

City Council Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2016
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Community Building. Mayor Donnie Brown presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Cravens, Wade, and White.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. The minutes of the January 12, 2016 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 16-1256, 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. Wade – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
2. License Renewal – A Liquor License renewal application was presented by The Dollar General Store. Ald. White made a motion to approve with Ald. Riggs seconding. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the motion passed with the application being approved. A Liquor License renewal application was presented by Ramey’s #2. Ald. White made a motion to approve with Ald. Riggs seconding. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the motion passed with the application being approved.

New Business

1. Visitors

There were no visitors.

2. Mayoral Appointments:

Mayor Brown informed the Council that he had received a letter of resignation from Ald. Kolwyck. He regretfully resigned since his current schedule will make him unavailable for Council meetings. Ald. Kolwyck asked that the Council be told that he has enjoyed working with them and wishes them the best. He also recommended that Ryan Riley be appointment to complete his term in office. Mr. Riley is running for Ald. Kolwyck’s seat in the upcoming election unopposed. Thus, it makes sense for him to fill in now to get as much experience as possible. Mayor Brown stated that with the Council’s approval, he would make this appointment. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted

“yes” and the appointment was approved. City Clerk, Karen Chapman administered the oath of office to Mr. Riley.

Mayor Brown also informed the Council that Housing Authority Director, Sheila Lafon had requested that Dewayne Whitworth be appointment to the vacant seat of Mrs. Shirley Nowell to the Housing Board. Mayor Brown requested the Council’s approval for this appointment. Officer Whitworth, a New Madrid City Police Officer. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the appointment was made. Police Chief Joey Higgerson stated that Officer Whitworth would be a good member for this board and he approved of the appointment as well.

3. Resolution: A resolution was presented to award the bid for the North Substation Site Preparation to TM Farrenburg Dirtworks, LLC of New Madrid in the amount of \$179,000.00. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the bid was awarded as presented.
4. Resolution: A resolution was presented to award the bid for the 69KV Pole Replacement as recommended by MidSouth, to Standard Electric Company of Memphis, Tennessee in the amount of \$146,000.00. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. White seconded. All aldermen voted “yes” and the bid was awarded to Standard Electric.
5. Resolution: A resolution was presented to direct the Mayor to sign an agreement with Lambert Engineering LLC to develop plans for renovations of the Fire Station in order to provide for a Police Station in the front of the building. This would also provide a kitchen and training rooms in the middle of the building to be used by the Fire Department as well. Mayor Brown stated that initially plans were developed by Chris Lambert for a new stand-alone station with a cost estimate in the \$850,000 range. Due to the recent economic issues, the Mayor and Richard McGill, City Administrator began working with Fire Chief, Jimmy Harris and Police Chief, Joey Higgerson to come up with a less costly and more efficient plan. The Mayor commended them both for their cooperation and willingness to compromise on a solution. The Mayor said that this resolution for \$60,000 would allow the purchase of building supplies. The construction would be completed by the Street Department staff and some of the Noranda Employees recently laid off.
6. Resolution: A resolution was presented to direct the Mayor to sign a “letter of engagement” for the CPA firm of “Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC, of Cape Girardeau, Mo. To perform the City’s annual audit for 2015 for the amount of \$16,900.00. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. Cravens seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.

7. Resolution: A resolution was presented to donate 2007 Ford Crown Victoria to New Madrid County R-1. New Madrid Police Chief informed the Council that this car would be used for the 3rd hour Junior and senior classes of students looking at a career in Criminal Justice. It would also promote a good relationship with the school. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. White seconded. All Aldermen agreed and the resolution was approved.

8. City Administrator's Report:

Adm. McGill reported that he had received a call from DAEOC. They are pursuing a grant to construct a new full time Head Start within the City of New Madrid. They would need to City of act as the fiscal agent for this project, with no other obligations for the City. Adm. McGill gave them his approval. He also mentioned that they have hired a grant writer to proceed with the grant application. He said that he is optimistic that this grant application will be successful since the grant writer has written 3 of these grants and all have been successful.

Adm. McGill updated the Council on the status of the Library roof repair. Lloyd Stoner of Pyramid Roofing has been requested to prepare a report of the bid specs that are needed in order to get an agreement that would produce a quality product as the City has had problems in this area. He expects that report any day and has hopes to be get the invitation to bid published right away.

He then informed the members:

- We had just recently received DNR's water report that found our city water safe in all regards;
- that the Corps of Engineers had just recently contacted him to secure trash and water service while they are docked at New Madrid on April 8th through 10th. The Mississippi River Commission will be on board;
- That he, the Mayor and Don Lloyd had been meeting with all parties connected to Noranda regarding Economic Development ideas. Most recently the Senior Vice President and CEO of Missouri Partnership visited New Madrid to see what we have available. It was suggested that we seek to make our 200 acres a certified site. This will put us in a group where our assets of infrastructure, location, rail & water transportation and skilled workforce will be published on June 15th.
- Pump Station Project: Adm. McGill said that we have experienced some delays and that the contractor had requested an extension until April. He stated that we had given them until March 24 to complete the project.
- AMI Project is close to being finalized. When that happens, it will be only a short time until the meters are up and functioning.

- Beenders & Walker Group is in month 7 of their agreement to provide tourism services for the City. Adm. McGill said that he had been investigating their progress. It is his opinion that the City should end this contract due to the major employer shut down. He feels that those funds could be used to better help that situation. With the Council's agreement, he would like to give them the required 30 day notice. He is also going to ask for a report to what has been accomplished in the last 7 months. All Aldermen agreed to end this agreement.

Adm. McGill then asked that the Council dismiss to closed session in regard to (B. Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration there for (RSMo 610.021.1)) and for (C. Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting or particular employees when information relating to the performance or merit of individual employees is discussed or recorded (RSMo 610.021.3)). Ald. White made a motion that the meeting be adjourned to go into closed session. Ald. Wade seconded, all members voted "yes" and the meeting adjourned.

Adm. White made a motion to return to regular session. Ald. Chism seconded and all voted "yes".

Ald. Ryan Riley asked some questions regarding the site preparation for the substation. He asked where would the needed dirt come from? Mayor Brown stated that they would be hauling the dirt in. Most of the dirt will be hauled from a farm in Kewanee that Farrenburg purchased for this purpose. The dirt was tested and approved by MidSouth.

Ald. Chism asked a question as to if the Council could pass an ordinance against the practice of wearing saggy pants in public places. He said that he had recently noticed some doing so in an offensive manner at Casey's and wanted to know if the Council could do anything to prevent this. Atty. Bock stated that the Council could pass any ordinance that it chose but that this one would not be enforceable. No matter how offensive, unless body parts are bare, there is no offense to prosecute.

Ald. Chism then asked if the Council would consider changing the regular schedule meeting days back to Monday's. He had been approached by Ed Thomason regarding his inability to attend the meetings on Tuesday nights as that is the night he prepares the paper for publication. All of the Aldermen said that Monday's would be fine. Atty. Bock said that they would need to pass an ordinance at a future

meeting to make this change. They could call a special meeting and change the ordinance then if they did not want to wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting. It was decided they would take this up again at the next meeting.

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