

City Council Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2017  
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, September 25, 2017 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Riley, Wade, Chism, Young, Cravens and White.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.
2. Minutes of the August 28, 2017 Council Meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. Ald. Young seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the minutes were accepted.

3. Visitors:

Mr. Robert Fitzgerald appeared before the Council to commend the City on their efforts that have started to curtail the peace disturbance that has been occurring on Russell Street. He also mentioned the mosquito abatement program that has recently begun and inquired about the possibility of bringing a motel to town. The Mayor addressed that by saying that he believed that would only happen when new jobs and businesses came to town. The City is doing all they possibly can to make that happen.

Mr. Floyd Jeske appeared to speak to the Council on several matters concerning him. He then commended the Council and Administrator on their efforts to bring the Steel Mill and other manufacturing jobs to New Madrid. He then brought up an incident that had happened at his home two years ago. Mr. Jeske said that an intruder had broken into his home and stolen several items including a personalized bag and narcotic medications prescribed to his wife. He was inquiring about the status of the individual that perpetrated this crime and how he is now free. The Council had no knowledge of this. Chief Higgerson said that he had never spoken to Mr. Jeske regarding this case but would check on the matter tomorrow. Mr. Jeske also was concerned that he had recently been unable to reach the Police Department by the phone number in the phone book. Chief Higgerson stated that the number was 748-5901, the same number that it had been for 20 years. He said that he was not responsible for whatever the phone book said but that City Clerk, Karen Chapman would check on the matter and contact the phone book company and notify of them of the incorrect entry. Mr. Jeske then said that he had made a complaint on the way the new electric

meters were installed causing a brief electric shut off at his home. Mayor Bodi responded that the meter installers had been instructed to knock on the doors and inform the residents before proceeding with the installation. Mr. Jeske stated that his wife was disabled and in a lift chair and that it required some time for her to be able to respond to anyone knocking at the door. Mr. Jeske then inquired about the police interaction that he had had following the suicide death of a young friend. Chief Higginson stated that he supported the statements made by his officer at the time. Ald. Young and Ald. Chism both mentioned that they had known the deceased and thought well of him but knew that he had a variety of issues that could have contributed to his final act. They all expressed sympathy at Mr. Jeske's grief at this young man's death. The Mayor offered his condolences as well. Mr. Jeske thanked the Council for their patience in listening to and responding to his concerns.

4. Bill 17-1278: The Mayor read the title of Bill 17-1278, amending Section 54-408 of the municipal code to install a stop sign at the intersection of Bloomfield Road and Bloomfield Lane. Ald. Cravens noted that there had been several near misses at that location. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. White – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
5. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill presented a plat to the Council depicting the platting of the new addition to Evergreen Cemetery. This addition will now provide additional lots for 1500 graves. Atty. Bock stated that we would need to bring an ordinance to the council for them to accept the plat as presented. Ald. Wade asked what the cost of the lots would be. Adm. McGill said that in town residents would be charged \$250 with out of town being charged \$400. Ald. White said that this was definitely the cheapest cost for grave lots in the area. Adm. McGill pointed out the more uniform lay-out that would provide better access for grass cutting as well as installation of the monuments. Adm. McGill mentioned that the County has been out working on the St. Lawrence Drainage Project. There is no exact timeline established but that all signs show substantial progress and he estimates that they will be finished in 2 weeks.  
The Water Plant Project is definitely ahead of schedule. He stated that AEI had informed them that they will definitely be building their own water plant. Ald. Wade asked if there was a time line where our water plant would be operational.

Adm. McGill said there was not a set date, however, it was estimated to be completed before the end of the year, weather permitting.

North Sub Station Project – the easements have been finalized. In his recent meeting with Mid South, they had stated that they were working on running the transmission lines.

Earlier in the day, the Mayor, Adm. McGill, Atty. Bock and Judge Chance Hunter met to discuss how to separate the duties of the Court Clerk from the Police Station and still provide a Police Clerk and Court Clerk.

Questions: Ald. Young asked if there had been any decisions as to how to use the old Water Plant once the new one is operational. Adm. McGill said that there had not. Ald. Young asked if it could possibly be used for the Animal Control Center. Mayor Bodi stated that there may be problems with ventilation. He is sure the Department of Agriculture would have to approve any building and that might be an issue. Adm. McGill that they had not gotten that far as to how to use that building. It may only be suitable for storage.

The Department of Agriculture had recently made a surprise visit, inspecting our Animal Control facilities. The pound passed with flying colors. The condition of the pound has improved greatly with our new Animal Control Officer, Dana Perry working very hard to make it so. He stated that he is doing a great job as the Code Enforcement Officer and keeping the City Clerk very busy at the same time. Clerk Chapman agreed.

Ald. Riley asked if AECl would be interested in buying the City's Water Plant in the Industrial Park. Mayor Bodi stated that he believed that it could not be owned by one entity and Atty. Bock agreed. A recent study indicated that it would cost 7.5 million to renovate. He asked if AECl would be willing to take on the other tenants and provide them with water. The City has and will ask AECl to consider to do so. Adm. McGill said that we would want to do all we can to protect all the jobs in the industrial park. Ald. Young asked who holds the seats on the Industrial Park. Adm. McGill said that the City holds 3 with the other 3 being held by Noranda, and he assumed that Magnum 7 would hold them now. AECl's goal is to have control of their own water by October 2018. That is when the current agreement expires. Ald. Riley asked about whether or not county water would be a possibility. Atty. stated that there was no public water supply district out there. AECl currently uses 90% of the water usage of the New Madrid Water Plant with the other tenants using the rest. It is possible that we could supply the other tenants with water if they needed us to, cutting way back on expenditures at the water plant. The Mayor said that there may be other options as well.

Adm. McGill asked that the Council adjourn to a closed session. Ald. White made a motion to adjourn to a closed session pertaining to “E. Sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract (RSMO 610.021.12)”.

Ald. Chism seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. White – yes. The meeting adjourned to closed session

The meeting returned to open session.

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