

City Council Special Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in special session on Tuesday, January, 2017 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Riley, Wade, Young, Riggs, and Cravens.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the December 27, 2016 regular meeting were presented for approval. Ald. Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Ald. Chism seconded his motion. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the minutes were approved.
3. VISITORS: Robert Fitzgerald, #3 Blades Drive, New Madrid
Mr. Fitzgerald appeared before the Council to ask them to consider options for residents on fixed incomes to be given the opportunity to satisfy their municipal fines through community service. Mayor Bodi stated that the City was already looking into doing that where appropriate. Atty. Bock informed all that the Missouri Supreme Court had issued a new ruling that Municipal Courts must make more liberal use of community service. He stated that our Municipal Court Judge, Chance Hunter was aware of this ruling for the more accessible use of community service. Mayor Bodi assured Mr. Fitzgerald that the City was already looking into this.
4. The Dollar General Store is submitting an application for renewal of their merchant's and liquor license for 2017. Ald. Chism pointed out that they had an incorrect address listed on one of their applications and that would need to be corrected. Mayor Bodi asked Police Chief Joey Higgerson if there had been issues with the Dollar Store. Chief Higgerson stated that there had not been any issues at all. Ald. Cravens made a motion to approve the license and Ald. Riggs seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the license was approved.
5. An application for a merchant's license was presented for Next Level Lounge. Ald. Wade asked if the license for the lounge and restaurant included a request for a liquor license. Clerk Chapman said that it did not. Atty. Bock stated that Mr. Garry Gibbs, owner and applicant, had previously operated a business on

Russell Street in the past. The operation of that business was a constant law enforcement problem. Some of the issues included being open after allowable business hours, the presence of armed guards in the business, incidents of shots being fired and the selling of liquor from a vending machine. Chief Higgerson was asked about the prior operation as well. He stated that there had been a lot of issues for the police and there were several police reports on record. Ald. Wade stated that he was concerned about this type of establishment in a residential neighborhood. All other businesses with liquor license are located in commercial zones. Ald. Riggs stated that he would not want this in the neighborhood where he resided. Mayor Bodi asked Chief Higgerson if the neighborhood had been more peaceful since the closing of this business. Chief Higgerson said that it most definitely had been quieter. Mayor Bodi asked the Council to vote on this issue. Ald. Chism made a motion to deny the license application for the Next Level Lounge and Ald. Wade seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – no, Ald. Wade – no, Ald. Riggs – no, Ald. Young – no, Ald. Cravens – no, Ald. Chism – no. The application was denied.

6. A resolution to approve the City of New Madrid's 2016 CDBG Project Fund budget was presented. Finance Officer Kristy Taylor informed the Council that this had simply been left out of the budget. The fund had been created for DAEOC's new Head Start project. This was just an in and out transaction for this grant. The City's auditor advised that the best practice would be to bring it before the Council for their approval. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution as presented and Ald. Cravens seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the resolution was approved.

7. City Administrator's Report:

Adm. McGill gave an update on the new Water Plant Project. A pre-construction meeting was held earlier in the day at City Hall. The scheduled start is March 1. With an estimated completion date prior to December 1, 2017. During the next 50 days, the City will do ground work at the site in preparation for the construction.

Adm. McGill stated that the substation will be finished by the end of the month, with testing scheduled for January 23rd. They will then begin the installation of the distribution lines to other substations, linking them up which will better protect the City. He invited the Council to come out and inspect the work that has been done. He said that it is pretty impressive.

AMI Project: Adm. McGill informed the Council that Elster/Honeywell will be here on the 25th to program and train prior to the meter installation.

A letter from Chamber president, Reagan Baird was distributed. Adm. McGill reminded the Council that it had been discussed to possibly move the Chamber Office down to the River Walk Gallery, in order to have someone there to receive visitors when they came to the gallery. Since Sarah Lyles resigned, this was suggested as there is really no need to have someone down there full time. The cost of doing so has been \$36,000.00 a year. The letter from Mr. Baird stated that the Chamber Board was opposed to this move. The Council discussed the City's agreement with and financial support of the Chamber. It was decided that Adm. McGill and Mayor Bodi would meet with the Chamber Board to discuss options with them. Adm. McGill said that they could expect an update on this matter at the next meeting.

Adm. McGill informed the Council that he had researched the cost of paving the levee out to Cargill with it being \$145,000 to \$148,000 for 3" asphalt and \$200,000 for 4". He said that he intends to contact the Corps of Engineers to see if they could help with this. Ald. Wade said that the spraying of the vegetable based oil that had been done some time back had worked fairly well for a while. Former Mayor Donnie Brown had been contacted about this and said that the cost would probably be \$2,000-\$4,000.

The Mayor and Adm. McGill attended the St. Jude Industrial Park Board meeting. The City has 3 seats on the board, with two being occupied by Mayor Bodi and Adm. McGill. The third seat is assigned to Timmie Lynn Hunter of the Port Authority. ARG, the new owner of the Noranda property has 3 seats on the board, one of which is being held by Fred Turner of the Water Plant. During the meeting ARG voiced an unwillingness to pay the park fees for their new property even though the cash rent they receive should more than cover those fees. Adm. McGill stated that he and the Mayor feel that the other tenants of the Park should have a voice on the board as well. Ald. Wade asked Atty. Bock how you would go about reorganizing the board. Atty. Bock responded that he would have to read the agreement before offering an opinion.

The Mayor had asked Adm. McGill to research the cost of the City providing a fireworks show for the 4th of July. Adm. McGill stated that he had discussed it with another community official within the county and that the cost should be

between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Ald. Riley asked about the insurance cost and liability to the City. Mayor Bodi said that the show would be operated by an outside company with their own insurance and that there would be no liability to the City. Ald. Young said that people are always looking for shows to come to on the 4th and it could be a good fund raising opportunity for local groups. This will be discussed again at a later date.

There being no further business, Ald. Chism made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Wade seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the meeting adjourned.