

City Council Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2016

7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Donnie Brown presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Cravens, Wade, Riggs, Riley and White.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. The minutes of the February 23, 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 16-1257, an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of New Madrid for federal funds to be expended for approved Transit projects. The Mayor read the title of the ordinance twice and then initiated a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
2. Bill 16-1258, an ordinance adopting the ADA Reasonable Modification Policy and ADA complaint form and procedures for New Madrid Transit. The Mayor then read the title of the ordinance twice and initiated a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
3. Bill 16-1259, an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign an MPPA Mutual Aid Agreement. The Mayor read the title of the ordinance aloud and initiated a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Wade – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
4. Resolution, a resolution was presented appointing a Director and Alternate Director to the Missouri Joint Municipal electric Utility Commission. The Mayor asked if there were any questions. There being none, Ald. White made motion to approve the resolution. Ald. Wade seconded. All voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.
5. Bill 16-1260, an ordinance authorizing the transfer of real estate. The Mayor read the title of the bill twice. This bill approves and acknowledged the transfer of real property to the City of New Madrid, specifically Lot Twenty-three (23), in Oak Haven First Addition to the City of New Madrid, Missouri. The Mayor then conducted a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
6. Bill 16-1261, an ordinance acknowledging the transfer of real estate to the City of New Madrid. The Mayor then read the bill twice. This bill approves and acknowledges the transfer of real property to the City of New Madrid, recently purchased from Recker Family Properties. The Mayor then conducted a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
7. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2016 Chamber of Commerce agreement. Ald. White made a motion to approve the resolution and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.

New Business

1. Visitors

Ms. Wilderness & Ms. Thacker came before the Council to speak about a new Royals Youth Organization that they and Ms. Janeuvia Johnson are hoping to form. They have applied for 501C status as a charitable organization. Their aim is to develop a mentoring organization that will work with New Madrid youth to promote educational training and sports. Their first hope is to upgrade Obannon Park. Ms. Johnson has submitted a proposal to City Adm. Richard McGill. Adm. McGill stated that he was quite impressed with the presentation. They are hopeful that the City will support them in their efforts. Their first goal is to hold a basketball tournament at Obannon Park and wanted to see if the City could repair and renovate the basketball court. Atty. Bock asked if this was going to be affiliated with a national organization or would it be strictly local. Ms. Wilderness said that it would be local. Adm. McGill said that he will confer with the Park Board and see how this would fit with their plans. He will then put together a recommendation and bring it back to the Council. Mayor Brown thanked the ladies for coming and wished them well with their undertaking.

2. Resolution: a resolution was presented awarding the bid of the library roof project. Two bids were received and presented to the Council. One was submitted by Midwest Storm Restoration, LLC of Trenton, MO in the amount of \$24,205.00 and the second was from Pyramid Roofing of Sikeston, MO in the amount of \$49,800.00. Their bid was submitted without using prevailing wage. It states that the bid will increase if prevailing wage has to be used. Ald. Chism made a motion to award the bid to Midwest Storm Restoration in the amount of \$24,205.00. Ald. Riley seconded and the resolution was approved. Ald. Wade asked as to when they could begin. Adm. McGill said that they had stated that they should be able to start by the middle of April.
3. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill stated that both KFVS 12 had broadcast a segment and The Standard Democrat had published an article on the renovations to the new fire station that would provide much needed space for the New Madrid Police Station. He said that he was happy to be able to report that the City's efforts for this project had been portrayed in a very positive manner.

Hiring Update: We have received 18 or so applications for the open positions in the Electric Department. It is his intention to hire two linemen, with some experience and the supervisor. Mr. Pete Taylor has agreed to stay on until the new supervisor is ready to lead.

Economic Development Projects: Mayor Brown was recently in Jefferson City and came home with the good news that the legislature is willing to help in getting land paid for in the Industrial Park. This would help with the problem of being land locked when negotiating with potential manufacturers. Senator Blunt is looking to upgrade the infrastructure in the Industrial Park. There will be a meeting on Thursday morning.

Southeast Missouri University: The University's Ag Department is interested in initiating a marketing program to bring Agricultural Industry to Southeast Missouri. This will include research, gathering data and developing a marketing plan. Adm. McGill said that this sounds good and will be following up on this and will bring more information to the Council at a later date.

Pump Station Project: The estimated completion date has been extended to April 30th.

AMI Project: This is very close to being ready to proceed. Adm. McGill is waiting to hear from Roy Drake at MidSouth regarding the cost estimates from Eaton. Pete Taylor and his two linemen are getting ready for this installation.

Water Tower Project: Complete

Substation Project: Is now in the 2nd phase

69 KV Pole Replacement: There will be a meeting next week with Standard to proceed with this replacement.

Adm. McGill informed the Council that the Electric Department is no longer reading the meters. The Water Department is completing an inventory of every meter in the City. This should be finished by the end of the next week. This will provide stricter oversight.

Mayor Brown informed the Council that Bootheel Regional Planning is providing assistance for the Noranda workers. They have encountered a delay in the disbursement of funds for utility bills and is asking the City Council to work with those affected workers. Mayor Brown has asked that the laid off workers be instructed to come and see Adm. McGill. The checks from Bootheel Regional Planning would come to the City.

Mayor Brown then stated that when the Associated deal was accomplished in 2013, the goal was to spend 25 million on upgrades and infrastructure needs long overdue, then invest the remainder of the payments so that at the end of the contract, the City would have 25 million in the bank. He then advised the Council to hold the City Administrator's "feet to the fire" to meet that goal. He said that most of the bonds have now been paid off with the remainder later this year. The City will then be debt free. The Storm Drainage fund will provide \$105,000 per year that will be available for maintenance on the sewer and water systems.

The Mayor also stated that in the past it had been necessary to use the MLP depreciation to balance the budget. Since that is no longer necessary, that money should be set back for future upgrades to the lagoon and electrical systems when needed. There will be 2 accounts to prepare for future Councils years from now to keep going into the future. The Mayor is encouraging this Council and future ones to keep that up. There should never be a Council that must raise electrical rates by 38% or pass a bond issue.

The Mayor said that he was proud of all the great things that this Council had accomplished in the 11 years he has been in office.

Ald. Wade expressed his appreciation to Mayor Brown for all the sacrifices he has made for the City.

Mayor Brown said that he feels good about the Council and is certain that they will be a strong group looking out for the best interests of New Madrid.

Atty. Lynn Bock then informed the Council that while in Washington, he received information that the Corps of Engineers will be replacing the culverts across from Hunter Dawson Park ballfields.

Originally they had been told that this would not happen due to the cost of fighting the flood. However, funding was then discovered as being available but had just not been requested. Due to that discovery, the project is now a go. Everyone agreed that that was very good news.

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