

City Council Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2017
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, October 9, 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 September 25, 2017 Council Meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the minutes were accepted.
3. Visitors: Mr. John Graham, owner or Willy Bill’s BBQ Restaurant appeared before the Council. Mr. Graham stated that he had bought the restaurant in June of this year and was appearing before the Council for the purpose of complimenting the City for the kind and helpful treatment that he had received. He said that whenever he had questions or problems at the restaurant, the City workers had been very helpful and courteous. He stated that the residents had gone out of their way to be friendly and welcoming. He said that he was happy to be here and wanted to personally thank the City for everything that had been done for him. Mayor Bodi told Mr. Graham that the City was glad to have him in our community and thanked him for taking the time to speak to the Council.
4. Resolution: A resolution was presented to the Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement for Economic Development Consulting Services with MarksNelson CPA’s & Business Advisors of Kansas City, Missouri relating to the business project “Project America”. Ald. Wade stated that he had been very impressed by the representative of this company and their close relationship that was displayed when the City had hosted a dinner for the owner of the prospective steel mill and his partner. Adm. McGill echoed Ald. Wade’s impression of this company. He also stated that they have a good working relationship with individuals at the Missouri Partnership as well. He said that this company has exceptional expertise working with small communities in Missouri. They are very proactive, in fact, they already have grants lined up for the steel mill project, which they will actually write and some have already been preapproved. Ald. Wade said that he noticed a “make it work” attitude by this firm whenever

difficulties came up. Adm. McGill mentioned that he had received an email at 10 p.m. on Sunday night from their representative, which goes to show that they are always on the job. He said that he has a very good relationship with Steve and they are working hard to see this through. He hopes to make lots of progress next week.

5. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill informed the Council that the owner of the steel mill plans on being back in the states at the end of this month and will be in New Madrid on November 1st and 2nd. He stated that he doesn't believe he will be here to see anything, he has already seen it all, but simply likes being in New Madrid. He said that he will stay in the US until he makes a definite decision about the location of the new steel mill, probably mid November. Ald. Wade asked if he will be bringing his family. Adm. McGill responded that he believes he will bring his wife and one of his sons.

Adm. McGill next mentioned that the Fall Festival was a great success. The turnout Saturday was tremendous. He said that every year it gets bigger. He hopes to meet soon with the Mayor and Christina for a debriefing of the event so they can begin to make plans for next year.

Ald. Wade asked if there had been any progress toward changes in the Municipal Court. Adm. McGill said that he and Chief Joey Higgerson will meet with Circuit Clerk Marsha Holiman on Wednesday. They have talked to the commissioners. He informed the Council that the phone system at the Public Safety Center has been changed so that Martha Henderson is no longer receiving any calls for the police, those calls are being routed to dispatch. He said that if the decision is made to leave the court with the City, we can hire someone for that position, however that will mean salary as well as insurance which has been a substantial cost for the City.

Mayor Bodi said that he hoped to begin budget sessions by the end of the month. Adm. McGill agreed that it is time to begin that process.

Ald. Chism pointed out that the City had not flown flags in the City on the last two holidays and asked if there was a reason for this. Adm. McGill said that he was not aware of this and would be talking to Street Superintendent Chuck Palmer to make sure that they were flown on all future holidays.

Ald. Chism also mentioned that he had been asked about the burn out house on Mill Street by a resident in the neighborhood. Mayor Bodi stated that the only thing the City could do in those situations, would be to enforce the requirement that all openings in the structure be covered and secure. He said that he has just recently seen a "for sale" sign posted on the property and had heard that an individual had made an offer to purchase. Hopefully, that will go through and will be the resolution to that situation. Ald. Wade made a remark that Code Enforcement Officer Dana Perry was doing a good job in both Code Enforcement and Animal Control.

Ald. Wade inquired about the ordinance pertaining to pit bull dogs within the City limits. He said that he had had a couple of complaints in his neighborhood regarding these types of dogs, he had thought that they were not allowed in town. Atty. Bock said that the ordinance actually did not prohibit them within the City but there were requirements as to the size and material their kennels and fences were made from as well as a requirement that the owner have a \$1,000,000 liability policy regarding these dogs. In the past the owners have always removed them from the City. Adm. McGill said that there was a pit bull on Main Street on Saturday during the Fall Festival. The dog was on a harness and leash and was not misbehaving. The owner was asked to remove him and he did so right away without complaint.

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