

City Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at the Community Building. Mayor Donnie Brown presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Cravens, Riggs, Wade, White and Kolwyck.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. The minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting were presented. Ald. Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ald. Chism seconded the motion. All Councilmen voted "yes" and the motion was carried. The minutes were accepted.

Old Business:

1. Bill 16-1255, an ordinance acknowledging the transfer of real estate was presented. Mayor Brown read the title of the ordinance aloud twice and asked for any questions. There being none, he proceeded with a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Kolwyck – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The ordinance was adopted with the unanimous vote.
2. License Renewal – A Liquor License renewal application was presented by Casey's General Store. Ald. White made a motion to approve with Ald. Riggs seconding. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the motion passed with Casey's application being approved.

New Business

1. Visitors
 - a. Gary Gibbs – Mayor called Mr. Gibbs forward. Mr. Gibbs stated that he was basically here to wait for a ruling on his application for a liquor license. Mayor Brown stated that it would be taken up when they reached that item on the agenda.
 - b. Mrs. Jill Bock, Board Member and Mrs. Susan Newman, Director of the New Madrid County Library were present to ask for an update on the repairs for the library in New Madrid. Mrs. Newman stated that the last they had heard, the repairs were expected to be completed at the end of November. She also mentioned that the condition of the roof was deteriorating with the water coming out of the storage closet into the library itself. Mayor Brown explained that City staff had tried repeatedly to contact Morgan and Morgan, the company to whom the project had been awarded, but had had no response from them. Nor had the City Attorney, Lynn Bock been able to secure another phone

number for the company. Adm. McGill said that he would be glad to meet with Ms. Newman at the library at any time convenient to her to inspect and see what work needed to be completed. They set a time for the next morning. Adm. McGill did say that the City was calling in an inspector to check out the roof at City Hall and will have them inspect the library as well and would make every effort to get the repairs completed as soon as possible.

2. Liquor License Application – Mr. Gary Gibbs brought forth an application for a liquor license at Next Level Lounge. Mayor Brown asked the Council if they had any questions for Mr. Gibbs. Ald. Wade stated that the City had experienced a lot of trouble in years past with Mr. Gibbs' establishment. He concern was that the Council would be bringing more trouble for the citizens that live in that neighborhood and for the City's Police Department. Mr. Gibbs said that the number of calls taken by the police department previously was not an abnormal number. Ald. Wade said that none of these activities should be tolerated. He stated that he would not want to live by this. Mr. Gibbs took exception and said that he was not violating any City Ordinance. Ald. Wade said that Mr. Gibbs had sold beer out of a vending machine to under age individuals when his business had been open. Mr. Gibbs said that he stopped doing that when he was told it was illegal. Mayor Brown said that it was not a coincidence that the streets are quiet and safe now that these businesses are no longer open. The out of town clientele that visit these establishments only bringing our residents trouble. The people in that neighborhood have asked for the Council's help time and time again in stopping the activities. Ald. White made a motion to deny the application, Ald. Wade seconded and all Aldermen voted their agreement. The license was denied.
3. Resolution to purchase Real Estate was presented to the Council. Two lots on Water Street had become available for sale from Recker Family Properties in the amount of \$37,000. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All Council members voted "yes" and the resolution was approved.
4. Resolution the purchase of residential property. Mayor Brown stated that the Council had discussed buying a house for the City that would keep future City Administrator's from being tied to a property and would allow future boards to remove an Administrator that was doing a substandard job without any real estate entanglements. It was felt that this would be an enticement for experienced administrators to apply for the position. He also stated that the new Administrator was being paid substantially less than had been budgeted since the residence would be provided. The Mayor stated that the home would be an investment for the City and would be positive for the community in the future. Ald. White said that this is quite a lot of money and with the current news regarding possible employment

layoffs in the area, he didn't know how he felt about the purchase. Ald. Wade said that he hoped to see some appreciation of the investment. Ald. White stated that he was concerned about property values in the current climate. Ald. Riggs said that he thought it was a good idea to purchase the house. Ald. Kolwyck said that based on the news about layoffs and the current economic news, he felt that it may not turn out to be a good long term investment. Ald. Riggs made a motion to approve the resolution and Ald. Wade seconded. 4 Aldermen voted "yes" with Aldermen White and Kolwyck voting "no". The motion carried and the resolution was approved.

City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill thanked the Council for granting him the great honor of becoming the new City Administrator. He stated that John Gilbert had left the City in a good position with a tremendous staff. He then updated the Council that the Transit Driver/Gallery Attendant position had become vacant and an ad was running in the Standard Democrat and the Weekly Record through the 17th. He hopes to start interviewing soon after that. He then told the Council that Chief Higginson had made a conditional offer to an applicant for the vacant Police Patrolman position pending drug screening and a background check.

Kristy Taylor, Finance Officer informed the Council that Jeff Stroder of Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, Certified Public Accountants, who had completed the 2014 audit for the City, had requested that the Council reiterate by a vote, their approval to transfer funds from the AECl account to pay off the COP bonds. This had been approved by the Council some time ago by ordinance. Ald. Kolwyck made a motion to approve the transfer of payoff funds to MLP and Storm Water Funds and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Ald. Kolwyck made a motion to adjourn with Ald. White seconding. All voted "yes" and the meeting adjourned.