

City Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2016
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2016 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Wade, Riley, Young, Riggs, and Cravens.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the August 22, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Ald. Riggs made a motion to accept the minutes and Ald. Chism seconded his motion. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the minutes were approved.
3. VISITORS: Robert Fitzgerald appeared before the Council to discuss the potential for an earthquake and how it could impact the City. Mr. Fitzgerald distributed an article written by Elizabeth Rusch and published on the Smithsonian.com website in December 2011. He pointed out how the article compared the potential damage to possible damage from quakes in California. He also expressed concern for the danger of damage to the gas pipeline that runs through the City. Mr. Fitzgerald brought up the water seepage that is occurring from the levee in several areas of town. Mayor Bodi stated that the City has recently received an engineering study on the water lines and that the City will be addressing this shortly. He intends to develop a 5 year plan on replacing the damaged lines and then pave the streets as needed. The Mayor also commented that in the event of a major earthquake on the New Madrid Fault, the City had been cautioned not to expect any outside assistance for at least 5 days. That being the case the City is working on stockpiling emergency supplies in two different sections of the City.
4. Resolution – Agreement between the City of New Madrid and New Madrid County for the City to take over the operation of the 911 emergency dispatch service. The County will reimburse the City for operating expenses up to \$400,000 annually. After the resolution was read aloud by the Mayor, a roll call vote was taken. The vote was as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was passed.

5. Resolution: a resolution to renew the City's agreement with St. Jude Harbor Service for a period of 5 years at \$5000 for the 5 year time span. This is a change from the annual agreement at \$1000.00 per year paid annually. The Mayor read the resolution aloud and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was passed.
6. Resolution: a resolution to award the bid for the MoDot 80/20 Sidewalk Project to Mike Light Cement Finishing Inc., of Perryville, MO, as the lowest and best bid. The Mayor read the resolution aloud and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was passed.
7. Resolution: a resolution to direct the Mayor to sign a contract to purchase real estate from the Glenda DeBaun Estate for the amount of \$11,024.23. This property consists of 2 lots on the west side of Church Street at the intersection of Waters St. It adjoins the City's property at the Harte Steppe House. The Mayor read the resolution aloud and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was passed.
8. Resolution: a resolution to award the bid for the purchase of 2 125kW Diesel Generators from CK Power of St. Louis, MO. In the amount of \$63,185.00. These generators will be used at the new Police/Fire Station with New Madrid County covering ½ of the cost. Richard McGill, City Administrator stated that he is recommending the bid be awarded to CK Power. Even though it is not the lowest bidder, this company will provide a free rental generator until delivery of the new ones. The lowest bidder was Central Maine but would require a rental fee of \$1400.00 per week, pushing their bid price higher than CK Power. Central Maine also requires the total payment up front while CK Power is net 30. Therefore it has been determined that CK Power is the best bid. The Mayor read the resolution aloud and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The resolution was passed.
9. The AMI Project Resolution was tabled until a future meeting. Adm. McGill said that MidSouth had reached an agreement with Elster but the actual contract is not ready for signatures.

10. City Administrator's Report:

Adm. McGill informed the Council that there had been two new hires. Those being Jerry Newton in the Water Department and Mike McCammon for Dispatch. Since the apartment in the Fire Station downtown has been vacated by Patrick Johnson, Jerry Newton and his wife Jennifer will be moving into the apartment. This will benefit the city since both are volunteer firefighters. The second new employee is Mike McCammon. Mr. McCammon will be the 911 Dispatch Supervisor. He has previously worked for both Dunklin and Pemiscot Counties and has had experience in leading a dispatch team. Chief Higerson said that Mr. McCammon's salary will be covered by the annual reimbursement as agreed upon with New Madrid County. Adm. McGill said that the interviews for the rest of the dispatch positions will take place this Wednesday. The interview committee will consist of Mike McCammon, Adm. McGill, FO Kristy Taylor, Elizabeth Eddy, Jimmy Harris and a representative from the Sheriff's Office. They will be looking to fill 7 full time and possibly 4 part time positions.

Adm. McGill informed the Council that the Police/Fire Station project is moving right along. They are currently working on getting the ceiling tiles up with flooring next. A good deal of the communications equipment is in with furniture being the final piece. He said that you can really see everything taking shape now. They will be running tests on the communications systems beginning October 3rd and actually switching over on October 26th. Mayor Bodi said that he wanted to commend all involved on an outstanding job. Ald. Wade commented that the entire community should be proud of the new facility. Ald. Riggs said that the ability for the City to communicate with other emergency and law enforcement personnel would be a welcome change. Ald. Chism agreed and said that that had always been a problem.

Adm. McGill told the Council that the Fire Department had had their 1st training on the new rescue truck Thursday before last. Chief Harris hopes to do a demonstration on the new foam and tools for the Council in the near future. Adm. McGill stated that it is a very difficult job to use the extrication tools. He and Chief Jimmy Harris met with a representative from Three Rivers College that provides fire training and classes that are free. The City will gladly take advantage of what they offer.

Adm. McGill told the council that the new Sub Station is moving along as planned, may be a little ahead of schedule.

Water Treatment Plant – Adm. McGill will be traveling to Poplar Bluff on Tuesday to attend a pre-bid meeting on the Water Plant. That bid opening will take place October 4th.

Adm. McGill stated that the City had received the Associated Power Plant Purchase payment for the year.

The Mayor stated that he would like to call for a closed session. Ald. Wade made a motion to adjourn to a closed session relative to “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)”. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The meeting adjourned to closed session.

On Ald. Wade’s motion and Ald. Chism’s second, the meeting returned to open session after a unanimous roll call vote.

Ald. Riggs stated that he recommended that the City Council send a letter of thanks to the members of the Botanical Society for their fall decorations on Main Street. He stated that he had received many compliments from citizens and that the children in particular, enjoyed the minions.

Ald. Riggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ald. Cravens seconded. All Councilmen voted “yes” and the meeting was adjourned.