

City Council Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2018  
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, February 26, 2018 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Riley, Wade, Chism, Young, White and Cravens.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the January 22, 2018 meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ald. Wade seconded and all Aldermen voted "yes". The minutes were approved.

2. There were no visitors.
3. Bill 18-1286 was presented to the Council. The Ordinance would amend section 54-408 of the City's Municipal Code to establish a 3-way Stop at the intersection of St. Margaret and Ramsey Lane. The Mayor read the title of the bill twice over aloud. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes and Ald. White – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
4. Bill 18-1287 was presented to the Council. The Ordinance would authorize the Mayor to pursue funding through Title 1 of the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 for Economic Development Projects. The Mayor read the title of the bill twice over aloud. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes and Ald. White – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
5. A Resolution to award the bid for Archeological Consulting Services to SCI Engineering, Inc. of St. Charles, Missouri for the fee of \$9,600.00 for Project America in the New Madrid Industrial Park was presented to the Board. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the resolution was approved.
6. A Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Gilmore Bell to provide legal services relating to the Economic Development Project, Project

America was presented for the board consideration. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the Ald. White seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.

7. A resolution was presented to the Council authorizing an agreement with MarksNelson, CPA's of Kansas City, Mo for Project Management, Grant Application & Administration and Environmental Review for the Economic Development Project, Project America. A document detailing the Scope of Services and fees for each was attached and will remain a part of the resolution. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.
8. Liquor License Renewal application including the sale of package liquor and Sunday sales was presented for Ramey's Supermarket #2. Since Police Chief Joey Higgerson was in attendance, the Mayor asked the Chief if there had been any issues at Ramey's in regard to the sale of liquor. The Chief stated that there had not been any problems. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. White seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the license was renewed.
9. An application for a “Picnic License” was presented for the Immaculate Conception Home & School to allow the sale of beer at the fish fry fundraiser on March 9<sup>th</sup> that will take place at the Knight's of Columbus hall. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the license was approved.

10. City Administrator's Report:

- 1) Animal Control/Code Enforcement summary: End of March through December of 2017.
  - a. Animal control had 95 animal cases. Of those, 80 were sent to rescue and 13 were returned to owner. Only two had to be euthanized.
  - b. There have been 127 active cases for code enforcement violations. All violations have been brought to compliance (one still working on).
  - c. We have had five dangerous building hearings.
  - d. We have had 59 tax liens on properties.
- 2) AMI Update: Honeywell had someone on site better part of last two weeks. Their work and what Charlotte Allred has been working on internally has helped tremendously. Biggest problem of reading water meters is that the antenna in the pits aren't mounted and, therefore, aren't having a signal transmit back. Adm. McGill will ask for installers to come finish that portion even before new meters arrive.
- 3) Water plant update: Adm. McGill anticipates a request for an extension. The City is just finishing up running power as needed to the new building. It was delayed mostly due to weather. Several

subcontractors have had to re-schedule installing and programming the new controls, so we are going to have to work with their schedules. Adm. McGill stated he has no problem with this.

- 4) Floodplain maps: Met with SEMA 10 days ago and received newest floodplain maps. These are not yet official and are in the discussion stages. Adm. McGill stated that the City will work closely with SEMA, the county and Smith & Co. to make sure that the City has all of its upgrades recorded and that there isn't any issues with what is recorded.
- 5) Court: Chief Higgerson, Administrator McGill and Martha Henderson met with Marsha Holiman, Judge Copeland and Judge Underwood on Friday. The County should take over the first part of May. The Administrator and Chief Higgerson will meet to go over the outstanding fines to come up with a recommendation for the board and to how much and how far back to go to dismiss those fines. Judge Copeland suggested that the City clean up as much as possible prior to the transfer. Ald. Chism said that he had understood that the City had no choice in the matter of giving up our Municipal Court and has since been informed that that was not the case. Atty. Bock asked if he could help to clarify the issue for the Council. He stated that after the events in Ferguson, Missouri, the Missouri Supreme Court is moving to eliminate the municipal courts in Missouri all together. Most of the small cities that had courts have already eliminated their courts and moved their cases to the Counties involved. Atty. Bock stated that at some point that will not be an option and by making the change now, the City is just getting ahead of what is definitely coming. Ald. Chism stated that it seems that the small cities have given up so much of their rights to self-govern that he is sad to see that happen. Atty. Bock concurred but said that the changes required in the adoption of Senate Bill 5 by the Missouri Supreme Court is making it impossible for the small towns to afford to keep their courts. In New Madrid's case, we will still have our own prosecutor. He stated that Charleston, East Prairie and Miner have already made this change.
- 6) With the school shooting in Florida recently, the City reached out to NM schools to offer assistance in security with the schools. Several discussions have taken place with more to follow.
- 7) Opportunity Zone application: The City is working with the County to apply for a new program under the new federal tax laws that will allow for another source of funding opportunities for grant funding. The County will file the application for the entire county, encompassing six census tracts. Each tract must be prioritized. The tract that includes the City of New Madrid will be priority 1 with the tract encompassing St. Jude Industrial Park as priority 2. The funding that could be made available is similar to New Markets Tax Credits.
- 8) Adm. McGill stated that there is a slide out at the lagoon due to all of the water in the last week. The water department worked all day working on the fencing that was slipping away. Adm. McGill said that the ground has to dry before we can do more work on it.
- 9) New pump station had damage to one of the two pumps. New parts were ordered and it will be fixed within the week.

Mayor Bodi stated that the City had sent one of our street sweepers to Matthews to assist with the clean up after the recent tornado.

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