

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

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, April 25, 2016 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Young, Wade, Riggs, and Riley.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting were presented. Ald. Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ald. Chism seconded the motion. All Councilmen voted “yes” and the motion was carried. The minutes were accepted.
3. Visitors: Floyd Jeske, 747 Main St., New Madrid. Mr. Jeske appeared to enter a complaint regarding service from the City’s Electric Department and to inquire as to why a building permit was required in order to dig on his property. He felt that a neighbor of his had been given preferential treatment as to electric service when he had contacted the Mayor and Mr. Jeske had not. Mayor Bodi informed Mr. Jeske that he had no knowledge that he had any problems. He had been contacted to ask for assistance from another citizen that had an emergency and was in jeopardy of having a large amount of perishable items spoil. The Mayor called the Electric Worker on call and asked that he restore his power as soon as possible. Mayor Bodi said that he and Adm. McGill would investigate and would be glad to meet with Mr. Jeske on Wednesday to inform him of their findings. Atty. Bock told Mr. Jeske that everyone that pours concrete within the city is required to obtain a building permit to ensure that they are not imposing a hindrance to city workers when they need to restore power to the community. The Building permit is to allow the home owner to adjust their plans when needed to protect their property as well as the community as a whole. Atty. Bock said that he would be glad to attend the meeting on Wednesday.
4. Mayoral Appointments: The Mayor presented a list of Mayoral appointments for staff, boards and committees. Ald. Chism made a motion to accept the appointments as presented. Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the appointments were approved.

5. Picnic License: The New Madrid Historical Museum submitted an application for a “Picnic License” to sell beer and wine at the Ride the Faultline Bike Tour event scheduled for June 15th. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the license and Ald. Wade seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the license was approved.
6. Resolution: The City Administrator presented a resolution to approve the purchase of real estate from John D & Tonya Powell in the amount of \$10,000. This property is on Waters Street and adjoins City owned property in the same block. Adm. McGill stated that it could be used for parking for events on the levee as well as another picnic area. He said that there is a lot that we can do to make the area more appealing, especially to tourists visiting from the River Boats. Ald. Wade said that this would give us another opportunity to get this area cleaned up for the future. The Mayor called for a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was approved.
7. Resolution: The purchase of real estate from the L.L. & Martha Riley Trust in the amount of \$643,000.00. Mayor Bodi asked that the Council adjourn to a closed session. Ald. Wade made a motion to adjourn to a 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 610.021.9)). The Mayor conducted a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Riley –yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The meeting was adjourned.

Ald. Chism made a motion to return to open session and Ald. Wade seconded. All voted “yes” and the meeting was opened.

Ald. Chism made a motion to table the Resolution regarding the purchase of real estate from the L.L. & Martha Riley Trust. Ald. Riggs seconded. The motion was approved and the resolution was tabled for future consideration.

8. City Administrator’s Report: Adm. McGill discussed the status of the AMI project. The bid for this project was awarded to Eaton Cooper a year ago. MidSouth Electric Consultants is handling that for the City and recently notified Adm. McGill that the final budget just submitted by Eaton included an additional \$90,000.00 for installation. That addition pushed their bid to third overall.

MidSouth has contacted Elster, who would be the next lowest bid to see if they would still hold to their bid. As of the meeting date, no answer had been received. MidSouth is fully confident that Elster would be able to do the job. Adm. McGill said that neither he nor the Mayor and Electric Supv. Pete Taylor wanted to avoid the rebidding of the contract, if possible. Roy Drake of MidSouth, does not feel that Elster should need to adjust their original bid considering that there have been limited cost changes in the industry in the last year. Adm. McGill said that he feels it is in our best interests to proceed with Elster if possible.

Pump Station Project: Adm. McGill said that this project is almost complete. However, the Corps of Engineers feel that there is not enough riprap. Jacob Ortega of Smith & Co. is in contact with the Corps. He feels that this is an easy fix. The bids for installation of a fence went out last week. Adm. McGill said that the pump station was really moving a lot of water through. They are very pleased with the outcome.

Water Tower Project: The tower is almost complete. They are very close to fill and disinfection. This is very close and should be accomplished within the next two weeks.

Water Plant Project: Adm. McGill met with Smith & Co. last Wednesday. Discussion items included new drainage issues that needed to be addressed. They were given the okay to submit plans to DNR.

North Substation Project: This is moving along well. The 13Kv & 69KV breakers should be in soon.

Pole Replacement: This should be completed any day this week or next by Standard Electric.

Semo University Ag Project: This project is moving forward. We are partnering with them to put together information for Ag business in this area, starting in New Madrid. We are trying to obtain the Ag building from the USDA on Hwy 61 that is no longer being used. Senator Blunt's office is working with Janie Dunning on this. He stated that there is a good possibility that something will be worked out soon on this matter.

Draining Issues: Jacob Ortega of Smith & Company update – 5 or 6 areas behind St. Peter are getting water due to an earthen dam in the field north of there. Hwy 61 and Blades Drive are also getting water. Smith & Company will address this with MoDot.

Police Station: The renovation on the police/fire station began last week. The architect's should have finished these drawings 2 months ago. We received the plans late last week but they have not addressed the questions yet.

Security: Mayor Bodi and Police Chief Higgerson addressed their interest in securing security cameras in high accident areas and exits in and out of town. Chief Higgerson said that 50% of their solved cases were due to surveillance. The presence of additional cameras would be a great deterrent to crime as well as a tool to solve cases. He referenced the disappearance of Mrs. Stoffer year before last and how cameras at exits could have provided a lot of insight into her case. He also stated that the Housing Authority had installed these last year and is seeing very good outcomes from them. Ald. Wade stated that much of these cameras were wireless giving immediate information. Ald. Young said that he hoped they would get good equipment that provided good night time views. Chief Higgerson said that that was absolutely their first requirement. Adm. McGill said that there were some very dark places in Dawson Park that needed lighting and cameras would be located close to the lights. Ald. Young said that some cameras could provide snapshots of license plates and that the dispatchers could watch and alert officers when needed. Chief Higgerson said that 5 cameras will just about cover city exits. Ald. Young asked if it would be possible to add additional cameras if the need was noted. Adm. McGill said yes, with council approval. Ald. Riggs said that he agreed that we should proceed with finding out the cost of this equipment. Ald. Chism agreed that we should pursue this right away.

Annual Audit: Adm. McGill said that the auditors would be at City Hall on Tuesday, May 31st to begin the City's annual audit. He said that Finance Officer, Kristy Taylor would oversee this and he had full confidence that everything would be in good shape.

Mayor Bodi said that he hoped to get with Smith & Company and get started on developing a five year plan. He wants the citizens to know what streets will then be repaired and when. He also brought up lighting situations throughout town. Ald. Riggs said that there is a light out on Brush Prairie and that parts of Dawson Park are very dark. Ald. Wade asked if there was a plan to switch to LED's. Adm. McGill said that it had been agreed to start with 8/10 due to the cost of purchase but that it was discovered that the cost wasn't as great as they had thought. Ald. Wade said that his company had switched over and found a substantial decrease in usage.

There being no further business, Ald. Chism made a motion to adjourn. Ald. Wade seconded and all Aldermen voted "yes". The meeting adjourned.