Cravens made a motion and Alderman Riley seconded. All Aldermen present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

E. City Admin Report

LeveEclipse Event:

The eclipse event along the Mississippi Riverwalk created an awesome unobstructed view of the eclipse. Visitors from numerous states attended the event, and several remarked about our beautiful town and riverfront. A video was created interviewing visitors in town for the event.

New Madrid Video Series:

Along with our second installment today, our introductory video was released last week. From here forward, we will be highlighting one attraction, location, or other item over the next several weeks and months. Our first video has almost 6,000 views in just one week. We feel it has been a success so far.

Mississippi River Commission/Corp of Engineers Meeting:

Admin Griffin attended the MRC/Corp of Engineering today, April 8th. The MRC held their update and public hearing meeting here at our beautiful riverfront park. Chief Higgerson was asked to provide security for the event, and Admin Griffin was able to deliver remarks to the commission thanking them for hosting the meeting in our town, and the invest that they made in our infrastructure by repairing our boat ramp. We have a great partnership and relationship with the Corp of Engineers.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS):

Admin Griffin has been fortunate enough to be nominated to the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. This is a committee set up by the Bootheel Regional Planning Economic Development Commission. This committee will help set the economic development plan for the six-county southeast Missouri region for the next 5 years. The first meetings will take place starting in April.

F. Adjourn to closed.

Motion: Alderman Chism made a motion to go into closed session in accordance with section 610.021.2 of RSMo. Alderman Keene seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Alderman Chism	"yes"
Alderman Riley	"yes"
Alderman Cravens	"yes"
Alderman Lawfield	"yes"
Alderman Keene	"yes"
Alderman Henderson	"yes"

H. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss Alderman Cravens made a motion to adjourn and Alderman Lawfield seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED**

Appointments to the Boards and Positions in the City of New Madrid

Park Board:

Liz Riley Jordan Kimball

Tonya Palmer Clint Tanner

Mary Davis John David Harris

City Administrator: Aaron Griffin **City Alderman:** Jimmy Henderson

Ex-officio member: Mayor Nick White **Non-voting member & Park Board Secretary:** Marcia Stafford

Assistant Police Chief: Brandon Hanner

City Attorney: Chance Hunter

Code Enforcement: Dana Perry

Emergency Management: Shane Grissom

Fire Chief: Joey Higgerson

Assistant Fire Chief: Shane Grissom

City Cemetery Sexton: Jimmy McSpadden

Parks and Recreation Director: Steven Medlin

City Clerk: Paige Keene

Mayor Pro tempore: Tommy Chism

New Madrid Housing Authority Board of Commissioners:

Jake "Mickey" Abner Sandra Beasley

Sandy Riggs Jim Cravens